

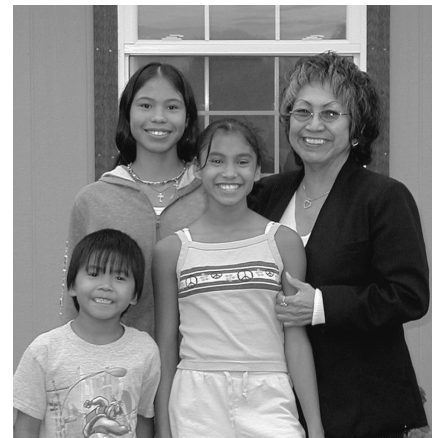
Did you know...

About the following Services and Supports

For Grandparents and Relatives Raising Children?

You are not alone!

There are more than 40,000 grandparents and other relatives raising children in Washington State. Listed below are various resources, benefits, and support services available to you through the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and other agencies.



General and Statewide Resources

- “Kinship Navigators” serve as a one-stop shop, providing information and assistance to relatives who may not know where to turn or how to apply for benefits and services in their local community:
 - Phone: 1-800-422-3263 or 360-725-2556
 - Web: www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare (go to “benefits and services” and click on “Kinship Navigators”). Kinship Navigators serve most areas of the state.
- **Local support group with other relative caregivers:** Many communities have one or more support groups for grandparents and other relatives raising children:
 - Phone: 1-800-422-3263 or 360-725-2556
 - Web: www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare (click on “support groups” and select your county on the map)
- **The WithinReach hotline** provides information and referral on a broad range of health and social services related to raising children of all ages. Topics of interest to relative caregivers include health insurance, nutrition, immunization, child care, child development, children with special needs, and available supports.
 - Phone: 1-800-322-2588 (TTY 711)
 - Web: www.parenthelp123.org. Families can find and apply for programs using a benefit finder as well as learn about health information and resources
- **The Washington Connection website** provides information about many DSHS services, including kinship care:
 - Web: www.washingtonconnection.org
- **The Resource Family Training Institute** offers training opportunities for relatives and foster parents coping with problem behaviors. All training resources are available to all caregivers.
 - Web: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/training.asp> (click on “ongoing training”)
- **The DSHS Children’s Administration website** offers information about foster care and the child welfare system:
 - Web: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/index.asp>

You and the child in your care may qualify for ...

FINANCIAL HELP

Ongoing financial assistance through a TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) child-only grant. Both the child's and caregiver's income are considered but only the child's resources figure in determining eligibility.

- Phone: 1-877-501-2233 for access to the Customer Service Call Center
- Web: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov> (click on "cash assistance")

Recipients of child-only TANF can get additional one-time cash payments for help with emergency housing or utility needs through the Additional Requirements for Emergent Needs (AREN) program.

Emergency, short-term support to relatives and other suitable persons with dependent children: Funds are available through the Relative Support Services Fund program. These funds are to facilitate or maintain the care of a state-dependent child living with an unlicensed relative. Funds can pay for furniture, clothing, school supplies, etc. Contact the child's social worker to access these funds. (State-dependent children are in the legal custody of the state and have an open case with the Children's Administration and a state social worker. Relatives who are licensed foster parents are not eligible for these funds.) For more information about the funds, use the Children's Administration contacts under "Questions?" at the end of this document.

Short-term support through the Kinship Caregivers Support Program (KCSP): Funds are available for relative caregivers whose children are not involved in the child welfare system to help pay for basic needs such as food, housing, clothing, school supplies, etc.

- Phone: Aging and Disability Services Administration at 1-800-422-3263 or 360-725-2556 to locate a local KCSP office in each county.

- Web: www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare (click on "benefits and services", go to "financial help", "short term support..." to find your local program)

HEALTH

Health Insurance: Children who receive a TANF grant automatically receive medical coverage. Children not receiving TANF may receive free or low-cost medical coverage through Washington Apple Health for Kids. In some cases, caregivers may also be eligible for free coverage.

Children who are dependents of the state and living with relatives who are not licensed foster parents are automatically eligible for medical coverage through Medicaid.

Contact the Health Care Authority and ask about "Apple Health for Kids".

- Phone: 1-877-543-7669
- Web: <http://hrsa.dshs.wa.gov/applehealth/>

Care Coordination Services: The Fostering Well-Being Care Coordination Unit (FWB CCU) is set up to address the health care needs of state-dependent children in out-of-home placement. FWB CCU can help you identify what services or providers your child needs, identify previous health problems for newly placed children, answer questions about these children's health problems, and assist in navigating Medicaid as well as the greater health care system. Children and youth are eligible for care coordination services if they are under age 18, in out-of-home placement through tribal or state dependency, and are Medicaid-eligible. For more information, contact your child's social worker or:

- Phone: FWB CCU at 1-800-422-3263

Child Profile Health Promotion materials geared toward parents and caregivers of children aged birth to six years are available. Information is age-specific and includes immunizations, growth, development, safety, nutrition, and other parenting issues. To access these free materials:

- Phone: 1-800-322-2588

- Web: www.childprofile.org (click on “health promotion”)
- E-mail Child Profile: child-profile.health@king-county.gov to order a full set of materials.

Plain Talk About Childhood Immunization

(DOH 348-080) is a booklet published by the Washington State Department of Health that provides accurate and detailed information to help parents and caregivers make informed decisions about immunizing their children. To order this booklet and other free immunization materials:

- Phone: 1-866-397-0337
- Web: <http://here.doh.wa.gov/materials/plain-talk-about-childhood-immunizations>
- E-mail: immunematerials@doh.wa.gov

To find health centers that provide medical and dental care for individuals covered by Medicaid:

- Phone: 1-800-562-3022
- Web: <https://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/plfindaprovider/>

Caregivers will still have to contact the individual provider to find out if they are accepting new Medicaid patients.

Relative caregivers may legally give informed consent for medical care (including dental and mental health care) State law allows you to consent to health care for a child by completing a form (a “declaration”) even if you don’t have a court order. For more information, look under “Free Publications” where you can read and download the brochure, *Consent to Health Care for the Child in Your Care: A Kinship Caregiver’s Guide*:

- Phone: 1-800-422-3263 or 360-725-2556 to receive a copy of the informed consent brochure.
- Web: www.washingtonlawhelp.org/ look under “health, medical and mental Issues for children” for sample declaration form and background information

Dental Services

- Phone: 2-1-1 Washington Information Network (WIN) from anywhere in Washington to speak to

an Information & Referral Specialist for assistance (translators available) to find local dental contacts.

- Web: WA State Department of Health <http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/OralHealth/FindingDentalCare.aspx>

The Center for Pediatric Dentistry (CPD) is a collaboration of the University of Washington and Seattle Children’s Hospital. CPD provides comprehensive and specialty dental care to children of all ages, including children with special needs. Medicaid accepted.

- Phone: 206-543-5800
- Web: <http://www.thecenterforpediatricdentistry.com/>

MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES, AND CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY

To find local mental health services and agencies that serve children, youth, and families enrolled In Medicaid services,

- Phone: 800-446-0259
- Web: http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dbhr/mh_information.shtml

The Washington State Early Support for Infants and Toddler’s (ESIT) Program provides early intervention services for children birth to age three. If you care for a child with a disability or have a concern about a child’s development, call the Family Health Hotline at 1-800-322-2588 (TTY 711). Ask for the name of a Family Resources Coordinator (FRC) in your local community. The FRC will help you find out if a child you care for is eligible for early intervention services.

- Phone: 360-725-3500
- Web: www.del.wa.gov/esit

DSHS’ Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) provides services for individuals diagnosed with a developmental disability and/or delay. Services are available for individuals diagnosed with a developmental disability who are found eligible through an assessment, depending on need and funding capacity. Services include individual and family support, Medicaid Personal

Care, employment support, day programs, and residential care. To contact your local DDD office:

- Phone: 800-422-3263
- Web: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ddd/contacts.shtml>

DSHS' Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) provides substance use disorder treatment services. DBHR's services can be paid for with medical coupons and DBHR has "hardship funds" that can help caregivers with travel and lodging expenses while a youth is in publicly-funded residential treatment. Treatment services are also available for adults who meet income guidelines. For additional information and referrals:

- Phone: the Washington State Recovery Help Line at 1-866-789-1511
- Web: <http://www.warecoveryhelpline.org/>

The Family Liaison for DSHS' Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery can provide resources on how to access mental health services for children, youth and families and information on how to find family organization support groups,

- Phone: 1-800-446-0259 ext. 1.

CHILD CARE

Relative caregivers may qualify for one of the state's subsidized child care programs. These include:

- Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) for employed caregivers
- Seasonal Child Care for seasonal agricultural workers
- Homeless Child Care for families who are temporarily homeless (limited to certain counties)

For WCCC and Seasonal Child care, caregivers may qualify even if only one person in a couple is working unless they are legal guardians to the child and both adults are listed in the court documents. For Homeless Child Care, caregivers must not be eligible for any other child care subsidy program and must be engaged in an approved activity, such as looking for work or for housing. Relatives caring for state-dependent children are

also eligible for subsidized child care and should contact their social worker to request it.

For WCCC and Seasonal Child Care:

- Phone: 1-877-501-2233 for the Washington State Customer Service Center
- Web: <http://www.del.wa.gov/care/help>

For Homeless Child Care:

- Phone: 1-800-446-1141 for Child Care Aware (formerly the Child Care Resource and Referral Network). Child Care Aware also provides information about a variety of child care resources.
- Web: <http://www.del.wa.gov/care/help/homeless.aspx>

EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY

The Office of the Education Ombudsman (OEO) resolves complaints, disputes, and problems between families/legal guardians and elementary and secondary public schools in all areas that affect student learning. The OEO functions independently from the public school system and provides an alternative to costly lawsuits and administrative hearings. The services are available to students from Kindergarten to 12th grade, and are free and confidential. You should contact OEO when you have an unresolved problem with a public school that impacts your student's education and you are not sure what to do next; you want an independent assessment of the situation; or you have other questions about the education system.

- Phone: 1-866-297-2597
- Web: www.waparentslearn.org

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Monthly food benefits through Washington's Basic Food program. Contact:

- Phone: 1-877-501-2233 for access to the Customer Service Call Center
- Web: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov> (click on "help with food")

Free or reduced price meals through the National School Lunch/School Breakfast Program (NSLP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). CACFP provides breakfast, lunch, and

snacks in many before and after school day care programs in many public and private schools. For more information, contact your local school, or the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:

- Phone: 1-877-204-6486
- Web: www.k12.wa.us and click on “Offices and Programs”, then on “child nutrition”.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a nutrition program that helps pregnant women, new mothers, and young children eat well, learn about nutrition and stay healthy. WIC is the “Federal Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children.” In addition to providing food assistance, WIC also provides health screening, nutrition and health education, and help getting other food and nutrition-related assistance:

- Phone: 1-800-322-2588, the Family Health Hotline to find out how to sign up
- Web: <http://withinreachwa.org/wicsearch>

The statewide Family Food Line can provide additional information about food resources, including the state’s Basic Food program, free summer meals for kids, local food banks, and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

- Phone: 1-888-436-6392

CHILD SUPPORT

Paternity establishment through the DSHS Division of Child Support (DCS). Establishing paternity creates a legal relationship between a father and a child, which can help provide a family medical history and eligibility for Social Security or other dependent benefits for the child. This can also help the child’s parent custodian because dependent benefits paid on behalf of a disabled parent are may be credited as child support payments.

Child support enforcement through DCS. DCS will enforce an existing child support order, such as a divorce decree, or will establish a support order if one is needed. DCS sets support obligations based on a parent’s ability to pay. DCS will also attempt to have the parents cover the child on their own medical insurance, if available.

You can apply for DCS services even if you don’t receive any public assistance. Receiving TANF or some kinds of medical assistance will automatically result in a DCS case. If you are afraid that establishing paternity or enforcing child support may be dangerous for you or the child, contact your local Community Services Office to discuss “good cause” not to cooperate with DCS.

For information on all DCS services:

- Phone: 1-800-442-KIDS
- Web: www.childsupportonline.wa.gov

Free Publications ...

You may order any brochures or booklets that have a DSHS publication number from the Washington State Department of Printing’s Myfulfillment.wa.gov. The publication number is normally on the back page of a publication in the format DSHS 22-###(X).

Publication requests may also be placed:

- By e-mail at fulfillment@prt.wa.gov
- By phone at 360-570-5555
- By fax at 360-664-2048

Make sure to include the name of the publication, publication number (DSHS 22-xxx), and a contact name and street mailing address for orders placed by e-mail, phone, or fax.

- ***Beyond the Walls: A Guide to Services for Families Affected by Incarceration!*** (DSHS 22-1288x). This publication provides information to families and social service staff on DSHS services along with services from other agencies that may help meet the needs of families dealing with the incarceration of a family member. Read only online.
> *English, Spanish* (PDF)
- ***Consent to Health Care for the Child in Your Care: A Kinship Caregiver’s Guide*** (DSHS 22-1119x). This brochure explains the laws passed by the 2005-2006 WA State Legislature which spells out a relative’s rights and responsibilities.
> *English, Cambodian, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese* (PDF)

- ***Did You Know about the Following Services and Supports for Grandparents and Relatives Raising Children*** (DSHS 22-1120x). This four page pamphlet provides a selective list of various resources, benefits, and support services available to relatives raising children.

> *English, Cambodian, Chinese, Korean, Laotian, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese* (PDF)

- ***Education Advocacy Guide for Caregivers – Supporting School Success for Children and Youth in Care*** (22-1192).

This guide can help caregivers better understand what education advocacy is and what is expected of students from preschool to high school.

> *English* (PDF)

- ***A Guide to Child Support Services for Relative Caregivers***, (DSHS 22-1143) describes what services the DSHS Division of Child Support (DCS) can provide to you if you are taking care of a relative's child.

> *English* (PDF)

- ***Relatives as Parents: A Resource Guide for Relatives Raising Children in Washington State*** (DSHS 22-996x). This 75 page booklet is an extensive resource guide for relative caregivers.

> *English*

A non-DSHS publication: Options for Grandparents and Other Nonparental Caregivers: A Legal Guide for Washington State is available for free for a relative raising a child who is involved in a legal situation otherwise, the Guide can be purchased. Call Legal Voice at 206-682-9552.

Questions?

For additional information, please contact;

- Tom Berry, Economic Services Administration/ DSHS, 360-725-4617, tom.berry@dshs.wa.gov
- Kevin Cornell, Health Care Authority, 360-725-1423, kevin.cornell@hca.wa.gov
- Hilari Hauptman, Aging and Disability Services Administration/DSHS, 800-422-3263 or 360-725-2556, hilari.hauptman@dshs.wa.gov
- Bob Partlow, Children's Administration/DSHS, 360-902-8063, Bob.Partlow@dshs.wa.gov, or Meri Waterhouse, Children's Administration/ DSHS, 360-902-8035, meri.waterhouse@dshs.wa.gov