

Fostering Together Welcome Packet



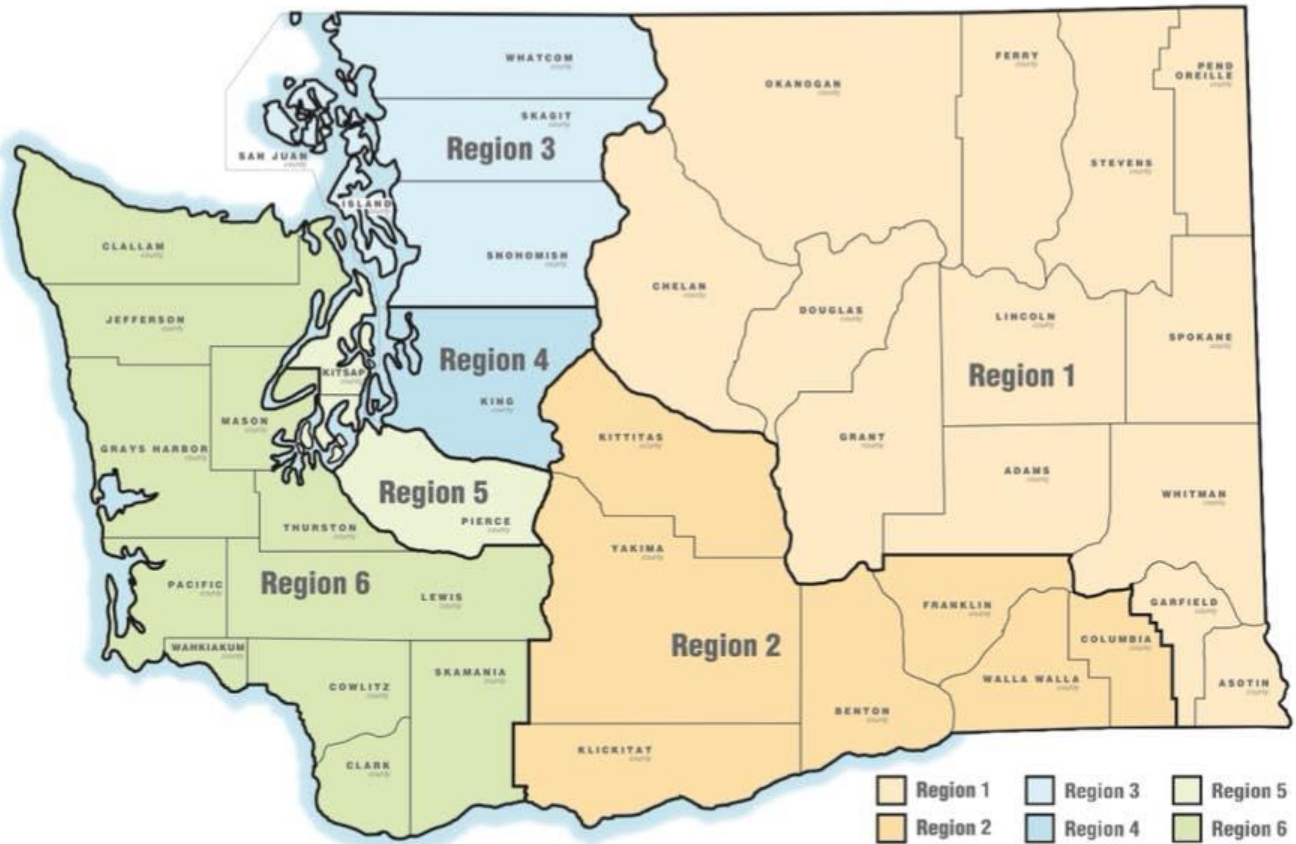
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Department of Children, Youth, and Families Regional Structure



WASHINGTON STATE
Department of
Children, Youth, and Families



Contact Numbers

DCYF (Department of Children, Youth, & Family) Staff Phone List <https://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/ca/employeedirectory>

Fostering Together Liaisons: <http://fosteringtogether.org/about/staff/regional/>

WA State Federally Recognized Tribe Directory:

<http://www.goia.wa.gov/Tribal-Directory/TribalDirectory.pdf>

Foster Parents Association of Washington State (FPAWS):

fpaws.org or (800) 391-2273

Resource List

Region 3

Treehouse

Services Offered: Academic and educational assistance programs, summer camp and child activity funding, 'warehouse' with essentials, like clothing, toys and teen items.

- Location: 2100 24th Avenue S. Suite 200, Seattle, WA.
- Website: <http://www.treehouseforkids.org/>
- Phone: 206-767-7000
- Area Served: **Kids from King County.** Call to inquire
- Eligibility Requirements: Youth must be state dependent
- Referral Required: Yes
- Special Comments: Funding for childhood activities and summer camps has a child maximum per year. Please call for details. Treehouse offers a 'Holiday Magic' program each year open to all children and youth residing in Washington.

Sibling House

Services Offered: Family Support, networking, limited clothing and children's items.

- Location: Please contact for address
- Website: <http://www.siblinghouse.org>
- Phone: 425-828-2789
- Areas Served: **Western Washington**
- Eligibility Requirements: Must be licensed for two or more children

Whatcom& Skagit County

Foster Closet

Services Offered: Clothing and childcare equipment and accessories.

- Location: 1504 Larrabee Ave, Bellingham, WA.
- Website: <https://www.whatcomfostercloset.org/>
- Email: whatcomfostercloset@gmail.com
- Area Served: **Whatcom & Skagit County**
- Eligibility Requirements: State dependent 0 to 18 yrs. old
- Referral Required: No

Blue Skies for Children

Services Offered: Academic and educational assistance programs, Little Wishes, Winter Warm Up Program, and many other programs.

- Location: 2505 Cedarwood Ave. Ste. 5, Bellingham, WA.
- Website: <http://www.blueskiesforchildren.org>
- Phone: 360-756-6710
- Area Served: **Whatcom & Skagit County**
- Eligibility Requirements: State dependent or low income & 6 to 18 yrs. old
- Referral Required: No

Island County

Kids First

Services Offered: Opportunities for dance, music, books, laptops, summer camp, swim lessons.

- Location: **Island County Served Only**
- Website: www.kidsfirst-ic.org
- Phone: 888-969-4877
- Email: info@kidsfirst-ic.org

Snohomish County

The Caring Place

Services Offered: Free clothing and children's items.

- Location: 9928 272nd PL NW, Stanwood, WA
- Email: oslcstanwood@frontier.com
- Areas Served: **Snohomish**
- Open: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1pm to 4pm

Treasure Chest

Services Offered: Clothing, toys and teen items.

- Location: 14377 Fryelands Blvd. SE, Monroe, WA.
- Email: orphancare@cascadechurch.org
- Website: www.cascadechurch.org/treasurechest
- Hours: Email to inquire
- Area Served: **Snohomish County**
- Eligibility Requirements: Youth must be state dependent
- Referral Required: No, but may be required proof of licensure
- Special Comment: Please contact via their webs

Region 4

Treehouse

Services Offered: Academic and educational assistance programs, summer camp and child activity funding, 'warehouse' with essentials, like clothing, toys and teen items.

- Location: 2100 24th Avenue S. Suite 200, Seattle, WA.
- Website: <http://www.treehouseforkids.org/>
- Phone: 206-767-7000
- Area Served: **King County**. Call to inquire
- Eligibility Requirements: Youth must be state dependent
- Referral Required: Yes
- Special Comments: Funding for childhood activities and summer camps has a child maximum per year. Please call for details. Treehouse offers a 'Holiday Magic' program each year open to all children and youth residing in Washington.

Sibling House

Services Offered: Family Support, networking, limited clothing and children's items.

- Location: Please contact for address
- Website: <http://www.siblinghouse.com>
- Phone: 425-828-2789
- Areas Served: **Western Washington**
- Eligibility Requirements: Must be licensed for two or more children
- Referral Required: No, but may be required to submit proof of licensure
- Special Comment: Please contact via their website

Facebook

Foster Parent Exchange: King County <https://www.facebook.com/groups/723419044394456/>

Region 5

Pierce County

Treehouse

Services Offered: Academic and educational assistance programs, summer camp and child activity funding, 'warehouse' with essentials, like clothing, toys and teen items.

- Location: 2100 24th Avenue S. Suite 200, Seattle, WA.
- Website: <http://www.treehouseforkids.org/>
- Phone: 206-767-7000
- Area Served: **Kids from King County**. Call to inquire.
- Eligibility Requirements: Youth must be state dependent
- Referral Required: Yes
- Special Comments: Funding for childhood activities and summer camps has a child maximum per year. Please call for details. Treehouse offers a 'Holiday Magic' program each year open to all children and youth residing in Washington.

The Children's Fund Pierce County

Services Offered: Payment of enrichment activities

- Location: Tacoma
- Website: www.childrensfundpiercecounty.org
- Phone: 253-283-6773
- Area Served: **Pierce County**
- Referral Required: Yes

Facebook

Foster Parent Exchange Pierce County: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/573412182736364/?fref=nf>

YMCA Pierce County

- <http://www.ywcapiercecounty.org/> . Foster children participate free.

Wishing Well Foundation

Services Offered: Clothing, toys and teen items. Offer a Little Wishes program that offers up to \$100 per child, per year.

- Location: 12716 Pacific Avenue S, Tacoma, WA 98444
- Website: <http://www.thewishingwellwa.org>
- Phone: 206-406-2398
- Area Served: **Pierce County**
- Eligibility Requirement: State Dependent Child.
- Referral Required: Yes

Sibling House

Services Offered: Family Support, networking, limited clothing and children's items.

- Location: Please contact for address
- Website: <http://www.siblinghouse.com>

- Phone: 425-828-2789
- Areas Served: **Western Washington**
- Eligibility Requirements: Must be licensed for two or more children
- Referral Required: No, but may be asked for proof of licensure
- Special Comment: Please contact via their website

Kitsap County

The New Beginnings Clothing Closet

Services Offered: Clothing.

- Location: 4171 Wheaton Way., Bremerton, WA 98312
- Phone: 360-265-3398
- Area Served: **Kitsap County**
- Referral Required: No
- Special Comment: Please call Jeanie Johns at 360-265-3398 for operating hours. Open to all Kitsap County families including foster, relative care and in-home dependencies.

Kitsap Foster Care Association

- <https://kitsapfostercare.org/>

Sibling House

Services Offered: Family Support, networking, limited clothing and children’s items.

- Location: Please contact for address
- Website: <http://www.siblinghouse.com>
- Phone: 425-828-2789
- Areas Served: **Western Washington**
- Eligibility Requirements: Must be licensed for two or more children
- Referral Required: No, but may be asked for proof of licensure
- Special Comment: Please contact via their website

Region 6

Clallam County

Advent Community Services

Services Offered: Clothing and personal items. Call for operating hours.

- Location: 30 Sanford Lane, Sequim, WA
- Email: sequimadventist@sequimsdachurch.org
- Phone: 360-683-7373 or 509-997-6512
- Areas Served: **Clallam County**

Clothing Closet

Services Offered: Clothing and personal items by appointment only.

- Location: 101 Grant Rd., Sequim, WA
- Email: Carol at capsequim@gmail.com
- Phone: Linda 360-640-0869 or Dot 360-582-9601
- Areas Served: **Clallam County**

Facebook

- Buy Nothing Greater Sequim
- Buy Nothing Greater Port Angeles
- Buy Nothing Quimper Peninsula

Clark County

Denim & Frills

Services Offered: 10% off with foster parent ID.

- Location: 10501 N.E. Hwy 99 #17 Vancouver, WA
- Area Served: **Clark County**
- Phone: 360-571-9014

Spanky's

Services Offered: 10% off with foster parent ID.

- Location: 13505 S.E. Mill Plain Blvd. Vancouver, WA
- Area Served: **Clark County**
- Phone: 360-260-6791

Cowlitz County

Children's Justice and Advocacy Center Clothing Closet

Services Offered: Clothing and personal items by appointment only.

- Location: 214 N. Pacific Ave., Kelso, WA
- Website: www.cowlitzcountycjac.com
- Phone: 360-353-3933
- Area Served: **Cowlitz County**

Jefferson County

Clothing Closet

Services Offered: Clothing and personal items by appointment only.

- Location..... 3918 San Juan Ave, Port Townsend, WA
- Phone 360-643-1339
- Email fsjeffco@gmail.com
- Areas Served..... **Jefferson County**

Facebook

- Buy Nothing Greater Sequim
- Buy Nothing Greater Port Angeles
- Buy Nothing Quimper Peninsula

Thurston/Mason County

The Cupboard under the Stairs

Services Offered: Clothing, toys and other items.

- Location: 4720 12th St. E, Tacoma, WA
- Email: thecupboardunderthestairs@yahoo.com
- Area Served: **Thurston & Mason County**
- Referral Required: No
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/thecupboardolympia?fref=ts>

Statewide

Experience Washington

Being a foster parent or kinship provider is not easy and can be challenging to your family's budget. Experience Washington is a project of Fostering Together. Our goal is to reach out to each community, to find business and organizations who are willing to partner with us to provide low cost or free opportunities. To bring already discounted information to one place for caregivers to access. Learn more about what discounts in your area: <http://fosteringtogether.org/experience-washington/>

Caregiver Camping

Caregiver Camping Pass with foster/kinship ID: <http://parks.state.wa.us/205/Passes>

Placement Resources & Supports

Native American Placements

When caring for a Native American child, additional resources and supports are often available through the child's tribe(s). In some cases, a Native American child may be under the jurisdiction of a tribal court. In these cases, you may have a tribal social worker in addition to or instead of a state social worker. As a licensed foster parent caring for a Native American child, you also have access to Fostering Together's Native American Liaison for assistance and support.

In caring for a Native American child, foster parents will need to be open and available to partner with the child's tribe(s). As all families have unique culture and traditions; tribes also have unique culture and traditions. Establishing a partnership with the child's tribe(s) can afford the opportunity for foster parents to be introduced to some of the child's history, culture, and traditions, which will in turn help the foster parent better meet the child's needs.

Kinship Information

Do you have questions and need help navigating the system? Are you wondering the advantages of caring for your relatives and being a licensed foster home? Fostering Together is a state contracted program to help with just these things. You can find out who your Fostering Together liaison is by calling 1-866-358-5437 or put your zip code in here:

<http://fosteringtogether.org/about/staff/regional/>

- **Kinship Caregiver Forms**
<http://fosteringtogether.org/communities/kinship/info/>
- **Kinship Resources**
<http://fosteringtogether.org/communities/kinship/info/>
- **DSHS Kinship Care in WA State**
<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/home-and-community-services-kinship-care/kinship-care>
- **Online Support Facebook Group for Kinship Caregivers**
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Kinshipfosteringtogether/>
- **Grandparent & Relative Do You Know Guide**
<http://fosteringtogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Do-You-Know-2017.pdf>
- **Become a Licensed Foster Parent**
<http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-parenting/become-a-foster-parent>
- **Foster Parent Kinship Caregiver FAQs**
www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-parenting/foster-parent-kinship-care-faq

Kinship 101 Training

This training can be attended in person, by a one on one coaching session or an online webinar. You can view the Alliance training catalog and look for number 2171, 2707, 4000 to find which one best suite your schedule. The financial, legal, and emotional issues of raising a relative's child can be challenging. Support and services when raising a relative's child can be a lifesaver. This training will address the financial, legal aspects, navigation tips, along with information about social services and resources as a caregiver. To register and view dates and times:

Alliance for Child Welfare: <https://allianceforchildwelfare.org/>

Training Course Catalog: <https://allianceforchildwelfare.org/course-schedule>

Shared Planning Meetings

DCYF uses shared planning meetings to engage parents, youth, caregivers, youth, relatives, fictive kin, natural supports and others, as appropriate, in the development of a plan that prioritizes child safety and meets the support and service needs of parents, children and caregivers. These meetings provide an opportunity for information to be shared, case plans to be developed and decisions made that will support the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Caregivers are critical members of the child's team. It is very important for caregivers to share information and ideas on the child's overall well-being and needs. If a child must be moved to a new placement, caregivers are vital in helping to ensure that all information about the child is shared and transitioned with the child. Amongst the different types of shared planning meetings are Family Team Decision-Making Meeting (FTDM) and Permanency Planning meetings.

Family Team Decision-Making Meeting (FTDM)

A Family Team Decision-Making Meeting (FTDM) is a type of family meeting used by DCYF to make critical, placement-related decisions in an inclusive and strength-based way. An FTDM develops a Plan for a child to be placed safely in the least restrictive, least intrusive placement possible.

When is an FTDM held?

An FTDM is held whenever an out-of-home placement or placement move of a child is possible.

- An IMMINENT RISK FTDM may be held if there is a risk of placement. Hopefully, a plan can be developed to keep the child safely at home.
- An EMERGENT FTDM is held within 72 hours of a child being placed in protective custody or a court ordered placement.
- When an out-of-home placement is at risk of disrupting, a PLACEMENT STABILIZATION FTDM is held and a plan to support the placement or identify a new placement for the child is developed.
- An FTDM is also held when a child is returning to his parents' care or a move to an adoptive home is planned.

Transportation to Visits/Family Time

Applies to both licensed foster parents and licensed or unlicensed kinship caregivers

Transportation and Supervision

- Caregivers are not required to transport children to Visits/Family Time. However, many caregivers prefer to transport their foster child to and from Visits/Family Time. Visits/Family Time should be discussed throughout the life of the case including at all shared planning meetings. Use this opportunity to voice your preferences around family time plans including whether you would be interested in providing transportation and supervision. Remember, foster parents are never required or expected to transport or supervise Visits/Family Time.
- The child's assigned worker and caregiver should establish ongoing communication to discuss the child's visit plan and arrangements, including transportation. This would be a good topic to discuss during the worker's monthly visit. Visit/family time plans will change throughout the life of the case, and it's helpful to have both the caseworker and caregiver prepared and ready to support the child during any changes. Visit/Family Time changes may include location, frequency, transportation, and level of supervision. Mileage is paid if you transport to visits. You can obtain the form here: <http://fosteringtogether.org/resources/forms/>

Car Seats

- If you are concerned that the Visit/Family Time provider does not have a car seat that matches your foster child's age, height, and weight, then the foster parent will first try to contact the caseworker.

- If the caseworker is unavailable, you can either offer to let the visitation provider use your car seat for the duration of the visit (not required), or let the Visit/Family Time provider know that you do not believe the car seat they have provided meets the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard and request the visit be rescheduled to accommodate the safety needs of the child.
- Before making this request, caregivers need to utilize the information on www.800bucklup.org/carseat/ to determine whether or not the car seat meets the child's safety needs. If a Visit/Family Time visit is canceled because of a concern with the car seat, be sure to let the caseworker know what occurred including the date, time of day, visitation provider's name, and your concerns. You are encouraged to put this information in an email.

Court Dates

Applies to both licensed foster parents and licensed or unlicensed kinship caregivers

As a caregiver, you are entitled to know about the date and time of the child's court hearings. Here are some ways you can learn when the court hearing is scheduled:

- When the child is first placed with you, let the assigned worker know you that you would like to attend court and ask for the next court date.
- Ask the assigned worker for the date and time of the next hearing at the child's next Health and Safety visit.
- When you receive a copy of the child's Court Report, check the front page; the date of the next hearing is printed there.
- If you attend the court review hearings, the court sets the date and time for the next review during the hearing.

Caregivers are encouraged to submit to the child's social worker *Caregivers Report to the Court* 2 weeks prior to the court date. You can obtain the form here: <http://fosteringtogether.org/resources/forms/>

Extended Foster Care

Have you ever wanted to mentor a young adult and teach them the things they need to know to launch successfully into adulthood? You have an opportunity to walk alongside a youth in Extended Foster Care and guide them into success. For more information on the program visit: www.independence.wa.gov/programs/extended-foster-care-program/

Respite

Respite is care provided to children placed in your home to give you a break from daily caregiver responsibilities. Respite care gives you the opportunity for personal time away from home and can support you if there is an emergency that takes you away from home. Respite care can play an important role in maintaining the stability of a child's placement, avoiding disruption and supporting you.

What kinds of respite are available?

- Retention Respite – respite days earned on a monthly basis when caring for a dependent child. Paid by DCYF when the respite is used.
- Child Specific Respite – tied to the medical, behavioral or special needs of an individual child. Paid by DCYF when the respite is used.
- Exchange Respite – planned and negotiated between licensed caregivers and does not include payment of DCYF fund.

Licensed foster parents may be eligible for respite services provided by the department. Respite care is provided by someone who is approved by the department and is paid to care for foster children to support placement. Licensing must approve the home, along with your child's caseworker, if that care will exceed 72 hours (WAC 388-148-1600). Caregivers may find substitute care for their children utilizing prudent parenting for less than 72 hours (WAC 388-148-1605).

Respite care services for unlicensed relative caregivers or suitable person placements are intended to meet the needs of children and families in emergency situations and prevent placement disruptions. Respite services are paid by DCYF if the respite provider for an unlicensed relative caregiver or a suitable person placement is a licensed foster parent.

Foster parents and relative caregivers are encouraged to find their own respite providers when possible. Appropriate friends, family members and other foster homes may be a good place to start. Many homes make connections and find respite providers at local support group meetings. To find out how to get your friends and family approved contact your Fostering Together Liaison or your licensor.

Under the Prudent Parent Law, foster parents now may also arrange for the foster child to spend the night away from the foster home for up to 72 hours with someone known to the foster parent. Foster parents must ensure the needs of the child will be met and any safety and supervision plans are followed. The Prudent Parenting law does not require payment for short term care of up to 72 hours. However, if a foster parent makes arrangements for the child and agrees to pay the alternate caregiver for short term care, the expenses are paid by the foster parent.

You do not need to deduct the respite days used from your monthly foster care maintenance payment. Although you are using respite care, the child is still placed in your home and will return once respite is over. However, if a child is in respite for 14 days or longer, per DCYF, this is considered a change in placement and requires prior approval from the child's caseworker. Make sure to talk with the child's caseworker when your respite request is 14 days or longer. The request should be made in advance because staffing and approval by a supervisor or an area administrator (AA) is required.

Utilizing Childcare

Finding appropriate childcare can be a challenge for all parents. All childcare providers should be approved and accept DCYF subsidy payments in order to be subsidized by the department. Please speak with your child's assigned caseworker if you will need paid childcare services for your foster child and ensure these payments are authorized before starting care for your foster child.

Child Care Resources

- Childcare Resources is a data-base that includes over 2,000 childcare programs. Resource Specialists can help find a provider for you over the phone or provide a printed list for your review. Call 1-800-446-1114 or <https://www.childcare.org/family-services/>

Health & Safety Information

Applies to both licensed foster parents and licensed or unlicensed kinship caregivers

Health & Safety Visits

Foster parents and relative caregivers of children placed by DCYF must receive face-to-face monthly visits.

- Visits with children and caregivers may occur during the same monthly visit; and
- Location of the visit may vary.

During Health & Safety Visits it is normal for a caseworker to:

* Discuss with the verbal child in private, separate from the parent or out-of-home caregiver, either in the home or in another location where the child is comfortable:

- Whether the child feels safe in his or her home or placement.
- The child's needs, wants and progress.
- How visits with siblings and parents are going.

- The child’s connections with siblings and other relatives. For youth 16 and above, this includes discussing skills and strategies to:
 - Safely reconnect with any identified family members
 - Provide guidance and services to assist the youth
 - Maintain community and cultural connections
 - Participation and interest in normal childhood activities
 - Case activities and planning such as visits and permanent plan

The DCYF caseworker is also required to conduct an unannounced visit with caregivers in 10% of randomly selected homes. The caregivers requiring unannounced visits are randomly selected in FamLink.

Requirements for monthly visits with out-of-home caregiver must include:

- Discussion of the child’s well-being and permanency goals;
- Observation of the child and caregiver’s relationship and home environment when a visit occurs in the caregiver’s home;
- Assessment of the caregiver’s ability to provide adequate care and maintain placement stability;
- Identification of any support or trainings needs;
- Inquiry about the child’s visit with siblings and parents and how the child is responding;
- Discussion about normal childhood activities the child participates in, or is interested in;
- Discussion of any requests to significantly change the child’s appearance. Significant changes include, but are not limited to, body piercings, haircuts, and changes in hairstyles. Prior approval must be obtained from the parent (Tribe, if the child is legally free) or court;
- Share the parent’s interest in the child’s care and requests for the child’s participation in normal childhood activities.

If you are not receiving regular monthly visits for the child placed in your home by the assigned worker, please contact the supervisor to inquire about scheduling your child’s next visit. Your assistance and partnership will help DCYF ensure high quality services for the child in your care and for you as the caregiver.

For more information: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/CA/fos/documents/swcaregiverchecklist.pdf>

Foster Care Medical Team (FCMT)

The FCMT ensures that children placed in your home by DCYF have rapid access to their Apple Health Coordinated Care eligibility (AHCC). If you have questions about eligibility or if you are billed for any health care service, contact the FCMT who can assist you.

NOTE: Caregivers are NEVER financially responsible to pay for ANY health care related services, treatment, equipment or prescription. If a health care provider or pharmacy ask you to pay for all or a portion of a treatment, service, or medication, contact the FCMT as soon as possible. They can be reached at: 1-800-562-3022 X 15480

Fostering Well-Being Care Coordinator Unit (FWB CCU)

The FWB CCU is a specialized unit of nurses and program managers who provide physical and behavioral health care coordination for children and youth who are not enrolled in the AHCC managed care program. Children and youth may be referred to the FWB CCU by the child’s caregiver, caseworker, or health care providers program.

FWB CCU contact information: Phone: 1-800-422-3263 X 52626 Email: fwbccu@dcyf.wa.gov

Initial Health Screening

All children and youth coming into care will need a “Foster Care Initial Health Screen” (IHS), or a basic health check-up within five days of coming in to care and does not need to be repeated if the child changes placements. The IHS is intended to identify any illness or injury that requires immediate treatment. Exceptions to the IHS policy are when a child:

1. Is released from a hospital (in-patient or emergency) directly into out-of-home care.
2. Receives healthcare services through a Pediatric Interim Care center (PIC).
3. Receives an IHS or scheduled to receive an IHS through a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) or sexual assault clinic.
4. Receives an Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) within five calendar days of entering out-of-homecare.

Your child's caseworker should provide this form to you. You can also find a copy here:

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/billers-and-providers/13-843.pdf>

Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) examination

The EPSDT is a comprehensive and preventive examination; health care providers may also call it a "Well Child" examination. All children will need an EPSDT Well-Child exam within 30 days of entering care. (WAC 388-148-1550). Children and youth must also receive age appropriate EPSDT examinations according to the following schedule:

- Five examinations between 0 and 12 months of age:
 - 1 month
 - 2-3 months
 - 4-5 months
 - 6-8 months
 - 9-11 months
- Three examinations between 1 and 2 years of life:
 - 12 months
 - 15 months
 - 18 months
- One examination EVERY year between 3-20 years of age

Children and youth also need a dental appointment scheduled within the first month of placement. After the initial appointment, dental examinations must occur every six months.. You are required to maintain a file of all health care records for your child and return those documents to the caseworker when the child leaves your home (WAC 388-148-1405; WAC 388-148-1415).

CHET Screening

Applies to both licensed foster parents and licensed or unlicensed kinship caregivers

All children receive a Child Health & Education Tracker (CHET) screening within the first 30 days they are in care. Because of the short time frame, a CHET screener will contact you shortly after placement to help gather health and education information about the child. The screener will also complete developmental and emotional behavioral health screening with the child. They may need to visit with the child in your home and will generally ask questions about any observations or concerns you may have with the child and the child's health, development, or emotional wellbeing. A copy of the child's completed CHET screen report will be provided to you once all the information is gathered. The CHET report should be used in case planning to make sure the child's needs are being met.

Ongoing Mental Health (OMH) Screening

Applies to both licensed foster parents and licensed or unlicensed kinship caregivers

The Ongoing Mental Health (OHM) program is designed to identify and track the emotional and behavioral health needs of children who remain in care over six months. As part of the screening process, OMH screeners will be re-administering three of the mental health screening tools used in the Child Health and Education Tracker (CHET) process. The screening will be completed by telephone with the child's current caregiver. What can be expected?

- The OMH Screeners will make a phone call to the current caregiver
- The screener will arrange to complete the screening at the time that fits best into the caregiver's daytime schedule. (PMH screening hours are 8:00 am – 5:30 pm, Monday – Friday)
- A typical screening will take 10-20 minutes per child, depending on the needs of the child and caregiver.
- When the screening is complete, a copy of the OMH report is mailed to the caregiver and uploaded into the statewide database caseworker's review.
- The OMH Report will include information materials or community resources to assist meeting any identified needs.

Like the CHET report, the information from the OMH report can be used to assist in case planning to make sure we are meeting the child's needs.

Foster Care Medical Team

If you need assistance getting pre-approval for medications or have trouble in accessing needed medical care or medications for your foster child, please contact the foster care medical team (FCMT) to determine eligibility. They can be reached at:
1-800-562-3022 X 15480

Fostering Well-Being Coordination Unit

All children in care are referred to the Fostering Well-Being Coordination Unit to assist with gathering medical and immunization records. For families with children who have complex needs such as medically fragile children or those with developmental delays, auto immune or physical disabilities, can request referral for coordination through the Fostering Well-Being Unit. This team, comprised of several caseworkers and registered nurses, can assist you in accessing specific providers for your child and navigate referrals. Anyone can refer to the Fostering Well-Being Coordination Unit.

Phone: 1-800-422-3263 X 52626 Email: fwbccu@dcyf.wa.gov

Mental Health Support

Children in foster care may benefit from being engaged in mental health supports, including therapy or school-based counseling to help process the emotions related to accumulated adverse childhood experiences. Please discuss with the child's caseworker or case manager if you need assistance enrolling your child in therapy. Below are some helpful resources available to access mental and behavioral health services. To find providers in your area: <https://providersearch.coordinatedcarehealth.com/standard-search> or call [1-800-354-9876](tel:1-800-354-9876):

- **Apple Health Core Connections** managed care program at (844)354-9876 or <https://www.coordinatedcarehealth.com/members/foster-care.html>
- **State Mental Health Crisis Line** for a list of contracts for crisis services. <https://www.hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/behavioral-health-recovery/mental-health-crisis-lines>
- **Washington Recovery Help Line** 24-hour help for substance abuse and mental health at (866)789-1511 or <https://warecoveryhelpline.org/>

- **Behavioral Health Organizations** (BHO) Contracts for services.
https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/BHSIA/dbh/BHO/BHO_Contacts_For_Services.pdf
- **Wraparound with Intensive Services** (WISE) for youth with serious mental and behavioral health needs.
<https://www.hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/behavioral-health-recovery/wraparound-intensive-services-wise>

WIC

Children placed in foster care between the ages of birth – five years of age will likely be eligible for nutrition and food services through the WIC (Women, Infant and Children) program. Under this service families can expect to receive free formula and food for children. Benefits are usually around \$50.00 a month. www.wicprograms.org

Car Seats

Caregivers are responsible for ensuring that they have proper fitting car seats for children in their care. Understanding how to properly use and install a car seat is essential for correct use.

Fire stations will often offer free installation checks for families. Seattle Children’s Hospital in Seattle also offers periodic free training. You can look for a car seat check location near you at: <http://www.800buckleup.org>

Educational and Service Support

Children in care should have an educational plan developed to ensure learning needs are met. Please follow the educational plan approved by the child’s DCYF caseworker. This may involve ensuring regular school attendance, assisting with homework and other tasks as needed (WAC 388-148-1525).

Families may find that working with an educational advocate is useful, particularly for children that may need assistance with transportation to and from school, tutoring and special accommodations, understanding and utilizing an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) or a 504 plan.

Region 3

ECEAP

- Children may also be eligible for ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program) for free developmental preschool. Check with your local school district for eligibility. <http://web3.esd112.org/ccfs/programs-and-services/eceap>

Team Child

Services Offered: Legal assistance for youth related to basic needs.

- Location 1225 S. Weller St., Suite 420, Seattle, WA
- Website..... <http://www.teamchild.org>
- Areas Served Snohomish, King, Pierce and Yakima Counties
- Eligibility Requirements Youth 12-18 based on need
- Referral Required Yes

Region 4

Treehouse

Services Offered: Graduation Success and Educational Advocacy Program

- Location:..... 2100 24th Ave. S. Suite 200, Seattle, WA
- Website..... <http://www.treehouseforkids.org/>
- Phone..... 206-767-7000
- Areas Served..... King County. Call to inquire
- Eligibility Requirements..... Youth must be state dependent
- Referral Required: Yes

Team Child

Services Offered: Legal assistance for youth related to basic needs.

- Location..... 1225 S. Weller St., Suite 420, Seattle, WA
- Website..... <http://www.teamchild.org>
- Areas Served Snohomish, King, Pierce and Yakima Counties
- Eligibility Requirements: Youth 12-18 based on need
- Referral Required: Yes

ECEAP

Children may also be eligible for ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program) for free developmental preschool. Check with your local school district for eligibility.

<http://web3.esd112.org/ccfs/programs-and-services/eceap>

Region 5

Team Child

Services Offered: Legal assistance for youth related to basic needs.

- Location: 1225 S. Weller St., Suite 420, Seattle, WA
- Website..... <http://www.teamchild.org>
- Areas Served: Snohomish, King, Pierce Counties
- Eligibility Requirements: Youth 12-18 based on need
- Referral Required: Anyone can make a referral

ECEAP

Children may also be eligible for ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program) for free developmental preschool. Check with your local school district for eligibility.

<http://web3.esd112.org/ccfs/programs-and-services/eceap>

Region 6

ECEAP

Children may also be eligible for ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program) for free developmental preschool. Check with your local school district for eligibility.

<http://web3.esd112.org/ccfs/programs-and-services/eceap>

Early Childhood Intervention

Children in foster care may have physical, emotional or social-emotional delays. It is important to be proactive about addressing these concerns. Many early childhood intervention providers are available to work with families who have children ages birth-three. Please speak with your caseworker or CHET screener for a referral. For children with delays and are over three years of age, please contact your local school district for an evaluation. Your caseworker or case manager can also assist you with this process.

Financial Support & Reimbursements

Caring for children can be expensive. Below are a few ways that caregivers can stretch a TANF and foster care maintenance payments. Remember, medical and prescription cost is not something a caregiver is expected to pay.

Monthly Foster Care Maintenance Reimbursement

Licensed caregivers will receive an invoice each month for the care of the children in their home. It comes by mail the later part of each month and the caregiver calls in the number provided on the form to process the payment. The payment will be processed at the beginning of the following month and either arrive by mail or direct deposit. If you do not receive by the first of the following month or you have a child missing from the invoice contact your child's caseworker.

Relatives of specified degree have the option of choosing TANF or foster care maintenance payments for the children placed with them by DCYF.

To receive foster care payments, the relative's home must be licensed to receive foster care payments. This is encouraged as foster care payments are higher than TANF.

When using respite care, you do not have to deduct the child from your monthly invoice. Although you are using respite care, the child is still placed in your home and will return once respite is over. However, if a child is in respite for 14 days or longer, per DCYF, this is considered a change in placement and requires prior approval from the child's caseworker. Make sure to talk with the child's caseworker when your respite request is 14 days or longer. The request should be made in advance because staffing and approval by a supervisor or an area administrator (AA) is required.

Mileage Reimbursement

Caregivers may be eligible to be reimbursed for mileage incurred to drive a child to medical and therapy appointments and other court-ordered services. All mileage needs to be reported to the assigned caseworker. Mileage cannot be reimbursed more than 90 days after it occurs. If it has been longer than 30 days since you submitted your Mileage form to the caseworker, and you have not received the payment contact your child's caseworker and supervisor.

The mileage form (Caregiver Monthly Mileage 07-090) can be located here: <http://fosteringtogether.org/resources/forms/>

Sibling Visits

DCYF can reimburse caregivers up to twice a month, at \$7.03 per child per visit for activities or items used during a sibling visit. This is in addition to appropriate mileage or parking expenses you may incur, if approved in advance from your child's caseworker. Make sure to claim the sibling visit expenses on your caregiver monthly mileage form. If it has been longer than 30 days since you

submitted your mileage form to the caseworker, and you have not received the payment contact your child's caseworker and supervisor.

The mileage form (Caregiver Monthly Mileage 07-090) can be located here: <http://fosteringtogether.org/resources/forms/>

Foster Care Rate Assessment

Applies only to licensed caregivers

Foster children just entering care are considered level one, but this can be assessed after 30 days. Levels do not follow the child. Every time a child moves to a new foster home, a new rate assessment must be done. For example, if a child is a level three in his current foster home, when he moves to a new foster home, the level of the child in the new foster home will be a level one (FamLink automatically does that). Then a new rate assessment will need to be done with the new foster home after 30 days. Based on the information provided by the new foster parent and the needs of the child, the rate assessor will enter the appropriate level into our FamLink system. The rate assessor will always back date the level to the day the child was placed into the new foster home. If you have not been contacted for a rate assessment after the first 30 days a child has been placed with you, please request one from the child's caseworker.

Foster Care Rate Assessment Form (DSHS 10-261) <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/FSA/forms/pdf/10-261.pdf>

Foster Parent Rate Assessment Guide <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SESA/publications/documents/22-1556.pdf>

Foster Parent Damage Claim & Liability Program

In the event a foster child causes significant damage or loss, please check with your caseworker or a Fostering Together Liaison as to whether it would be appropriate to submit a reimbursement claim, under the Foster Parent Damage Claim & Liability Program. A checklist including all required item to submit a claim can be found at: <http://fosteringtogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Forms-Damage-Claim.pdf>

Support

Fostering Together Program

Fostering Together is a program of Olive Crest and offer recruitment and retention services throughout Western Washington. Fostering Together is here to answer your questions, offer guidance to you during the licensing process and provide ongoing support after becoming a licensed foster parent. All services are free to foster, adoptive and kinship caregivers. Visit us at www.fosteringtogether.org and find your liaison.

Foster Parents are PROVIDED with the following:

- Support Groups
- Training for caregivers and referrals for additional instruction
- Support for caregivers at Family Team Decision-Making Meetings
- Reimbursement process guidance
- Community resources and events
- Adoption information
- A neutral bridge between the state or your private agency

Fostering Together Support Groups

To find your local liaison:

<http://fosteringtogether.org/about/staff/regional/>

To find local support groups:

<http://fosteringtogether.org/support-groups/sub-region-flyers/>

Fostering Together Facebook Support Groups

Western Washington:

<http://fosteringtogether.org/support-groups/online-groups/>

- Fostering Together Foster to Adopt
- Fostering Together Deaf Children Network
- Fostering Together Kinship Caregivers
- Fostering Together LGBTQ+
- Fostering Together Medically Fragile & Complex
- Fostering Together Foster 2 Adopt
- Fostering Together Native American

Regional:

<http://fosteringtogether.org/support-groups/online-groups/>

- Fostering Together Region 3 & 4
- Fostering Together Whatcom County
- Fostering Together Skagit County
- Fostering Together Island County
- Fostering Together San Juan
- Fostering Together Sky Valley Monroe
- Fostering Together Snohomish
- Fostering Together Auburn-Kent
- Fostering Together Central District
- Fostering Together King South
- Fostering Together King West
- Fostering Together King East

- Fostering Together Region 5 & 6
- Fostering Together Pierce County
- Fostering Together JBLM
- Fostering Together Kitsap County
- Fostering Together Thurston & Mason County
- Fostering Together Clallam and Jefferson Counties
- Fostering Together Cowlitz & Wahkiakum County
- Fostering Together Clark & Skamania County
- Fostering Together Lewis County
- Fostering Together Pacific & Grays Harbor County

FIRST Program (Foster Intervention, Retention & Support Team)

Available statewide, the FIRST Program provides neutral advice and support to licensed foster parents when an allegation of child abuse & neglect or a licensing allegation is made against them. The FIRST program staff will respond to your call within 12 hours, explain the investigation process, along with what you can expect.

Phone: (866) 393-6186

Additional Resources

Alliance for Child Welfare Training

- The Alliance for Child Welfare is a resource for finding additional trainings relevant to caring for the foster children in your care. All licensed foster parents are required to participate in ongoing training once licensed;
- 36 hours during their first three-year licensing period
- 30 hours during their second three-year licensing period
- 24 hours during all subsequent three-year licensing periods

Alliance for Child Welfare: <https://allianceforchildwelfare.org/>

Training Course Catalog: <https://allianceforchildwelfare.org/course-schedule>

Caregiver Trainings

<http://fosteringtogether.org/training/caregiver-training/training-options/>

Mockingbird Society

Mockingbird Society offers training and community-based support groups utilizing the constellation model of care.

Families interested in joining a constellation can learn more at: <http://www.mockingbirdsociety.org/>

Caregiver Forms

Fostering Together

1. <https://www.fosteringtogether.org>
2. Select your Region
3. Click on "Resources"
4. Select "Forms"
5. Forms are listed alphabetically

WAC's (Licensing Requirements for Foster Homes)

<http://fosteringtogether.org/resources/forms/>

Go to form called WAC's

Prudent Parenting Guidelines

<http://fosteringtogether.org/resources/forms/>

Go to form called Caregiver Guidelines for Foster Child Activities or Prudent Parenting

Foster Parent Frequently Asked Questions

<http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-parenting/foster-parent-kinship-care-faq>

This welcome packet is intended to be a useful resource for licensed and kinship providers. This list may not contain every resource or service available to families, and services provided may vary by case plan or region. These programs may change frequently, so please contact each provider directly to verify eligibility for your child.

