

Did you know...

About the following Services and Supports **For Grandparents and Relatives Raising Children?**

You are not alone!

There are more than 35,000 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.



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

Ongoing financial assistance through a TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) child-only grant. Only the child's income and resources figure in determining eligibility. For more information go to https://wvs2.wa.gov/dshs/onlinecso/non_needy_relative_grant.asp. To apply, contact your local Community Services Office (CSO) or apply online at <http://onlineapp.dshs.wa.gov>. Call 1-800-865-7801 to locate your local CSO. 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.

Medical assistance (also known as Medicaid or medical coupons) to cover medical, dental, and mental health expenses. Children in relative care may get medical assistance without getting a child-only TANF grant. To apply, contact your Community Service Office or download the application at http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/ms/forms/14_380.pdf.

Emergency, short-term support to unlicensed relative caregivers through the Relative Support Services program. These funds are for children placed by the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and are to facilitate or maintain DCFS placements. Funds can pay for furniture, clothing, school supplies, etc. Contact your DCFS worker.

Short-term support through the Kinship Caregivers Support Program. Funds are for relative caregivers not involved in the child welfare system and can pay for food, housing, clothing, school supplies, legal services, etc. For more information, contact your local Senior Information and Assistance office. To find your local office, call the Aging and Disability Services Administration at 1-800-422-3263 or visit <http://www.adsa.dshs.wa.gov/Resources/clickmap.htm>.

Childcare assistance through the Working Connections Child Care program (WCCC). Relative caregivers, as a couple, can qualify for WCCC even if only one of them is working. For program and application information, go to <https://wvs2.wa.gov/dshs/onlinecso/WCCC.asp> or contact your Community Service Office in person or by phone.

DSHS' Division of Child Care and Early Learning also runs a **Seasonal Child Care** program for seasonal agricultural workers and a **Homeless Child Care** program for families who are temporarily homeless (i.e. live in a shelter, car, tent, park, transitional housing, or temporarily with family or friends). For program information, go to <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/esa/dccel/parents.shtml>. For information about the Homeless Child care program, you may also contact Denise Halloran at 360-725-4683.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program through the Department of Health's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. WIC accepts children under the age of five who are income-eligible and have a nutritional risk. For more information contact WIC at 1-800-841-1410 or <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/WIC/default.htm>.

Free or reduced price meals through the National School Lunch/School Breakfast Programs 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 at 360-725-6200 or <http://www.k12.wa.us/childnutrition>.

Early intervention services through the Washington State Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP). If you care for a child with a disability or have a concern about a child's development, age birth to three years, call Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies 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. For more information contact ITEIP at 360-725-3500 or <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/iteip>.

Services for individuals diagnosed with a developmental disability and/or delay through DSHS' Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). DDD services and supports are based on individual preference, capabilities, and needs, and promote daily activities, routines, and relationships common to most citizens. For more information, visit the DDD website at <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ddd/index.shtml>. Toll-free numbers for each DDD regional office can be located at <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ddd/contacts.shtml>.

Chemical dependency treatment services through DSHS' Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA). DASA's services can be paid for with medical coupons and DASA has "hardship funds" that can help caregivers with travel and lodging expenses while a youth is in treatment. Treatment services are also available for adults who meet income guidelines. For more information or to apply for services, contact the Alcohol/Drug 24 hour Help Line at 1-800-562-1240.

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 because dependent benefits paid on behalf of a parent are credited as child support payments. See below for contact information.

Child support enforcement through the DSHS Division of Child Support (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.

For information on all DCS services, visit the DCS website at <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/index.shtml> or call 1-800-442-KIDS. You can apply for DCS services even if you don't receive any public assistance. Receiving TANF or medical assistance automatically results in a DCS case. If you are afraid that cooperating with DCS may be dangerous for you or the child, contact your local Community Service Office to discuss "good cause" not to cooperate.

More information for relative caregivers...

To find a “kinship navigator” who can help direct you to resources in your area, call 1-800-422-3263 or visit the Relatives as Parents website at <http://parenting.wsu.edu/relative/index.htm>. Click on “Support Groups and Kinship Navigators” and then on “Find a Support Group or Kinship Navigator in your County”. Note that kinship navigators do not serve all areas of the state.

To find a local support group with other relative caregivers, visit the Relatives as Parents website: <http://parenting.wsu.edu/relative/index.htm>. Click on “Support Groups and Kinship Navigators” and then on “Find a Support Group or Kinship Navigator in your County”.

For more information about DSHS services, including kinship care, visit the “No Wrong Door” website: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/basicneeds>.

To find health centers that provide medical and dental care for anyone covered by Medicaid go to: <http://www.chs.hca.wa.gov>. Click on “Find a CHS contracted clinic in Washington” under “General Information”. The listings indicate if the clinic accepts Medicaid patients for medical or dental care or both.

Relative caregivers may now legally give informed consent for medical care under the terms of Substitute House Bill 1281 passed by the Washington State Legislature and effective July 24, 2005. For more information, contact the Northwest Women’s Law Center information and referral line at 206-621-7691 (TTY 206-521-4317), weekdays between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm and Wednesdays between 5:30 and 7:30 pm. A sample declaration form can also be downloaded from www.washingtonlawhelp.org.

If you are having trouble finding dental care and need help, contact Connie Mix-Clark (DSHS & HCA Dental Program Manager) at clarkcl@dshs.wa.gov or 360-725-3455 (Wednesdays) or 360-923-2753 (all other days).

To find mental health agencies that honor medical coupons, call 1-888-713-6010 or go to: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/Mentalhealth/rsnmap.shtml>.

The parent advocate within DSHS’ Mental Health Division can be reached at 1-800-446-0259 ext. 3.

For information and support on raising children with emotional, behavioral, or mental disorders contact Statewide Action For Family Empowerment of Washington (SAFE WA) at 1-866-300-1998.

For information about foster care and the child welfare system visit the DSHS Children’s Administration website: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/index.asp>.

For information about food resources contact the statewide Family Food Line at 1-888-436-6392. The Family Food Line can provide information about the state’s Basic Food program, free summer meals for kids, local food banks, and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

The Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies 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 parent/sibling support. Call 1-800-322-2588 (TTY 711) or go to: <http://www.hmhbwa.org>.

Training opportunities for relatives and foster parents coping with problem behaviors are offered by the Resource Family Training Institute. Contact the Department of Licensed Resources Regional Training Coordinator or visit: <http://fosterparent.dshs.wa.gov>. Click on “Ongoing Training”.

Free Publications...

Relatives as Parents: A Resource Guide for Relatives Raising Children in Washington State (DSHS 22-996x) is a general guide for all relative caregivers. To order all DSHS publications, go to: www.prt.wa.gov and click on “General Store” or call the Department of Printing at 360-586-6360.

Relatives Guide to Child Welfare Services (DSHS 22-492x) is specifically for relative caregivers involved with the child welfare system.

A Parent’s Guide to the Public Mental Health System is a booklet written by parents for parents. To order, call 1-800-446-0259, extension 3.

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 by calling the Northwest Women’s Law Center at 206-682-9552.

Questions?

If you have questions about this information, please contact, Barbara Bofinger, Children’s Administration, at BOBA300@dshs.wa.gov, (360) 902-7986; Tom Berry, Economic Services Administration at berrytj@dshs.wa.gov, (360) 725-4617; or Hilari Hauptman, Aging and Disability Services Administration at haupthp@dshs.wa.gov, 1-800-422-3263.

Find more kinship resources at:
www1.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare