

# Kinship Navigators Can Help



A child needs you, and you've answered the call. Saying "yes" is the easy part – what comes next can feel overwhelming. You are filled with questions: How will I get them the things they need? What legal rights do I have? Where can I find help?

As a grandparent, other relative, or family friend raising children you are a kinship caregiver. In Washington state, there are services for kinship caregivers and their families. **Kinship Navigators** are experts who help kinship caregivers by providing information and support. Kinship navigators can connect you with lots of services in the community. They serve most areas in the state, while Tribal Navigators serve a limited number of tribes.

Kinship Navigators may be able to help you find local services, including:

- Financial Resources
- Summer Respite
- Emergency Assistance Funds
- School/Youth Activities
- Support Groups
- Legal/Custody Resources
- Basic Needs & Clothing

## Find a Kinship Navigator

- **Kinship Navigator-WA State Kinship Program** 1-800-422-3263 (press 8) or 360-725-3543 or 360-725-3544 Web: [dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare](https://dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare) (click on "Kinship Navigator") Email: [kinshipcare@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:kinshipcare@dshs.wa.gov)
- Kinship Navigator programs are administered locally by the **Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)**. Contact your AAA for information.
- **Relatives Raising Children Support Groups** 1-800-422-3263 (press 8) or 360-725-3543 or 360-725-3544 Web: [dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare](https://dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare) (Click on "Support Groups" and select your county or city)
- **The Department of Children, Youth, and Families** has information about kinship care, foster care and the child welfare system. Web: [dcyf.wa.gov](https://dcyf.wa.gov) or [dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-parenting](https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-parenting)

## Resources

- **"Do You Know"** is a detailed brochure on services for kinship caregivers - [dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/documents/22-1120.pdf](https://dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/documents/22-1120.pdf)
- **Find a Kinship Navigator through the Kinship Website** - [dshs.wa.gov/altsa/home-and-community-services-kinship-care/kinship-care](https://dshs.wa.gov/altsa/home-and-community-services-kinship-care/kinship-care)
- Kinship programs are also available for relative caregivers in formal custody arrangements. For more information, **contact your caseworker or visit the Department of Children, Youth, and Families website** - [dcyf.wa.gov](https://dcyf.wa.gov)