

# Meeting Basic Needs



As a kinship caregiver, you can call on your Kinship Navigator for help in meeting basic needs. If you need assistance when your Navigator is not available, the following resources and contacts may be helpful.

- Your local **Community Services Office (CSO)** can help you learn more about available services in your area. Call 1-877-501-2233 or visit [www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/esa-find-office](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/esa-find-office) to learn more.
  - To apply for services **Washington Connection** offers information and an application for a variety of services, including basic food benefits, emergency cash assistance, veterans' benefits, energy payments, and many more. Visit [washingtonconnection.org](http://washingtonconnection.org) to see if you qualify or to apply for benefits.
- Monthly financial assistance. **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** Child-Only grants may be available for relatives or others who are raising children not theirs by birth. To see if you qualify, visit [www.washingtonconnection.org](http://www.washingtonconnection.org). This short video explains how to apply in Washington state: [youtu.be/o6RXcMAFvOw](https://youtu.be/o6RXcMAFvOw)
  - Additional Requirements for **Emergency Needs (AREN)** helps Recipients of Child-Only TANF with emergency housing or utilities. To find your local Community Services Office, call 1-877-501-2233 or visit [dshs.wa.gov/esa/esa-find-office](http://dshs.wa.gov/esa/esa-find-office)
- **Free and reduced lunch.** Children who are eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), foster care, McKinney Vento or Basic Food (SNAP) may also be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Visit [washingtonconnection.org](http://washingtonconnection.org) or contact your child's school for more information.
- **Women, Infants and Children (WIC)** Nutrition Program is a supplemental food program for children up to age five and new or pregnant mothers. Relatives and foster parents that are primary caregivers of children may also receive WIC services for the children in their care. Find out if you're eligible at [doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/WIC/Eligibility](http://doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/WIC/Eligibility). Find your local WIC clinic by calling 1-800-322-2588 or visiting [resources.parenthelp123.org](http://resources.parenthelp123.org)
- Find your local Food Bank. Call 2-1-1 or visit [wa211.org](http://wa211.org) or [resources.parenthelp123.org](http://resources.parenthelp123.org).
- The **Summer Meal Program** is open to all children 18 years or younger, regardless of household income. Call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or visit [fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks](http://fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks)

## Additional supports

- The **Kinship Caregiver Support Program (KCSP)** helps pay for basic needs like food, housing, and clothing. Call 1-800-422-3263 or 360-725-3544 or visit [dshs.wa.gov/altsa/hcs/kinship-care/benefits](http://dshs.wa.gov/altsa/hcs/kinship-care/benefits) (click on "Financial Help") \*DCYF eligibility criteria applies
- Talk with your child's caseworker for more information to support you. Kinship caregivers may be eligible for additional supports such as but not limited to clothing voucher, mileage reimbursement, or other concrete goods including safety equipment or furniture etc. \*DCYF eligibility criteria applies