

Grandparents and Relatives

Do you know about the services and supports
for you and the children in your care?



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

Financial Help

- **TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) child-only grant:** Monthly cash grants may be available for relatives who are the primary caregivers raising children. Both the child's and caregiver's income are considered, but only the child's resources figure in determining eligibility (caregiver's income is not considered if the child was placed by a child welfare agency and the case is open). Caregivers may also be eligible for a TANF grant for themselves if they meet eligibility criteria. 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. Ask your local CSO about these funds.

Phone: 1-877-501-2233 to find your local Community Service Office

Web: www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/esa-find-office

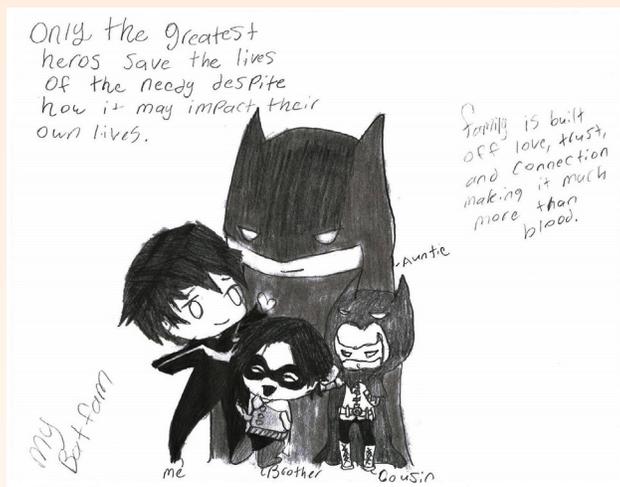
To see if you qualify and to apply for assistance, go to www.washingtonconnection.org

- **Kinship Caregivers Support Program (KCSP):** Short-term funds are available for relatives whose children are not involved in the child welfare system to help pay for basic needs (food, housing, clothing, school supplies, etc.). How to apply:

Phone: Aging and Long-Term Support Administration at 1-800-422-3263 or 360-725-2556 to locate a local KCSP office

Web: www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/hcs/kinship-care/benefits (click on Financial Help)

- **Relative Support Service Funds** provide emergency short-term funds to unlicensed relatives and other approved caregivers with a state-dependent child (state-dependent children are in the legal custody of the state, have an open case with the Children's Administration and an assigned social worker). Funds can pay for furniture, clothing, gas, deposits, school supplies, etc. Contact the child's social worker to access these funds or for more information. Foster parents are not eligible.



Amaris, Age 17. Voices of Children Contest 2016.

Health Care

- **Health Insurance for children in kinship care:** Children living with a relative caregiver may be eligible for free Washington Apple Health coverage. An application must be filed online or by calling the customer service center. Caregivers may also be eligible for free or low-cost health insurance coverage for themselves and may apply at the same time they apply for the child in their care.

Phone: 1-855-923-4633

Web: www.wahealthplanfinder.org

- **Health Insurance for children in foster care:** Children who are dependents of the state are automatically eligible for Washington Apple Health and no application is needed. Children's Administration reports a child taken into care to the Health Care Authority directly.

- **Apple Health Core Connections (AHCC)** addresses the health care needs of state-dependent children in out-of-home placement. AHCC can help identify what services or providers your child needs, previous health problems for newly placed children, answer questions about children's health problems, and assist in navigating Washington Apple Health and the greater health care system. Children are eligible for AHCC if they are under age 21 and in placement through tribal or state dependency. For more information, contact your child's social worker or:

Phone: 1-844-354-9876

- **Child Profile Health Promotion** materials for children aged birth to six years are available. Information is age-specific and includes immunizations, growth, development, safety, nutrition, and other parenting issues.

Phone: 1-866-397-0337

Web: www.childprofile.org

- **Plain Talk About Childhood Immunization** (Department of Health Publication #348-080): 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/plaintalk>

- **Health Centers that accept Washington Apple Health coverage** for medical and dental care:

Phone: 1-800-562-3022

Web: <https://fortress.wa.gov/hca/p1findaprovider/>

Caregivers must contact the provider to find out if they are accepting new Apple Health patients.

There are more than 43,000 grandparents and other relatives raising children in Washington state. Below are various resources, benefits, and support services available to you through the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and other public and private agencies.

General and Statewide Resources

- **Social Security** - for information on Social Security Retirement and Disability benefits, Social Security Numbers, and related topics:

Phone: 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)

Web: www.ssa.gov

- **Washington Poison Control Center (WAPC)** provides immediate, 24/7, free, and expert treatment advice and assistance by phone in case of exposure. All calls are confidential:

Phone: 1-800-222-1222

Web: www.wapc.org

- **Kinship Navigators** are a one-stop shop providing information and assistance to relatives who may not know where to apply for benefits and services in their community. Kinship Navigators serve most areas of the state. Tribal Navigators serve selected Tribes:

Phone: 1-800-422-3263 or 360-725-2556

Web: www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/kinship-care-support-services.

- **Local support groups for 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 or city)

- **WithinReach hotline** provides information and referrals on many health and social services related to raising children of all ages including health insurance, nutrition, immunization, child care, child development, and children with special needs:

Phone: 1-800-322-2588 (TTY 711)

Web: www.parenthelp123.org (Families can find and apply for programs using a benefit finder)

- **Washington Connection** website provides information and help with applying for DSHS services, including TANF grants and food assistance:

Web: www.washingtonconnection.org

- **Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence** offers free training classes for both relatives and foster parents. Classes are often held on weeknights and weekends and some on-line trainings are available.

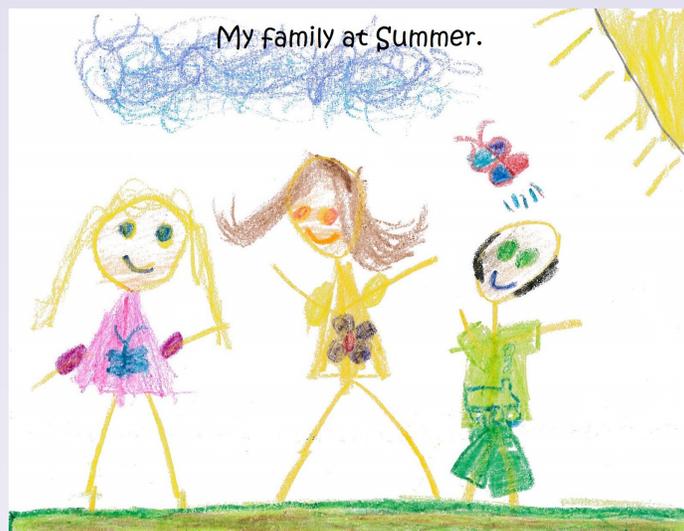
Web: <https://allianceforchildwelfare.org/resources>

- **DSHS Children's Administration:** information about kinship care, foster care and the child welfare system:

Web: www.dshs.wa.gov/CA/fos/relatives-caring-for-kids

- **Northwest Justice Project (NJP)** has free self-help information including a website and a toll-free hotline. NJP's Coordinated Legal Education, Advice, and Referral (CLEAR) program provides free legal assistance with civil legal problems for eligible low-income people.

Phone: 1-888-201-1014 - if you are under 60 and low-income. King County residents should call 206-464-1519. If you are over 60 at any income level call 1-888-387-7111.



Melena Age 6. *Voices of Children Contest 2016.*

- **Washington Law Help** provides free legal services for low-income persons and seniors in Washington. The website provides legal education materials and tools that give basic information on legal problems and detailed instructions and forms to help you represent yourself in court. You can also locate information on free legal aid programs, basic eligibility, and contact information.

Web: www.washingtonlawhelp.org

- **Informed Consent for Medical Care** - State law allows relative caregivers to give informed consent for medical care for the child in their care (including dental and mental health care) even if they do not have a court order. When caring for a child in state custody, you must talk with the social worker to understand medical care the court must approve. For more information, look under “Free Publications” where you can 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/issues/family-law/non-parents-caring-for-children

Dental Services

- **Locating Dental Care for Children and Adults:**

Web: www.theMightyMouth.org lists low-cost community dental clinics by county

Phone: 2-1-1 Washington Information Network (WIN) from anywhere in Washington to speak to an Information & Referral Specialist for assistance to find local dental contacts (translators available)

Web: WA State Department of Health for other dental health resources: www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/OralHealth/FindingDentalCare

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

Phone: 206-543-5800

Web: www.thecenterforpediatricdentistry.com

Help with Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

- To find local services and agencies that serve children, youth, and families enrolled In Apple Health coverage:
 - Phone:** Washington Recovery Help Line: 1-866-789-1511 for emotional support and referrals
 - Web:** <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/division-behavioral-health-and-recovery>
- **Washington State's Wraparound with Intensive Services (WISe)** program provides comprehensive behavioral health services in many areas of the state with full implementation slated for 2018. WISe supports Apple Health eligible youth, up to 21 years of age, with complex behavioral health needs, and their families.
 - Web:** <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/CA/cp/documents/WISeCONACTS.pdf>

- For information about Prevention and Services, go to: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/division-behavioral-health-and-recovery/substance-abuse-prevention-and-mental-health-promotion>
- For information about preventing underage substance use, go to www.StartTalkingNow.org.

Help with Special Needs

- **Washington State Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT)** provides intervention services for children age birth to 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. Ask for the name of a Family Resources Coordinator (FRC) in your local community to see if your child is eligible for ESIT services.

Phone: 1-800-322-2588 (TTY 711).

Web: www.del.wa.gov/esit

- **DSHS’ Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)** provides services for those diagnosed with an intellectual or developmental disability or delay. Services depend on need and funding. Services include individual and family support, personal care, employment supports, day programs, and residential care. To contact your local DDA office:

Web: www.dshs.wa.gov/dda and look under “Eligibility”

Child Care and Early Learning

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, in most cases caregivers may qualify even if only one person in a couple is working. If both are legal guardians to the child and listed in the court documents, both must be working to qualify. 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 who are employed and caring for state-dependent children may also be eligible for subsidized child care and should contact their social worker.

For WCCC and Seasonal Child Care:

Phone: 1-877-501-2233 for the Washington State Customer Service Center

Web: www.del.wa.gov

Contact Child Care Aware for other child care information, including Homeless Child Care

Phone: 1-800-446-1114
Web: <http://wa.childcareaware.org/families>



Amanda, Age 5. *Voices of Children Contest 2004*

ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program) and Head Start provide free services and support to 3 and 4 year olds who have risk factors that could interfere with school success, including children in kinship care.

Phone: 1-866-482-4325
Web: <https://www.del.wa.gov/parents-family/eceap-and-head-start>

Educational Advocacy

The Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO) resolves complaints, disputes, and problems between families and public schools in all areas that affect student learning. The OEO functions independently from the public school system. Services are available to students from Kindergarten to 12th grade and are free and confidential. Contact OEO when you have an unresolved problem with a public school that impacts your student's education; you want an independent assessment of the situation; or you have other questions about the education system.

Phone: 1-866-297-2597
Web: www.oeo.wa.gov

Food Assistance

- **Washington's Basic Food program** for monthly food benefits. Contact:
Your local CSO: to find your local Community Service Office call 1-877-501-2233 or go to: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/esa-find-office>
To see if you qualify and to apply for assistance, go to www.washingtonconnection.org
- **Child Nutrition Programs** - If the children meet federal income guidelines or receive TANF or Basic Food, they are eligible for free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch at public or private schools. To find out more information, contact the school your children attend.
- **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**: offers meals at no charge to children in care at organizations participating in the program. Many CACFP sites offer breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Some public and private schools offer snacks and/or meals after the regular school day. To find out more information, contact the childcare provider where your children are in care.

- **Summer Meal Programs**: All children, 18 years and younger, regardless of household income, are eligible for free meals at organizations that serve meals during the summer months. For information:

Phone: 1-866-3-HUNGRY

Web: www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks

- **The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program** helps young children under five, pregnant women, and new mothers eat well, learn about nutrition, and stay healthy. Relatives and foster parents who are primary caregivers of children (ages 0-5) may receive WIC services for the child(ren) in their care. Besides monthly checks to help purchase healthy food, WIC provides nutrition education and health screenings and referrals.
- **To find a WIC clinic or learn if you may be eligible:**
Phone: Family Health Hotline: 1-800-322-2588
Web: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/WIC/Eligibility>
- **The Statewide Family Food Line** provides 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

- You can apply for Division of Child Support (DCS) services even if you don't receive any public assistance. Receiving TANF or some kinds of medical assistance will automatically result in DCS establishing a case.
- DCS establishing paternity can help the family access benefits the child may be eligible for such as Social Security and also help provide a family medical history. 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" which is a waiver of child support enforcement.
- DCS will enforce an existing child support order, such as a divorce decree, or will establish a support order if 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:

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

Free Publications

You can order publications 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. For example, this publication is DSHS 22-1120.

Publication requests may also be placed by:

E-mail: Fulfillment@des.wa.gov

Phone: 360-570-5555

Fax: 360-664-2048

When ordering publications, please include publication name, number, your name, and street mailing address.

- **Consent to Health Care for the Child in Your Care:** A Kinship Caregiver's Guide (DSHS 22-1119). Explains the laws passed by the 2005-2006 WA State Legislature which describe a relative's rights and responsibilities. English, Cambodian, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese (PDF)
- **Grandparents and Relatives Do You Know about Services and Supports for You and the Children in your Care?** (DSHS 22-1120). A list of 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** (DSHS 22-1192). Helps caregivers 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) What services DSHS Division of Child Support (DCS) can provide 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 22-996). This 75 page booklet is an extensive resource guide for relative caregivers. English (PDF)
- **Options for Grandparents and Other Nonparental Caregivers: A Legal Guide for Washington State** is a non-DSHS publication for a relative raising a child who is involved in a legal situation. It will be available for free online at www.legalvoice.org (click "Tools & Resources," then "Family Law"). Print copies for non-relatives also available from Legal Voice for \$10 (includes shipping); contact Legal Voice at info@legalvoice.org or 206-682-9552, ext. 102.

A free packet of information including the Legal Voice's Legal Guide for WA State, a legal options DVD along with related brochures can be requested at Aging and Long-Term Support Administration's contact information below.

Questions?

For additional information, contact:

- **Shelley Arneson:** Children's Administration/DSHS, 360-902-8109 or shelley.arneson@dshs.wa.gov
- **Tom Berry:** Economic Services Administration/DSHS, at 360-725-4617 or tom.berry@dshs.wa.gov
- **Jage Curl:** Economic Services Administration /DSHS, at 360-725-4589 or jage.curl@dshs.wa.gov
- **Kevin Cornell:** Health Care Authority, at 360-725-1423 or kevin.cornell@hca.wa.gov
- **Hilarie Hauptman:** Aging and Long-Term Support Administration/DSHS, at 800-422-3263 or 360-725-2556, or hilarie.hauptman@dshs.wa.gov



Transforming lives