

Relatives raising relative children

Kinship Caregivers are relatives raising one or more relative children. They may be grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, or other members of the family. Relatives with or without a legal relationship to the child(ren) in their care may also be eligible for support. The relative children raised by Kinship Caregivers are **Kinship Kids**.

You are not alone, we are here to help

At the Area Agency on Aging & Disability of Southwest Washington, we strive to connect Kinship Caregivers to a full range of free and other community resources.

Our knowledgeable and dedicated team is committed to providing you with the information, assistance and support you need to continue caring for your Kinship Kid(s). We strive to offer choices, improve quality of life and respect you and the child(ren) in your care.



Serving Kinship families in Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties

Kinship Services

For Relatives Raising Relative Children

For more information on Kinship Services, for relatives raising relative children

Please contact:

(360) 759-4317

Toll free: (888) 637-6060

KinshipNavigator@dshs.wa.gov

Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities
of Southwest Washington
201 NE 73rd Street
Vancouver, WA 98665

www.helpingelders.org



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Service highlights

Services we provide or may be able to connect you with include:

- Financial support
- Legal services
- Navigating school systems
- Accessing special education
- Holiday gift programs/food baskets
- Support groups
- Counselling
- Presentations and trainings
- Passes to events or attractions
- The **Parents Again** newsletter

Some services have eligibility requirements in addition to being a Kinship Caregiver. Please contact our Kinship Navigator for more information (see back of brochure for contact information).



Support groups

You are invited to join our community of supportive Kinship Caregivers. The Kinship Caregiver Support Group meets monthly and offers you a safe space to:

- Connect with other caregivers
- Talk about issues and problem-solving strategies
- Share concerns, needs and feelings
- Discover community resources
- Learn from the experiences of others who understand your situation

Presentations and trainings

As a Kinship Caregiver, you are eligible to participate in monthly presentations and trainings on topics relevant to you. Past topics have included:

- Powerful Tools for Caregivers
- Keeping Kids Safer in the World and Online
- New Guardianship Laws
- Custody Options for Non-Parental Caregivers
- Alcohol and Cannabis Use Prevention
- Student Rights: Special Education
- Educational Support Plans (IEP/504)
- Advance Planning for Caregiving Interruptions
- Estate Planning and Wills for Kinship Families



Financial support

We may be able to help with past-due housing or utility bills, and to provide or connect you to community resources for food assistance, holiday gifts, and other items for Kinship Kids (such as clothing, shoes, beds, bedding, or school supplies).

The Parents Again newsletter

As a Kinship Caregiver, you are eligible to receive the **Parents Again** newsletter. Past newsletters have included:

- Information, helpful advice and tips from other parents and experts in child development
- Community resources
- Upcoming events
- Changes to Guardianship laws
- Youth crisis resources
- Caregiver emotional health