

SENIOR INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

Northwest Regional Council
600 Lakeway Drive, Suite 100
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 738-2500 or (360) 380-8121

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

LOCAL RESOURCES

Family Law Facilitator

Courthouse, Room 507
311 Grand Ave.
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-738-2459

Call to schedule appointment on a Friday starting @ 7:35 am (40 minutes for \$10), or drop in (\$5 for 10 minutes) from 3:00-4:15pm Mon - Fri.

Materials necessary for non parental custody for your grandchildren: form packet \$30 (exact cash only). Available free at the State website www.courts.wa.gov

Kinship Navigator Program

Northwest Regional Council
600 Lakeway Dr. Suite 100
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-676-6749

Provides information and assistance functions along with supportive listening to grandparents and relatives of all ages who are raising children. Navigator connects kin with community resources such as health, financial, legal services, support groups, training and emergency funds. No cost.

Tribal Kinship Care

Northwest Regional Council
600 Lakeway Dr. Suite 100
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-676-6749

Provides outreach and support to elder relatives raising children within Native American communities. The program assists elders with finding legal and support services and developing support groups. Participants must be members of a Native American tribe

in Island, San Juan, Skagit, or Whatcom County. No cost.

Whatcom Senior Information and Assistance

600 Lakeway Drive, Suite 100
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-738-2500

People age sixty or older receive quality information about community resources and "hands-on" assistance with paperwork or other tasks. No income restrictions.

FINANCIAL

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

Community Services Office (CSO)
4101 Meridian
Bellingham, WA 98226
1-800-735-7040

May provide TANF grants, food stamps, medical assistance, foster care payments, childcare, and SSI.

Kinship Caregivers Support Program

Opportunity Council
1111 Cornwall Ave. #C
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-734-5121 ext. 217

This program provides short-term services to eligible kinship caregivers who are in an emergency situation regarding their ability to provide care for their relative children. Examples of the type of services available include: basic needs (housing, utilities, food, clothing), furniture, school supplies, and legal fees.

Women Infant Children (WIC) Program

1500 N State Street #101

Bellingham, WA 98225
360-676-6762

The WIC program provides food assistance, education, referral for dental care, and nutritional screening to low-income children up to age 5.

School Breakfast and Lunch Program

The free/reduced nutrition program subsidizes lunch and breakfast costs at public schools. Eligibility is determined by income. Contact your grandchild's school for application.

SCHOOL SUPPORT AND CONTACTS

Bellingham School District

Family Information Centers 360-676-6576

Student services 360-676-2787

Meridian School District

Readiness to Learn Coordinator
360-318-2542

Ferndale School District

Family Community Coordinator
360-383 9391

Special Services
360-383-9221

Lynden School District

Family Community Services 360-354-1549

Special Services 360-354-2893

Blaine School District

Family Service Center 360-332 5881

Mt. Baker School District

Special Services 360-383-2012

Nooksack School District

Family Services Coordinator
Student Services 360-988 4754

Center for Children & Families
360-988-9423

PARENTING/EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Catholic Community Services

1133 Railroad Ave #100
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-676-2164 or 1-888-300-2493
Parenting classes, counseling for children who are on Medicaid.

Bellingham Technical College

3028 Lindbergh Ave.
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-715-8350
Parenting classes: scholarships available.

Brigid Collins Family Support Center

1231 Garden Street #200
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-734-4616
Fostering Together Support Group
4th Friday 6-8:30pm For all foster, adoptive and relative caregivers.

Parents Helping Parents: Weekly drop-in support group. Free childcare available. Meetings in Nooksack and Bellingham. Also, Parents Helping Parents in Recovery-Bellingham only.

Family Support Team: Case management for families that includes matching volunteer support with families and activity nights
Parent Child Interaction Therapy: Therapy for children 2-8 with behavioral problems and their caregivers.

Northwest Youth Services

1020 N. State St.
Bellingham, WA 98226
360-734-9862:
Family counseling when referred by DSHS.

Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center

13 Prospect Street, Suite 201
Bellingham, WA 98225
www.whatcomdrc.org
360-676-0122
Offers mediation and training services to help families cooperatively address and resolve conflicts.

AARP Grandparent Information Center
American Association of Retired Persons
601 "E" Street NW, Washington, DC 20049
<http://www.aarp.org/families/grandparenting/>
1-888-687-2277 (ask to connect to Grandparent Information Center)
A national resource center for grandparent-headed families, program providers, professionals, policymakers, and the public-at-large. The Center provides information and referrals about services and programs for the family. Good variety of brochures!

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Generations United
<http://www.gu.org>

Grandparents Resource Center
<http://www.grc4usa.org>

Kinship Care in Washington State
<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare/>

Grandparents for Children's' Rights
www.grandparentsforchildren.org

Raising Your Grandchildren
www.raisingyourgrandchildren.com

The Brookdale Foundation Group
www.brookdalefoundation.org

Grandparents.com
www.grandparents.com

PUBLICATIONS

Order any of these from Laina Berry
Northwest Regional Council
600 Lakeway Drive Suite 100
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 676-6749

A Resource Guide for Relatives as Parents in Washington State

Options for Grandparents and Other Nonparental Caregivers: A Legal Guide for Washington State.

Relatives Guide to Child Welfare Services

A Guide to Child Support Services for Relative Caregivers

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Order from Eythl Warbus at same agency

BOOKS

Black Grandparents as Parents,
Dr. Lenora Madison Poe (L.M. Poe, Berkeley, CA, 1992)

Grandparents as Parents,
Sylvie deToledo and Deborah Edler Brown (Guilford Press, New York, 1995)

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: A Guide to Finding Help and Hope,
Marianne Takas (Brookdale Foundation Group, New York, 1996)

Relatives Raising Children: An Overview of Kinship Care
Joseph Crumbley and Robert L Little (Child Welfare League of America, Inc 1997)

Robert Lives With His Grandparents,
Martha Whitmore Hickman (Albert Whitman & CO., Morton Grove, IL. 1996)

Second Time Around
Joan Callander (Bookpartners, Wilsonville, Oregon. 1999)

To Grandma's House We...Stay
Sally Houtman, M.S. (Studio 4 Productions, Northridge, CA.)

The Grandparent Solution
Arthur Kornhaber M.D. (The Foundation for Grandparenting, rev. 2004)

For handouts on a variety of Senior Issues, feel free to call **Senior Information &**

Assistance at 360-738-2500. Our services are free of charge and confidential.