

Kinship Caregivers Support Program

KCSP is a resource fund authorized by the State of Washington to help relatives raising relatives who would not be able to care for related children in their own home without additional support services. Allocated in Southwest Washington by the SW Area Agency on Aging (SWAA). CHSW Southwest Region has been chosen as the Service Delivery organization for Clark, Klickitat and Skamania counties funds by Southwest Washington Agency on Aging.

Who is eligible:

Eligible families include

grandparents (or step-grandparents)

or a relative of any age raising a child 18 years or younger,

- related by blood or marriage and who lives with the child and is raising the child either with a legal relationship (but not connected to CPS and not adopted) or because the biological or adoptive parents are unable or unwilling to serve as the primary caregiver; and is at risk of not being able to continue kinship caregiving without additional support services.

Formal foster parents are not eligible

If have a CPS Case Manager not eligible

Receipt of TANF for non needy relatives does not affect eligibility

Income eligibility is listed on the form

How it works:

- Kinship Caregivers can call for Information. A CHSW staff person will complete a screening by phone.

Application:

- Complete the application/intake form.
- Other agency's staff can complete the form working with the family. You and the family should sign the form and fax the form and confirmation that the child lives with the applicant relative (e.g. Medicaid card, school report card with caregiver's address etc.).
- When CHSW receives a referral, staff will a) check eligibility b) contact the referring agency and/or the caregiver re-the nature of their resource request.
- Be specific on the original form about the resources need (attach notes as necessary) more detail is better. If you have costs and suppliers for requests it will move more quickly (i.e. Grandparent needs a Captain's Bed. They are available from [name of store] at \$000.00). An faxed

invoice or cost estimate is ideal. If the funds are for a utility bill etc. then a copy of the outstanding amount is good.

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Possible types of help include items like:

- Furniture – be, desk, special needs, crib etc.
- Sports physicals, maybe equipment not on going medical treatment
- Bus pass or gas – temporary not on going
- Immediate needs: diapers, food (after other resources checked)
- Clothes

Supplies of resources

KCSP will not provide cash or checks to the client.