

Kinship Care in ECEAP

What is Kinship Care?

Kinship care is the full-time care of children by relatives or suitable others.

ECEAP eligibility is the same for children in formal kinship care established by the state or tribe and informal kinship care arranged by parents or other family members.

ECEAP Recruitment and Eligibility

Recruit children in kinship care.

Contractors must focus their recruitment efforts to locate age-eligible children in the child welfare system including foster care, kinship care, Child Protective Services (CPS), Family Assessment Response services, or Indian Child Welfare (ICW) services.

For income, count only the kinship care grant.

If no grant, enter \$0 income.

For a child in kinship care, count only the amount of the Department of Social and Health Services Non-Needy Relative, In Loco Parentis, or Legal Guardian grant; SSI payment; or tribal payment applicable to the ECEAP child. If there is no grant, count the income as zero.

Count the child as a family size of one.

To establish family size for the purpose of determining state medium income for children in foster or kinship care, count only the ECEAP child.

Children in kinship care receive 100 DCYF priority points.

Kinship care is now prioritized the same as foster care, ICW, and CPS involvement.

Ways to verify kinship care:

- Court document
- Medical records
- Benefits letter describing kinship grant
- Signed statement by parent or kinship caregiver
- School records

Children in foster or kinship care, or adopted from foster or kinship care:

- Are considered a family size of one
- Receive 100 DCYF priority points for ECEAP
- Count income as related grant or \$0



Washington State Kinship Care Facts

- **53,000** children are being raised by relatives
- For every **one** child in foster care, there are **eight** in kinship care
- **60%** of children in kinship care live below 200% of poverty guidelines

For More Information on ECEAP or Kinship Care:

- Email: ECEAP@dcyf.wa.gov
- Visit: www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/home-and-community-services-kinship-care/kinship-care
- Visit: www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/ALtsA/hcs/documents/kinship/WASStateKinshipNavigatorsContactList.pdf

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