

NEWSLETTER

RESOURCE/ RELATIVE/ FICTIVE KIN/ ADOPTIVE PARENTS

Transitions

There is exciting news regarding reunification meetings! The Agency has created reunification bags for reunifying biological families and resource homes that have helped work a reunification case. Upon a reunification meeting being completed, the facilitator will discuss there are reunification bags available to both households.

REUNIFICATION BAGS

-BIRTH FAMILY-

With thanks to the Casey Family Programs grant provided to Washoe County Human Services, this gift is for you... for making the necessary progress/changes to ensure your family remains together. Congratulations on the accomplishments!

Included in this bag:

- cleaning and laundry items (necessary for every family, no matter their circumstances),
- a board game/activity,
- a movie night kit,
- a coffee mug just for you,
- a box of snacks for your family – open it at your transition meeting if you wish or take it home for the kids,
- a book that, while difficult emotionally, is a great reminder of the love between parents and children, even though time was spent away from each other,

We wish you continued success and empowerment. Continue to be amazing!

WCHSA



REUNIFICATION BAGS

-CARE PROVIDER-

With thanks to the Casey Family Programs grant provided to Washoe County Human Services, this gift is for you... for helping to ensure this family remains connected and together. One of the toughest, but most rewarding roles in the human services system is that of being a care provider to a child in foster care. You are amazing, resilient, and loving people who did what many people don't want to do (or can't do) and we thank you for that. Congratulations on the accomplishments!

Included in this bag:

- a board game/activity for your family,
- a movie night kit for your family,
- a gift just for you,
- a book "The Invisible String" that we ask you to read with your foster child and send with them when they go home,
- a book "Love you from Right Here" that we ask you to read and complete with your foster child. That book can either stay with you or be sent back home with the child,
- an activity just for you and your family,
- a picture frame kit which is intended to be done with you and your foster child. Please make a frame for the child, for you/your family, and for the birth family. Take a photo of the child and you for your frame and his/her frame to remember the special bond/relationship that you shared, and a photo of the child/birth family to put in their frame that the child can give to his/her mom/dad.

Until next time, we wish you continued success and empowerment. Continue to be amazing and beautiful people!

WCHSA



BRIDGES
out of
POVERTY



Bridges is a mandatory training for all resource parents and is offered throughout the year to ensure all resource parents have the opportunity to attend. Please sign up at your earliest convenience.

March 12, 2022, from 10am-Noon

Please contact Matt Polly for more information or to register.

MPolley@washoecounty.gov

Contacts

Below are some of the most common phone numbers you will/may need while being a resource parent, relative, kin, or adoptive parent.

Center Street Front desk: 775.785.8600

Emergency After hours number: 1.833.900.7233

In case you have an emergency that occurs after hours please call.

Family Engagement Center (FEC): 775.352.3230

905 E Prater Way, Sparks, NV 89434
Corner of Prater and Howard

Medical Unit: 775.284.2763

Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)
2097 Longley Lane, Reno, NV 89502
next door to Kids Kottage

Foster Care Services Front Desk: 775.337.4470

Foster Care Licensing Supervisor:

Melissa Coates: 775.815.3827

Licensing team: Call or text

Codi Soap: 775.842.1992
Barbara Jaime: 775.842.1704
Jessica Shepherd: 775.622.6919
Anastasia Cooper: 775.560.7773
Sandra Espino: 775.530.6373

QPI Liaison: Kylee Spring: 775.530.1646

kspring@washoeconomy.gov

If you have questions or need any type of support don't hesitate to call, text or email Kylee Spring & your licensing worker.

- **Resource Parent Advisory Board** support group is the 4th Tuesday of every month at 11:00am-12:00. Please contact kspring@washoeconomy.gov to RSVP
- **Adoptive Parent Therapeutic Support Group:** Please contact jcasarez@washoeconomy.gov or danderson@washoeconomy.gov for any question or if you want to attend
- **Relative Support Group:** Every Thursday at 7pm. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73578283111?pwd=Y2R2eEVKV0RzU015VjRjZWZNNmhUQT09>
Meeting ID: 735 7828 3111
Passcode: qp4zU6
- **Be in the Loop Group:** Be in the loop group is a monthly meeting where WCHSA staff, resource parents, and birth parents meet and work collaboratively to improve Quality Parenting within Washoe County. This meeting is held the Third Thursday of every month at 10:00 am on TEAMS. We would love for you to join. Please email Kylee Spring at kspring@washoeconomy.gov to be added to the invite

REMINDER

We are trying to get more support groups together especially in Spanish! Please email Kylee Spring at kspring@washoeconomy.gov if you would like to start a support group. Kylee can help make that happen!

COVID-19 CORNER

If **ANY** household members exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19, even if mild, **OR** if they have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person, **OR** if anyone in the household tests positive for COVID-19, that they must:

1. Contact the health department or their medical provider for guidance on testing.
2. Immediately self-isolate the household until medically cleared. This includes any in-person contact including visitation, meetings, appointments etc.
3. Notify the child(ren)'s caseworker(s) and the licensing worker within the same business day.

New Training updates:

QPI WEBSITE:

[HTTP://WWW.QPINEVADA.ORG/](http://www.qpnevada.org/)

Below are amazing new trainings that are on the QPI website. You can receive renewal training hours for these trainings!

Understanding the LGBTQ+ Community and Supporting the Foster Youth in Your Care

Understanding the LGBTQ+ Community and Supporting the Foster Youth in Your Care Training objectives are: improve basic knowledge of the LGBTQ+ community including terminology, how to support youth through the coming out process, increasing understanding of gender identity and gender non-conforming youth to respond appropriately, and building awareness of issues the LGBTQ+ community may face (0.75 hour)

Tools for Maintaining African American Hair

This training addresses questions many foster parents have about caring for ethnic hair types. The training interviews two barbers on hair care routines, needs, and how to maintain the hair of foster youth. Many foster parents have questions and want to hear it from the experts. (0.5 hour)

Providing Support to Youth Who Have Experienced Toxic Stress

This video provides an overview of adverse childhood experiences and toxic stress, how toxic stress shows up in behavior and beliefs, as well as how to support youth who have experienced or are experiencing toxic stress. Presented by licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Barbara Lankamp-Kochis. (0.5 hour)

Creating Permanency for Youth

Youth transitioning out of foster care often come out at a disadvantage. The norm they had grown accustomed to where supportive adults fulfill specific needs typically comes to an end when they leave foster care. However, that's when they actually need more supportive people and this training addresses the need. This training is designed to help caretakers have the conversations needed to discover the supports youth will have when they leave care. (1.5 hour)

Child Centered Strategies for Supporting Families

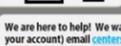
Children from hard places manifest the trauma they have experienced in many different ways. Caregivers report the child in their care acting out in ways such as running away, lying, stealing, and arguing but also with children who shut down, become isolated, and stop communicating. Despite the services and trainings available to support families, caregivers often report they continue to feel unprepared and not provided with adequate tools to support children who display significant intensity of behaviors in their home display. This panel will provide a brief overview of recent media events highlighting caregiver's responses to the behaviors of the children in their homes and engage participants in a discussion in approaches to assist in the moment. The panel will be interactive, providing a significant question and answer segment as well (1.5 hour)

Just in Time Training

Training you need, when and where you need it.



Top Tips for Getting a Certificate

 <p>No Fast Forward</p>	You will see a box beneath the video where the link to the quiz will be available. But if you fast forward anywhere in the video, the link will not be enabled.
 <p>Avoid Cell Phone</p>	You can watch any of the videos on a cell phone. BUT, beware of viewing on a cell phone if you need a certificate. You may be more likely to close the screen or restart the video which will affect your ability to access the link to the quiz.
 <p>3 Tries And Locked</p>	You are only allowed 3 attempts to pass the quiz – even if you took the quiz months ago. If you are locked out, we will need to unlock your account before you can try again.
 <p>Download</p>	Upon passing the quiz, please download (or right click) your certificate before printing or emailing for credit.

We are here to help! We want you to have the best experience possible. If you need assistance (including unlocking your account) email center-support@usf.edu and provide us with your NAME, TITLE of the video or quiz, which STATE you reside in and the ISSUE you are having. We will respond within 24 hours Monday through Friday.

Reno Rodeo Closet

Did You Know?

The Reno Rodeo Foundation generously provides clothing, teddy bears, and rolling backpacks to children who are newly placed into foster care. Foster parents and children can visit the Reno Rodeo closet to "shop" for clothing essentials, ensuring that the items they receive are the correct sizes and preferred style. If you have a new placement in need of clothing, please contact your case worker to coordinate a visit to the Reno Rodeo closet!

Washoe County Foster & Adoption Virtual Support Group

This is our Resource, Relative, Fictive Kin & Adoptive Family Facebook Support group!

Washoe County QPI presents to you the Washoe County Foster & Adoption Support Group! This group welcomes ALL WCHSA's Resource families, Relative/ Kin families, SFC families & Flex and Adoptive families. This group is to share support and resources with one another. The ONLY WCHSA staff in this group is the QPI Liaison to help promote a safe place to share successes, frustrations, and things you've learned along the way. We want to share stories and have our group be more of a community supporting one another. Please reach out to the QPI Liaison with questions or concerns Kylee Spring kspring@washoecounty.gov



QR code for
Washoe County Foster & Adoption Support
Facebook group

Family Engagement Center (FEC) Resource

Accessing new clothing, diapers, shoes, etc. for kiddos coming into care is difficult for most resource families to do at the 'drop of a hat'. I am happy to announce that with 'leftover' monies from our 2020 Pennington Foundation grant, the FEC was able to purchase a large amount of new clothing items and diapers for kiddos. At this time, however, the items purchased are ONLY for NEW kids coming into care. If you receive a new placement, give the FEC a call (775-352-3230) or stop by (905 E. Prater Way in Sparks) to gather a few of the following items for kiddos 0-18:

- Diapers/wipes (including pull-ups, goodnites, etc.)
- Shoes
- Socks
- Underwear
- Pajamas
- Shorts and T-shirts
- Bathing suits
- Hygiene items
- Etc.



In addition, for any foster home that has African American children, we have a large **supply of ethnic hair care products** just for them.

Interested in Adoption?

DeMarco

9-years-old

50% FREE

Are you an active family who loves exploring and learning new things? Then do we have the kid for you! This sweet, adorable little boy with the cheesy, infectious grin is a people pleaser for sure! DeMarco loves to share and help others. He thrives from one on one attention, enjoys conversing and generally relishes connecting with others.

Now that DeMarco has the opportunity, he is exploring every sport and outdoor activity he can try. He loves his bike, his scooter, hiking, soccer and football. If that's not enough, he also loves swimming. Well, really anything to do with water play. DeMarco is looking for an active family who will keep up with all his newly found interests while allowing him the opportunity to continue discovering. Oh, and do not forget about Mine Craft. If you can check off all those boxes, you might just win DeMarco's heart.

If you'd like to learn more about this exuberant, active little boy please reach out to:
Tawnya Robertson at Trobertson@washocounty.us



Tatianna

11-years-old

100% FREE



Tatiana is a goofy 6th grader who loves to be silly! She has a few nicknames, but she usually goes by "Tati". Tati is creative, and loves to draw, color and paint! While she hasn't been the biggest fan of physical activities, she does love swimming, and is looking into trying soccer this summer. Tati is learning to advocate for herself and her needs and thrives with encouragement! She has recently expressed an interest in getting hair extensions and having her ears pierced! She loves earning rewards, including fun Friday, and doing special activities at the adventure park, including go-karts and the arcade! Tati recently got a Nintendo Switch, and loves playing Minecraft! She likes watching cartoons, including Paw Patrols, and is a big fan of Harry Potter and Godzilla! This growing girl has a great appetite, and while she sure has a sweet tooth, she loves most foods. Comfort foods are her favorite including casseroles, spaghetti, and stew! She even loves brussels sprouts-just don't give her mushrooms or onions; she can't stand them! Tati is developing skills to express her thoughts and feelings and has been building a report with her teachers. She is opening-up to her peers and building stronger bonds with them as well. Tati gets along with most children, but tends to play best with much younger children, given her innocent and childlike demeanor. She will do well in a home as the oldest child, or with a family that will support her developmental needs, and social interactions. Tati benefits from structure and guidance in her daily routines, and will do best with an experienced parent, who will advocate for her needs.

If you are interested in learning more about this funny girl, please contact Myra Yeargan, Case Worker, Recruitment & Training, Washoe County Human Services Agency-Children's Division
(775)560-8913
myeargan@washocounty.gov

Avellyna

9-year-old

FLEX HOME

Avellyna, or "Avie" as she likes to be called, loves playing at the park and enjoys swimming! When she's not staying active outdoors, she loves to play with playdough, slime, and dress-up. She also loves to sing along to her favorite movies. The *Greatest Showman*, *Tangled*, and *Frozen* are some of her favorites! She'd love to get a karaoke machine to sing with a microphone at home! Her love of the arts doesn't stop there, this sweet girl loves to draw her favorite animals- dogs and cats! Avie hopes to strengthen her peer relationships and will benefit from a family who can support her in this area.

Avie would like to be adopted by a loving family with pets. She would also love to have a younger brother and/or sister if she isn't an only child, as she is great with younger children! She is hoping her family will make her favorite foods-chicken with spices, and spaghetti and meatballs! Don't forget her favorite desert, chocolate pudding pie! She thinks it's the bomb!

If you interested in learning more about Avie, you may contact Myra Yeargan, Case Worker, Recruitment & Training, Washoe County Human Services Agency – Children's Division
(775)560-8913 myeargan@washocounty.us



Independent Living Information

PERMANENCY PACT

In an effort to substantiate and sustain an on-going connection between a youth and a supportive adult,

_____ SUPPORTIVE ADULT _____

pledges to provide specific support to, and has been accepted as a provider of such support by,

_____ YOUTH _____

confirmed this _____ day of _____, _____

as witnessed by _____ FACILITATOR _____



FosterClub's Permanency Pact documents a life-long, kin-like commitment to a relationship between a youth and a supportive adult.

A Home For The Holidays

A Place To Do Laundry

Emergency Place To Stay

Food/Occasional Meals

Care Packages At College

Employment Opportunity

Job Search Assistance

Career Counseling

Housing Hunt

Recreational Activities

Mentor

Educational Assistance

Relationship/Marriage/Parenting

Transportation

Assistance With Medical Appts

Storage

Motivation

Someone To Talk To/Discuss Problems

A Phone To Use

A Computer To Use

Clothing

Spiritual Support

Legal Troubles

Cultural Experience

Apartment Move-in

Cooking Lessons/Assistance

Regular Check-in

Bills & Money Management Assistance

Drug And Alcohol Addiction Help

Mental Health Support

Co-Signer

Help Reading Forms, Complex Docs

Mechanical/Building Projects

Housekeeping

Home Decorating

Voting

Volunteerism

Finding Community Resources

Safety And Personal Security

Babysitting

Emergency Cash

Social Circle/Community Activities

Advocacy

Reference

Adoption

Permanency Pact © 2006 FosterClub, Inc. 503-717-1352 or www.fosterclub.org. For the benefit of young people in care, you are given permission and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this document, as long it remains entirely intact and is not altered or reproduced for sale or profit.

Resource families are critical to helping youth gain both necessary independent living skills as well as necessary relationships that can support young people into adulthood. Utilizing a permanency pact is a great tool to frame a discussion between a young person and their identified support system. This pact formalizes the commitment of an adult in a youth's world and how they can show up to be a support for them.

Taking a step toward trusting a relationship is often a very great accomplishment for a youth with a background where relationships are broken, promises are often not kept, and disappointment in caretakers prevails. The gift that a Supportive Adult contributes by way of a life-long commitment to the relationship is heroic. The impact of the forged relationship may be profound to all parties.

How can you help? As one of the most important people in a young person's life, you can offer to help facilitate a conversation between your young person and the adults they identify as supportive connections. Offering to review and sign the permanency pact can help solidify the commitment those supportive adults are making to that young person.

This can also be found on the QPI website. qpinevada.org

Caring For Angels, Inc. 

LEARN 2 LIVE WORKSHOPS *Virtual*

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS ON ZOOM

—

STARTS APRIL 4TH

—

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

—

Registration open for Foster Youth 14+ Earn \$100 at the completion of 8 weeks

Join our community of positive and encouraging teens with professionals, teaching life skills in preparation towards adulthood. Win prizes, earn points and make friends!

- Banking, Finance and Credit
- Housing and Applications
- Getting a Job and Keeping It
- Home Economics and more...



CONTACT US:

Didana Martinez
775-335-7294
Program Coordinator

To learn more, visit us at www.caring4angels.com.

Learn 2 Live Workshop

Foster youth 14 +

Scholarship Opportunity

Scholarship opportunity available for youth adopted at or after the age of 13. The deadline for the scholarship application is 5/13/22.

My name is Jennifer Jopling and I'm the Director of Programs & Development for [UMPS CARE Charities](#), the official philanthropy of Major League Baseball Umpires. I'm reaching out about an incredible scholarship opportunity for youth adopted late in life through our All-Star College Scholarship Program. This scholarship offers **\$10,000 per year** for four years, and on top of funding each student is paired with a Major League umpire as part of their mentorship team to help them succeed in school and beyond! Below you will find more details.

The UMPS CARE Charities All-Star College Scholarship is for youth adopted **at or after the age of 13**. This scholarship gives students \$10,000 per year for a four-year institution and \$5,000 for a two year institution. To learn more about the eligibility [visit our scholarship page](#). Here is [the application](#) which can be saved and returned to at a later date. The deadline for submission is May 13, 2022.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions!

Thanks for all the work you do.

Jennifer Jopling

Sr. Director, Programs & Development
801-599-1706

Statewide Partnership Meeting



NEVADA STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Kinship, Foster, and Adoptive families can join us for our Nevada Statewide partnership meeting to share strength, receive support & resources, and get additional training opportunities.

Participants will receive one hour of re-licensing credit

Thursday, 2/17 @ 5PM

Thursday, 3/17 @ 5PM

Friday, 4/15 @ 5PM

Friday, 5/20 @ 5PM

Friday, 6/17 @ 5PM

Meetings are online via Zoom.

Email Rose@fosterkinship.org for additional information or view our public calendar at www.fosterkinship.org/contact

702-546-9988

Nevada Statewide Support Group



**Nevada Statewide Kinship
Support Group**

"All in This Together"

**Partnering with birth parents
a 5-week curriculum of support
and learning**

Wednesday, March 2nd @ 5pm
Friday, April 1st @ 5pm
Friday, May 6 @ 5pm
Friday, June 3rd @ 5pm
Friday, July 1st @ 5pm

Meetings are online via Zoom.

Email Rose@fosterkinship.org for additional information or
view our
public calendar at www.fosterkinship.org/contact

702-546-9988

TBRI Training

Full Series:

April 6th and 7th 9am-12pm

NV TBRI Introduction and Overview

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nv-washoerurals-virtual-tbri-caregiver-training-introduction-overview-registration-258268045677>

April 13th and 14th 9am-12pm

NV TBRI Connecting Principles

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nv-washoerurals-tbri-caregiver-training-connecting-principles-registration-258280472847>

April 20th and 21st 9am-12pm

NV TBRI Empowering Principles

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nv-washoerurals-virtual-tbri-caregiver-training-empowering-principles-registration-258284043527>

April 27th and 28th 9am-12pm

NV TBRI Correcting Principles

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nv-washoerurals-virtual-tbri-caregiver-training-correcting-principles-registration-258288256127>

June 7th and 8th 9am-12pm

NV TBRI Introduction and Overview

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nv-washoerurals-virtual-tbri-caregiver-training-introduction-overview-registration-258303421487>

June 22nd 9am-2pm

NV TBRI Implementation Day (TBRI Full Series Completion is required)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nv-washoerurals-virtual-tbri-caregiver-training-implementation-day-registration-258306931987>

Family Engagement Center: COVID Information

Greetings Resource Parents. With multiple changes occurring over the past couple years, and some modest confusion, I am providing an update on current FEC practices around COVID, expectations for Family Time (visits), etc.

1. **Protocol for entering the FEC**... In order to continue welcoming families into the FEC, the following Protocol is required of all:

Upon arrival:

- ✓ Remain socially distanced from others not in your party.
- ✓ Wear face coverings (masks) if you or anyone in your party is vulnerable or others in your party wish for you to wear a face covering.
- ✓ Apply provided hand sanitizer before entering the building. Wash your hands if necessary.
- ✓ Check in at the front desk

During family-time:

- ✓ Stay in the room that you are assigned except to use the restroom or to utilize the kitchen/dining room space to eat. Staff will assist as needed.
- ✓ Utilize hand sanitizer and/or wash your hands as often as needed.
- ✓ Be respectful and courteous to the building, materials, all other visitors, and FEC staff.
- ✓ Love your children – we know they missed you and that you missed them – but be sure to allow them space.
- ✓ Food is available - Food and drinks are not allowed outside of the dining room.

When family-time is over:

- ✓ Clean up after your child and yourself
- ✓ End you family time session with grace and love-End on a positive and up-beat mood so that your child will have an amazing rest of their day.

2. **Self-Screening**: All persons are asked to self-screen for the following for anyone in the household prior to the start of a visit at the FEC (each time):

- Do you or anyone in the home currently or have recently had COVID?
- Do you or anyone in the home currently have (or recently had) a fever of 100.4+?
- Are you or anyone in the home awaiting the results of a COVID test?
- Do you or anyone in the home currently have (or recently had) any of the following:
 - o Chills, Cough, Sore Throat, Sneezing, Nausea, Diarrhea, Vomiting, Runny Nose, Shortness of Breath, Loss of Taste/Smell, Body/Head Aches, Congestion.

Admitting to any of the above may not require you to miss a visit with your child. That determination will be made upon further discussion.

3. **Current visitation expectations**:

- All families deserve visitation in the least restrictive and most inviting and engaging setting possible. When visits must occur at the FEC, the expectation is that families visit as often as possible to ensure ongoing relationship building, bonding, and engagement. For some kiddos, that might mean every day and for others it can be once or twice per week. It is our hope that all parties can agree to do what the child and family need. With that, all families are being provided visits at least once per week at the FEC. We aim for a minimum of two currently and more if needed. We appreciate the care providers assistance with transportation whenever possible (this is the best scenario for kiddos).
- Relatives... if a relative is residing with the visiting parent, he/she (with the caseworker's approval) are allowed to attend visits. All other relative visits are decided on a case-by-case basis.
- Sibling visits continue to be approved on a case-by-case basis to occur at the FEC. Depending on staffing levels we typically require one of the children's care providers to stay with the children for their sibling visits.
- Food: mealtime, snacks, and food in general is a pretty important aspect to family time at the FEC. Most families enjoy sharing a meal together and this is encouraged. While healthy options are best, that is not often what our families are focused on and we allow them to bring what they can for their kiddos. If children have developed food aversions or medically recommended changes to their diets, please talk with the assigned engager and we will support that to the best of our ability.

Thank you for the care and attention you provide to Foster Children in Washoe County. Please reach out to the FEC if you have any questions or if any of this is unclear. 775.352.3230

Boys & Girls Club – 2022 Closure Dates

2022 CLUB CLOSURE DATES



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF TRUCKEE MEADOWS
Reno-Sparks | Fernley | Ely | Winnemucca

- Cioppino Fundraiser Building Prep
([DWR 9th St. only](#)) **February 24-25**
- Memorial Day **May 30**
- Summer Staff Training **June 6-10**
([All locations](#))
- Independence Day Observed **July 4**
- Back to School Training+ Building Repair
([Clubhouses only](#))
August 15-19 - Reno-Sparks
August 15 & 16 - Fernley
August 29 - September 2 - Ely
- Labor Day **September 5**
- Nevada Day **October 28**
- Thanksgiving **November 24-25**
- Christmas **December 26**

Washoe County School District

Transportation Crisis!

As you are aware, there is a major shortage of bus drivers and the district is charged with finding the best way to mitigate this crisis, so rolling blackout weeks have been imposed.

- Foster youth ARE exempt, but unfortunately there are a few that they are not able to route. Please know that HSA is doing everything in our power to support our kids, but resources are stretched thin so please bear with us.
- During blackout weeks – foster youth will have an alternate bus route, then will return to their normal bus routes during non-blackout weeks.
- Schools are notifying families and we are adding a second layer of notification – BUT those routes are coming to us very last minute SO PLEASE pay close attention to your emails and reach out to the school or your worker for clarification.
- Click here <https://www.washoeschools.net/transportation> for details of backout areas & dates

Summer School Registration is Open!!

Our kids really need the extra support this summer, especially due to the impact of Covid. Please sign your kids up to help them get a leg up on their education. Transportation will be provided based on availability.

<https://www.washoeschools.net/summerschool?fbclid=IwAR105uMImD-Giicz1T5EobnFo0-mMTC03XLJlwPDIcCNGgLDnfXPdH9EUBs>

Kindergarten Registration Now Open for the 2022-2023 School Year!

[Click here for more info.](#)

Spring Break Programs!

[Spring Break is quickly approaching, can you believe it!?? March 14th – 25th](#)

[Be sure to reserve your slot before they fill up!](#)

[City of Reno – Click here for more information](#)

[City of Sparks – Click here for more information](#)

[Link to several camps in the area. Click here!](#)

FAQ – Educational Quick Facts re. Youth in Foster Care

INCLUDING important WCHSA policy updates!!

(Updated 9/30/21)

Did you know??

- **SCHOOL OF ATTENDANCE:** Foster youth have the right to remain at their School of Origin (see definition at end of document) when they come into care and/or change placements – even if it’s an adoptive placement - to reduce additional disruptions and maintain their educational stability.
 - **WHY?**
 - Often the school they attend when they come into care is the “only” stable environment in their world – while parents and placements are in flux.
 - Statistically, foster youth lose an average of 6 months of education for every school move/disruption.
 - WCHSA is bound by State and National legislation, to ensure that every effort is made to maintain our foster youth in their School of Origin.
 - IF it is determined to be in the best interest of the student to change schools, it MUST be approved by WCHSA leadership. This process is coordinated through the student’s worker and the WCHSA educational liaison.
 - Foster Parents, relatives and fictive kid CANNOT change a youth’s school without proper approval through WCHSA.
- **TRANSPORTATION:** Mileage reimbursement is available to whomever is assisting with transportation if there is no bus available. This applies to “anyone” transporting the youth, while the case is open.
 - The district tracks the miles, so you don’t have to! The reimbursement is one round trip, based on mapped miles between school and placement address and is disbursed once a month (electronic payments are available!) for the prior month of transport.
- **STRONG COMMUNICATION IS KEY**
 - The relationship with your student’s school is your first line of defense in providing support.
 - Communicate with your worker when things get confusing or challenging.
 -
- **INFINITE CAMPUS:** Get acquainted with Infinite Campus to follow student progress – provide kudos earned and track missing assignments. “It takes a village” and caregivers are an essential part of that village!
- **WCSD Board of Trustees meets (almost) every other Tuesday**, so if you would like to be “in the know” and have the opportunity to have your voice heard, please tune in! <https://www.washoeschools.net/domain/168>
- **SUPPORT:**
 - WCHSA Educational Liaison & WCSD Foster Liaison work together to support all things education! Your case worker can reach out when things get sticky!
 - **TUTORING** is always available. Be sure to check with your worker.

Frequent Asked Questions.

Meet your Adoption Subsidy specialists:

Mary Encarnacion and Erika Meszaros, please reach out to us by e-mail or phone so that we can help you with any of your post-adoption needs.

Reasons you would contact your adoption subsidy worker after the adoption finalizes:

- Navigating mental health supports for your adopted child.
- Medicaid is not working
- Adoption Subsidy Payment is not received
- Change in banking account, update direct deposit
- Moving out of state:

Please contact WCHSA as soon as you know. However, information cannot be switched until we have an address in the new state you are relocating.

- Divorce:

The Adoption Subsidy benefit must be identified in the Divorce, and it must go to one parent specifically. WCHSA will need a copy of the divorce decree and order identifying the parent who will receive the adoption subsidy. (Bank needs to be updated, direct deposit form)

- Deceased parent:

WCHSA will need a copy of the death certificate to put in the file so that the check can be issued to the surviving spouse.

- If your child was adopted at 13:

Information about benefits that child may be eligible for in college.

Erika Meszaros, MSW, LSW
Adoptions/ Subsidy Specialist
Emeszaros@washoecounty.gov
Cell: 775-453-5862



Mary Encarnacion, MSW, LSW
Adoptions/Subsidy Specialist
MEncarnacion@washoecounty.gov

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Car Seat Resources



Car Seat Installation Training

Are you interested in learning how to securely fit different types of car seats?
Perhaps you just need a refresher?
Join us on **Thursday, March 17th** from **9-11am** at HQ!
Training will be hands-on & hosted by a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician.
Space is limited, so please RSVP to enorlander@washoecounty.gov
to secure your spot! Details to follow upon registering.

REMSA Community Outreach 2022 Car Seat Inspection Checkpoint Schedule



Date	Time	Location
Saturday, February 19th	10 am – 1 pm	Washoe County Sheriff's Office Sun Valley Neighborhood Center 115 W 6th Ave, Sun Valley
Saturday, March 26th	10 am – 1 pm	Reno Housing Authority 7760 Carlyle Drive, Reno
Saturday, April 9th	9 am – 12 pm	Sun Valley Family Resource Center 7550 Donatello Dr, Sun Valley
Saturday, May 14th	9 am – 12 pm	Neuro Restorative 3980 Lake Placid Drive, Reno
Saturday, June 11th	9 am – 12 pm	Women & Children's Center of the Sierra 3905 Neil Rd, Reno
Saturday, July 16th	9 am – 12 pm	Foster Kindship TBD
Saturday, August 6th	9 am – 12 pm	Children's Cabinet 1090 South Rock Blvd
Saturday, September 24th	9 am – 12 pm	Traner Middle School 1700 Carville Dr, Reno
Saturday, October 15th	10 am – 1 pm	Raley's 1630 Robb Drive, Reno
Saturday, November 5th	10 am – 1 pm	UNR Early Head Start 785 W. 6th Street, Reno

Dates and locations are subject to change. Checkpoint dates are available online at www.remsahealth.com/outreach.

Resources

RENO VOLLEYBALL CLUB

The Reno Volleyball Club is willing to offer discounts to children and youth in WCHSA foster care who would like to play volleyball. For more information, visit their website or contact Cindy Lawrence at 775-313-4124 or RenoVBC@aol.com.

SOCCKER SPROUTS

The Reno Sportsdome is offering discounts to foster youth who have an interest in soccer! For more information contact Shannon at sprouts@renodome.com.

RAISE THE FUTURE

Offers several webinar options on their website for families regarding adoption and foster care topics. View their main [Classes and Training](#) page as well as their [Upcoming Classes](#). In addition, they also have a free lending library. They offer a wide variety of books with topics ranging from; exposure, grief & trauma healing, mental illness, sexual abuse, special needs adoption, books for children and more. Visit their website above or call 1-800-451-5246 to learn how easy it is to borrow and return.

NEVADA EQUINE ASSISTED THERAPY (NEATS)

If you're interested in learning more about NEATS and how their services can help you or a youth in your home visit their website or call Laurie at 750-9823.

HEAD START

Has openings! The Community Services Agency (Head Start, State Pre-K and Early Head Start) would love to talk to you if you're interested in early education for your 0-3 or 3-5-year-old. Contact Megan Jack at (775) 786-6023 ext. 207 or mjack@csareno.org.

BIGGEST LITTLE BABY

Previously the Nurturing Nest, Biggest Little Baby is a birth and parenting community that offers a variety of free classes from pregnancy and childbirth to yoga. They also offer free weekly circles of support, toddler playgroups and breast-feeding circle to mention just a few.

A CHILD'S WORLD

Offers a community support group for parents of children with attachment or trauma issues. Receive one hour of training credit per group attended. Groups are the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7-8:30p.m. (excluding December). **Please RSVP** to Sharon Willams at least 1 day in advance at 322-4650 or Sharonacwoffice@att.net.

WANDA'S BABY CLOSET

Have you ever heard of Casa de Vida? They're a great resource for our teen moms. What you may not be aware of is Wanda's Baby Closet who works in collaboration with Casa de Vida providing free baby clothes and supplies to our bio and foster parents. For information on how to access this amazing resource or to help your bio parent call (775) 329-3211.

KIWANIS CLUB

Has great bikes and accessories available at discounted prices! Contact them at (775) 337-1717 or check out their website above.

FREE TUTORING!

If your youth needs tutoring, please reach out to [Joseph](#) at Sierra Association of Foster Families (SAFF). As a reminder, SAFF can tutor students of all ages who are foster, adopted and/or have reunified.

Nevada 211 YOUTH APP
Ages 12 to 19
Easy
Fast
Confidential

SEARCH FOR LOCAL RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS 24/7

DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY

GET IT ON **Google Play**
 Download on the **App Store**

Find help 24/7 by dialing 2-1-1
texting 898-211 or
visiting www.nevada211.org

The advertisement shows a smartphone displaying the app interface with categories like Activities & Camps, Counseling, Crisis Hotlines, Education, Emergency Food, Emergency Shelter, Health Care, and LGBTQ Services.

NEVADA 211 YOUTH APP

BÚSQUEDA DE RECURSOS LOCALES A TUS DEDOS 24/7

¡descargue su aplicación para jóvenes Nevada 211 hoy!

GET IT ON **Google Play**
 Download on the **App Store**

- Actividades y campamentos
- Asesoramiento
- Líneas directas de crisis
- Recursos de equidad
- Alimentos de emergencia
- Refugio de emergencia
- Cuidado de la salud
- Servicios LGBTQ
- SafeVoice
- Grupos de apoyo
- Empleo juvenil

¡Y mucho más!

2-1-1 Nevada

The advertisement shows a smartphone displaying the app interface with categories like Activities & Camps, Counseling, Crisis Hotlines, Education, Emergency Food, Emergency Shelter, Health Care, and LGBTQ Services.