



# TRIBAL HCBS

States and AAAs working with Tribal Nations

## **Tribal HCBS and Intergenerational Families Living Together and Socially Isolated**

HCBS Conference – December 8

# Tribal HCBS and Intergenerational Families Living Together and Socially Isolated

- Kinship Navigators, respite programs and a variety of LTSS continue to improve the health of native elders, caregivers and support the complex needs of intergenerational families. COVID-19 has socially isolated families from tribal customs, practices and community and brought new approaches and technology to support Native American/Alaska Native families.



# Tribal HCBS and Intergenerational Families: Formal

- Children that have an open case or dependency with Children's Services through the Tribal Court/ Indian Child Welfare (ICW) or Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF).
- These children are removed from the parents' custody and placed with a family member or suitable other.
- The goal here is to **reunite the child with their birth parent when possible** or to **establish permanency with the family member or suitable other** when reunification is not deemed appropriate for the child well-being.

# Tribal HCBS and Intergenerational Families: Informal

- Children that live with a relative without any formal child welfare system involvement.
- Often times, the family member has taken the **child into their home to avoid any formal interventions from the child welfare system.**
- These caregivers may or may not have pursued formal legal custody arrangements through the courts.
- You may say taking care of your grandchildren or nieces/nephews we call that informal kinship care.



Samish Indian  
Nation's  
**Kinship  
Navigator  
Program**



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# The Samish People

- The Samish people are known as “The Giving People.”
- The Samish Indian Nation has approximately 2300 citizens. The majority of our citizens live in Washington state.
- Samish’s elected Tribal Council set the mission statement for the Nation. The Samish mission statement speaks explicitly to the government’s role in realizing the shared vision. The mission of the Samish Indian Nation is: To preserve the traditional knowledge and skills of our citizens, enrich our Nation, and enable our people to thrive.
- Samish Indian Nation offices are centered out of Anacortes Washington. Our trust property is located on Fidalgo Island.
- Please watch the Maiden of Deception Pass, which tells the history of the Samish People. It is a short 20-minute video you can find here:  
<https://vimeo.com/141560638>

# Samish Social Services Department

- Our Social Services Department consists of 4 staff members: Myself, Caritina Gonzalez, Donna Furchert and Sarah Beach who are our ICW/ Family Support Specialist and Reina Roethe who is our Social Services Support Specialist and our main Kinship Navigator.
- Social Services has 4 grants serving 73 families, 17 of them are Kinship Caregiver families, they are:
  - Kinship Caregivers who serve all of Washington state.
  - ICW (Indian Child Welfare) which is Nationwide
  - VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) serving Washington state
  - BIA Social Services serving the 5 counties, which at: Skagit, San Juan, Island, Snohomish and Whatcom.

## **Samish's Kinship Navigator Families: Before COVID**

Before COVID, Social Workers would offer support to all Kinship Caregiver families, it was individualized and looked different for each family. It could be:

- Home Visits, support at school meetings, WISE meetings, IEP meetings, home visits, reminders of self care, offering some financial support when needed and so much more.



## **Samish's Kinship Navigator Families: After COVID**

After COVID, Social Workers continue to support all Kinship Caregiver families, it is still individualized and looks different for each family. It could be:

- Virtual visits, phone calls, attend and support for virtual school meetings, WISE meetings, virtual IEP meetings, lots of reminders of self care self and self care kits, financial support as needed and kinship kits via USPS or door delivery, letters to ensure our families knew we are there for them.

## Questions?

Thank you for allowing me to share the great things our program is doing at Samish Indian Nation. We are proud that we have been able to stay involved during these trying times and connected to our Kinship caregivers and to continue to offer them support.



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## Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe Kinship Navigator Program

# PGST Kinship Navigator Program: Est. 2016

- A **Kinship Navigator** can determine immediate needs and direct families through the often unfamiliar and intimidating public and private resource system that can help stabilize situations facing kinship caregivers.
- PGST works with kinship placements to **establish self-sufficiency** and the **long-term stability** necessary to keep children out of foster care.
- In cases where the children are placed through the child welfare system, we work with the kinship placements to provide support, resources and stability.

# Incorporating Cultural with Kinship Support

- PGST offers a number of cultural activities, during which we have a speaker to talk with the kinship providers about challenges they face and finding solutions.
- This creates a support system with our service providers, the kinship placements and address's the needs of the families to **promote stability and success with the families.**
- We have done **cedar weaving, wool weaving, drum and rattle making** as some of the activities. The children in kinship placement also participate.

# Kinship at Port Gamble S'Klallam

- Our kinship navigator is an enrolled tribal elder, Donna Jones.
- Being a trusted elder in the community she is extremely effective working with our families, and they trust her, which allows them to come to her with any problems and questions they may encounter.
- Donna also helps facilitate our S'Klallam Positive Indian Parenting curriculum, along with a mental health counselor and some of the graduates of the program. This parenting curriculum, was developed through our IVE Waiver, **incorporating S'Klallam values and traditions.**

## Kinship at Port Gamble S'Klallam (Continued)

- Through our kinship navigator program we have been able to help families that we would not have been able to help using other resources, the flexibility of the program is a benefit to the tribal community and the families we serve.
- Donna's office is located in the Children & Family Services building, allowing a wrap around service approach with other service providers, such as **ICW**, **TANF**, **Child Support**, **Together for Children** (Maternal Home Visiting), **SNAP**, and other support services.

# Outreach

- We advertise in the tribal memo/newspaper, giving information about any activities, support services, cultural events and classes to make sure we reach out to all the families who may need support.
- Donna also does personal outreach, working with staff on referrals to do any prevention needed to avoid court action and keep the children with family.
- We do this by having staffing's with our ICW staff, the Foster Care Coordinator and our other services providers located at the tribe as well as our outside partners.





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## Thank You and Contact Information

Donna Jones 360-265-4297, [donnaj@pgst.nsn.us](mailto:donnaj@pgst.nsn.us)

Cheryl Miller 360-297-9665 [cmiller@pgst.nsn.us](mailto:cmiller@pgst.nsn.us)



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## Integrational Services

Patricia Butler, RN, BSN, PHN

White Earth Reservation

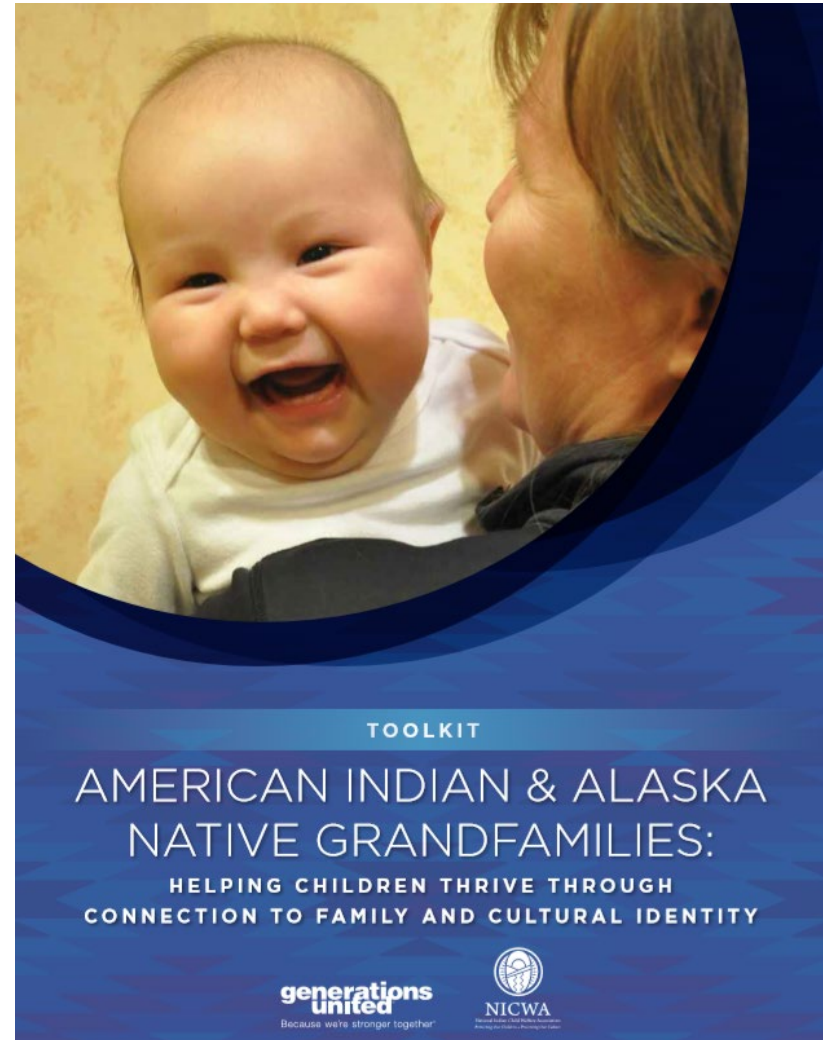


# Resources

# Kinship Toolkit: Generations United and NICWA

American Indian & Alaska Native Grandfamilies: Helping Children Thrive Through Connection to Family and Cultural Identity

<https://www.gu.org/resources/american-indian-alaska-native-grandfamilies-helping-children-thrive-through-connection-to-family-and-cultural-identity/>



# State-Specific Resources

## Washington

- **“Do You Know” brochure (DSHS 22-1120)**  
<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SESA/publications/documents/22-1120.pdf>
- **DSHS — ALTSA Kinship Care Webpage**  
<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/home-and-community-services-kinship-care/kinship-care>

## Grandparents and Relatives

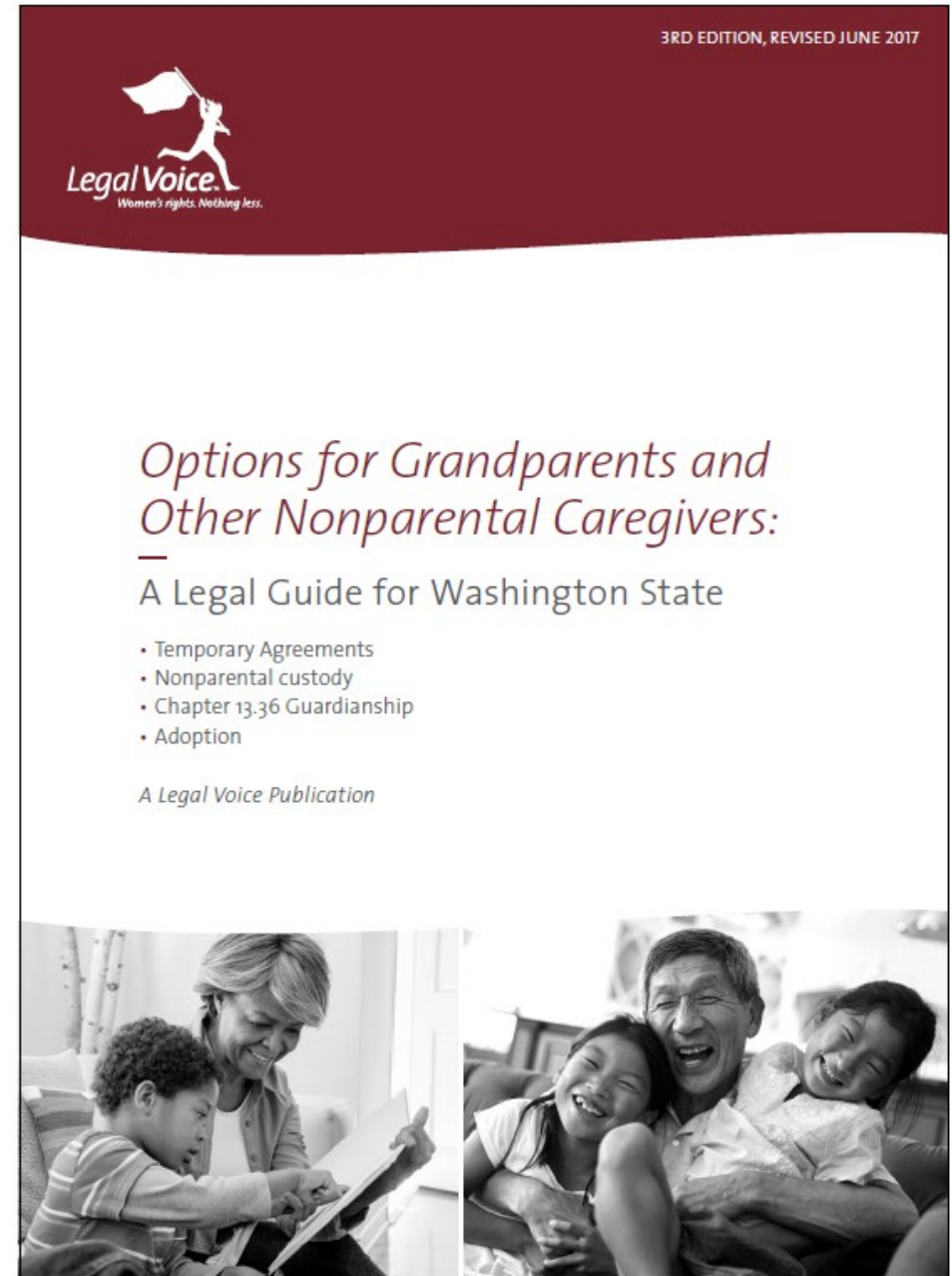
Do you know about the services and supports for you and the children in your care?



# Legal Information

## “Options for Grandparents and Other Nonparental Caregivers: A Legal Guide for Washington State”

The handbook is available in English and Spanish at <https://www.legalvoice.org/options-grandparents>



# Thank You!

- **Caritina Gonzalez**, Social Services Director at Samish Indian Nation; [Cgonzalez@samishtribe.nsn.us](mailto:Cgonzalez@samishtribe.nsn.us); 360-298-6431
- **Cheryl Miller**, M.L.S. Director of Child & Family Services for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe; [cmiller@pgst.nsn.us](mailto:cmiller@pgst.nsn.us); 360-297-9665
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