

BUDGET ASK:

# Increase hourly & mileage reimbursement for Parent-Child Visitation

When a child has been removed from their home due to safety concerns by Child Protective Services, parent(s) and their child are entitled to regular visits to maintain the parent/child relationship.

Seventeen providers in Region One (Eastern Washington) are under contract to schedule visits between parents and their children, provide transport to and from the visits, and oversee the visits themselves.

Scheduling visits can be complicated when there are multiple siblings living in separate foster or relative homes. In these cases, the provider must coordinate with multiple foster/relative care families, schools/child care and potentially multiple visit supervisors. Providers are not reimbursed for their time spent scheduling visits.

Consistent visits between a parent(s) and their child have been shown to increase the likelihood of successful reunification.

## What is the current reimbursement?

Current Parent-Child Visitation providers receive two forms of reimbursement:



Mileage reimbursement

**\$0.575**

Beginning **after** the first 60 miles driven



Hourly rate

**\$24.49**

This includes transportation time

Providers have not seen an adjustment in their hourly reimbursement since 2010.

In 2010, due to fiscal constraints, the then Children's Administration limited the mileage reimbursement for visitation providers. Currently providers only receive reimbursement after the first 60 miles driven. This policy particularly hurts providers serving rural areas across the state, including providers in Eastern Washington, who use their own cars to provide an average of 160 roundtrip miles of transportation per visit.

## Why is an increase in reimbursement needed?

Three minimum wage increases, a stagnant hourly reimbursement rate and mileage reimbursement that does not begin until a provider has driven 60 miles have all placed a strain on providers' ability to cover their expenses. These fiscal realities are hampering the ability to maintain a sufficient network of providers to deliver these court-ordered visits that are vital to the healing and reunification of families.

An increased hourly rate and beginning mileage reimbursement at the first mile driven (rather than after 60 miles) would strengthen the provider network by allowing them to better cover their basic cost of doing business.

Each rural provider visit averages 160 roundtrip miles driven. **Under current policy, only 100 of these average 160 miles are reimbursed.**



## Region One: by the numbers



**13**

Counties served



**17**

Visitation providers



**28,718**

Square miles



**51,255**

Annual visits  
(Oct. 2018 – Sept. 2019)



**201,091**

Total transport  
and visitation  
hours delivered

## Region One providers

A network of for-profit and non-profit providers deliver Parent-Child Visitation services in Eastern Washington. Following are the current providers and the counties they serve:

**American Indian Community Center**  
Spokane

**Angela's Family Services**  
Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane and Stevens

**Better Futures Together**  
Ferry, Grant, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman

**Caring Hearts Social Services**  
Ferry, Pend Oreille, Spokane and Stevens

**Crossroads**  
Ferry, Pend Oreille, Spokane and Stevens

**Dynamic Family Connections**  
Asotin and Garfield

**Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic**  
Spokane, Stevens and Whitman

**G&A, LLC**  
Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan

**Gettys Family Solutions**  
Ferry, Pend Oreille, Spokane and Stevens

**GMC Training Institute**  
Adams, Grant, Spokane and Stevens

**Hope Transportation Services**  
Ferry, Lincoln, Adams, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane and Stevens

**New Beginnings**  
Lincoln, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman

**Pathway to Connections**  
Lincoln, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman

**Reunified Services**  
Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Lincoln, Okanogan, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman

**Service Alternatives**  
Grant and Spokane

**The Salvation Army**  
Grant and Spokane

**Unite Family Services**  
Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman

## Number of providers per county:



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**For additional  
information contact:**

**Erica Hallock**  
(509) 991-2390  
ehallock1224@gmail.com

**Pat Dunn**  
(206) 920-0865  
patdunnoly@gmail.com