

Recruitment Resources for High-Risk Populations

Finding High-Risk Populations

These resources and ideas are for staff to follow up on in their own community. It takes investigation and work, but it is worth it! The more local contacts that are made aware of ECEAP and the value of the program, the better collaboration and partnership between all entities serving young children.

Kinship Care

1. Every county has its own Kinship Navigator resources/programs, through [DSHS Kinship Care Services](#). It is helpful to have staff reach out to their local agency to provide information about the early learning programs in their community as well as offer the local ECEAP Early Learning application/contact information.

Homeless

1. Every school district has an [Education of Homeless Children and Youth contact list](#) for the local liaison. It is helpful to reach out to this person and set up a referral system to early learning, if not already in place.
2. Every ESA office has Housing Referral Program – good to connect with the [local CSO office](#) and provide information about EL and application/contact information.
3. DSHS Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) have county contacts – they work with people experiencing homelessness and are great contacts for recruitment – here is the list of [Coordinated Entry Sites](#) across Washington State.

The **Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Referral program provides access to **essential needs** items and potential rental assistance for low-income individuals who are unable to work for at least 90 days due to a physical and/or mental incapacity.*

Foster

1. Oftentimes, school district **foster** care liaisons are *the same* as the SD **homeless** liaisons, but here is the [link for foster care in every school district](#) throughout Washington State.

Disability

1. **Contact LOCAL Child Find** – local school district special education departments typically offer “child find” dates throughout the year. It is valuable for family support staff to reach out to their local school district SPED department and offer information to the staff facilitating child find as an option to families with 3- and 4-year-old children. Here is a list of every school district’s Special Education Directory in WA state: of every school district’s Special Education Directory in WA state:

<https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/specialed/resourcelibrary/SpEdDirectory.pdf>

**This is helpful for staff to locate their local contact person for Child Find.*



2. **PAVE** – Partnerships for Action, Voices for Empowerment – make contact with <https://wapave.org/> to offer recruitment material liaisons for sharing with families that they come in contact with.
3. **Special Education Support Center** – a great resource for family support staff to check out; if able to visit the agency and offer information about early learning – may get some referrals. Contact information: <http://specialeducationsupportcenter.org/>
4. **The ARC of Washington State** – There are nine local chapters that can be contacted to collaborate with and offer information on services available to potentially shared families. Contact page: https://www.arcwa.org/aboutus/local_arc_chapters.
5. **ESIT contact directory** – local Family Resource Coordinators are invaluable to partner with, located throughout Washington State. The July 2018 updated directory is here: <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/ESITContactsDirectory.pdf>
6. **Local Pediatrician Offices** – Find a pediatrician resource at healthychildren.org enables families to find local pediatricians, which could also be used for staff to locate pediatricians in their community to network and partner with. You must navigate to Washington State and search under specialty “Early Education” in the drop-down menu. Contact local doctors and create a partnership of mutual referrals.

Other Ideas

1. **Schools** – Contact local schools and request attendance at the Back to School night or other Family Night activities to share information regarding upcoming application and enrollment procedures to ECEAP. Some schools offer Kindergarten Readiness nights too.
2. **Parks and Rec/YMCA** – Attend and offer recruitment material to the local parks and recreation family nights in the park throughout the summer. Contact your local parks and rec department or YMCA (google for local contacts).
3. **Churches** – Churches often have evening youth groups, children’s church, support groups or “small groups.” Visit and offer recruitment material and conversation with folks attending.