

Our Caregivers Speak

Highlights from the 2022 DCYF Caregiver Survey

WHY SURVEY CAREGIVERS?

Every year, the DSHS Research and Data Analysis Division surveys a representative sample of DCYF foster and kinship caregivers. Their voices tell us about strengths, opportunities for improvement, and impacts of the system on the lives of children, parents, and caregivers.

Foster Caregivers

No prior relationship with the child in care

Kinship Caregivers

Relatives or had a pre-existing relationship to a child/family

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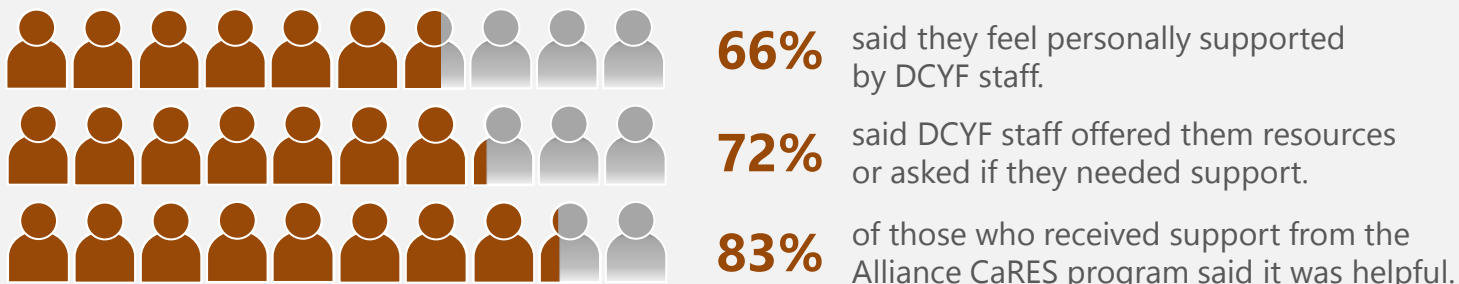


ABOUT THE SURVEY

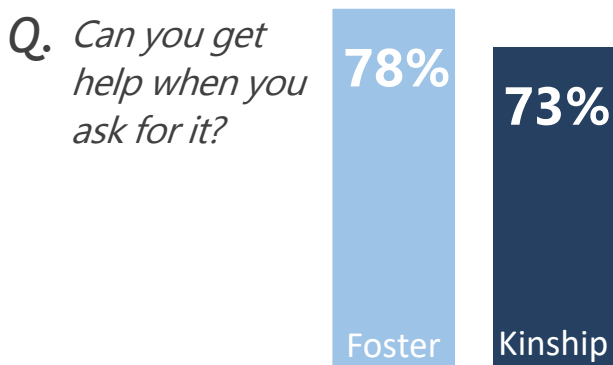


HIGHLIGHTS

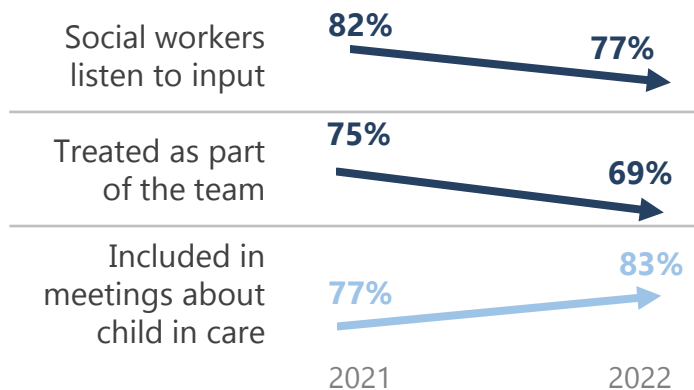
New survey questions show most caregivers are satisfied with support from DCYF.



Foster caregivers are more likely than kinship caregivers to say they can get help.



Compared to last year, measures of inclusion declined for kinship caregivers and improved for foster caregivers.



Our Caregivers Said...

There are a lot of things that you can do in life that mean a lot and then there's a lot of things you can do in life that don't mean anything but the one thing that I can do in this lifetime is give children opportunities to live in a safe and loving environment while they're out of their biological homes.

- Foster Caregiver

I feel very fortunate to be so supported by those working in the system.”

- Kinship Caregiver

The bureaucracy is large and it's hard to get it to move. This case is dragging on.

- Kinship Caregiver

Some social workers are just awesome about checking in with us as caregivers to help and offer support and others we have definitely had issues with.

- Foster Caregiver

We feel like the system is making an effort to cover the holistic needs of the child in our care through mental health therapy, school system assessment for added supports, and regular meetings to discuss the case and current care needs.

- Foster Caregiver

Alliance was very helpful to me during licensing and all around information in how to navigate through the system.

- Kinship Caregiver

Being able to do it [training] at my own speed from home has been wonderful.

- Kinship Caregiver

We became licensed so that DCYF would take us seriously about being caregivers for our relatives.

- Kinship Caregiver

It is very hard when you have no clue on what to do and where to go for help.

- Foster Caregiver

I've been licensed for over ten years. The training is much improved.

- Foster Caregiver

I feel that if we as relative caretakers had advocates, we would be taken seriously and our opinions would be heard.

- Kinship Caregiver



Read the full 2022 Caregiver Survey Report online:

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ffa/rda/research-reports/2022-caregiver-survey-report>

Questions? Contact Teresa Ciabattari at teresa.ciabattari@dshs.wa.gov