

Resources

COVID- 19 Websites

[WA State Coronavirus Response](#)

[DCYF Coronavirus – COVID- 19 Updates](#)

Education

K-12

Many families are talking about “home schooling” their children, however, this requires a release and unenrollment of the student from their district and, according to [4302a DCYF Education Planning Policy](#), regional DCYF approval and court order. Enrolling a student in a home school program could also cause a student to lose school of origin, so when schools reopen this may lead to additional school changes.

OSPI and the school districts are supporting distance learning – instruction provided remotely through the child’s school district. Each school district is doing this differently and families should refer to their district’s webpage for guidance and available tech support.

OSPI

The OSPI COVID-19 response page provides resources on continued learning, meal programs, graduation, IEPs, special education services and services provided during school closure.

Post-Secondary Education

Washington Student Achievement Council has also provided COVID-19 resources for graduating seniors and post-secondary students.

Employment/Unemployment

Your best bet is to go to www.esd.wa.gov and take these steps:

1. Stay up to date. If you haven’t already, please sign up for ESD’s COVID-19 action alerts. You can do so on the agency’s COVID page (esd.wa.gov/newsroom/covid-19).
2. Check your eligibility. Learn more about your eligibility and when to apply for benefits using **the new eligibility checker**. We are encouraging those eligible for regular unemployment to apply now, and newly eligible to wait until after April 18.
3. Unemployment is expanding. The federal CARES Act allows **self-employed people, part-time workers, and others affected by COVID-19** to use unemployment benefits. **The ESD website** has recently been updated with details about applying.
4. Get ready to apply. **Download the application checklist**.



5. Set up your account. **Watch the tutorial video to set up your account correctly.** It is nine minutes long but will likely save a lot of time.

ESD also has a lot of **employee and employer FAQ's** that are being revised constantly to provide helpful information. It's a great place to find what you are looking for.

Youth should apply for unemployment as soon as their hours are reduced or they are released from employment.

- **Employment Security Department**
- **For workers and businesses affected by COVID-19**
- **COVID-19 scenarios and benefits**

Utility Assistance

- **Washington Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** can assist with energy bills, client conservation education, furnace repair/replacement and weatherization.
- Youth should contact their energy/gas provider to see if there are changes to the billing process (waiving late fees, payment plans, change billing date, etc.) The **Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission** provides links to different service providers.

Food

There are many local food banks all around the state. A quick internet search will provide a list of local services.

- SNAP benefits help low-income individuals meet basic food needs. You **can apply for food assistance online** or at your **local Community Services Office**
- **Food Lifeline Statewide Hunger Relief Network**
- **Northwest Harvest Statewide Hunger Relief Network**
- **Washington Food Pantries**
- **Community Action Agencies**

Housing Support for Extended Foster Care Youth

There is housing assistance available to extended foster care youth. The details are on the AP page along with who to contact to access the funds. <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19/adolescent-programs>

Available Technology

- [Xfinity WiFi](#) public hotspots are now open to everyone.
- [One Simple Wish](#) is providing laptops for eligible students.
- [Coordinated Care](#) health plan recipients (youth who were dependent in foster care at age 18) is providing cell phones. [Safelink](#) is also offering COVID-19 related phone programs.
- School districts are checking out computers and hotspots to enrolled (or previously enrolled) students. Community colleges offer similar programs. Contact your local school or community college and ask for the technology office or help desk.
- [Lifeline Program](#) provides free and discounted phones for low-income eligible WA residents.
- Comcast is offering two months free to new [Internet Essentials](#) customers in response to COVID-19 emergency measures.
- Xfinity WiFi hotspots across the country are available to anyone who needs them for free. Visit this [link](#) for a map of hotspots.

COVID-19 Economic Impact Payments

Find out if you qualify for government stimulus payments, how to get a payment and additional answers on the [Youth Engaged 4 Change website](#)

Finances

[Department of Financial Institutions \(DFI\)](#) has developed a list of resources to address the financial impacts of the coronavirus, including mortgage assistance, financial resources and financial scams.

- [Unemployment Assistance](#)
- [Mortgage Assistance](#)
- [Paying Student Loans](#)
- [Paying Rent](#)
- [Paying Credit Cards](#)
- [Cash, Food, and Medical Assistance](#)
- [Utilities Assistance](#)
- [Short Term and Emergency Loans](#)
- [Financial Institutions Are Open](#)
- [Additional Resources](#)

Child Care

[Childcare](#)

Additional Resources

DCYF's **Washington State Resource Guide for Parents and Caregivers: Caring for Your Family During COVID-19** is a compilation of information and resources to help bolster the incredible resiliency of parents and families

- **Resources for parents and caregivers**
- **Family Time and Sibling and Relative Visits Interim Policy**
- **Family Time FAQs**
- **Family Time – Supportive Virtual Family Time Program and Training (eLearning)**
- **Caregiver Tip Sheet**
- **Parents Tip Sheet**
- **Foster Parents Tip Sheet**
- **Supportive Remote Visitation for Children in Foster Care Video**
- **Sign Up to be a Temporary Residential Youth Worker**

Health Insurance

Washington state's Health Benefit Exchange has **opened a special enrollment period through May 8**. Individuals looking for coverage should call the exchange at 855-923-4633. Depending on their financial situation, they could qualify for reduced premium or free coverage.

Contact the Office of the Insurance Commissioner for insurance help

Help if you've lost your health insurance

Legal aid

Washington Law Help has resources for those looking for legal aid during the coronavirus outbreak. Topics include family law, health issues, housing, financial, criminal, and assistance for seniors.