

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.

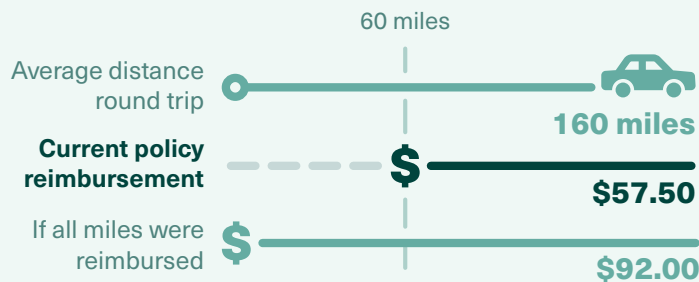
In 2010, due to fiscal constraints, the then Children's Administration limited the mileage reimbursement for visitation providers. Currently providers only receive reimbursement after the first 60 miles driven. This policy particularly hurts providers serving rural areas across the state, including providers 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

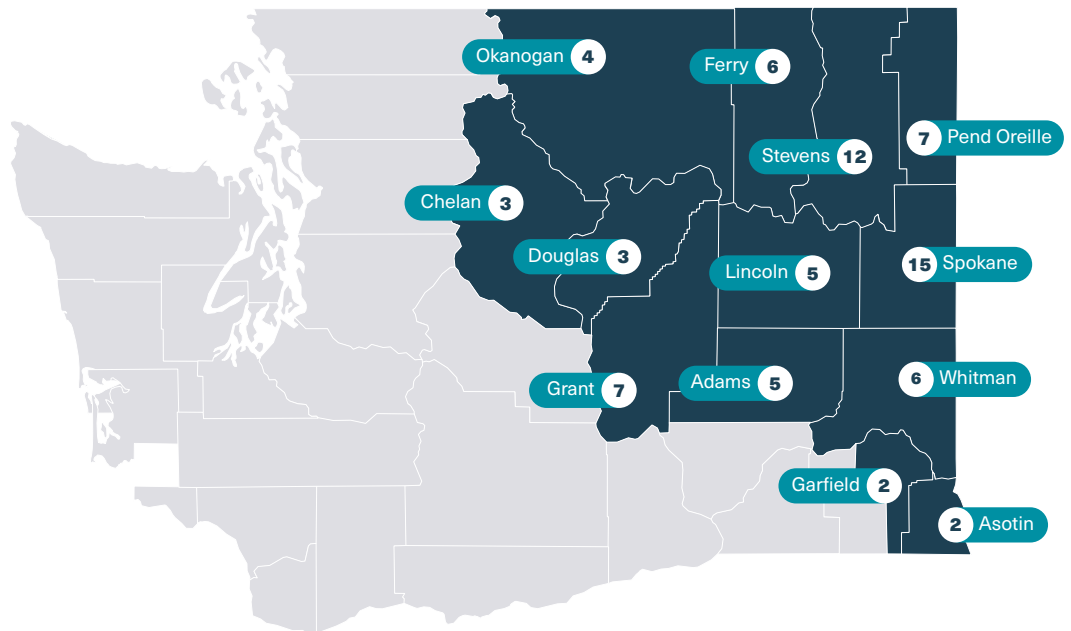
Reunified Services
Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Lincoln, Okanogan, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman

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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