

[View this email in your browser](#)



[Connections](#)

[Issue: March 2024](#)

[Contacts:](#)

Coordinator: Catalina Guzman cguzman@mlchc.org

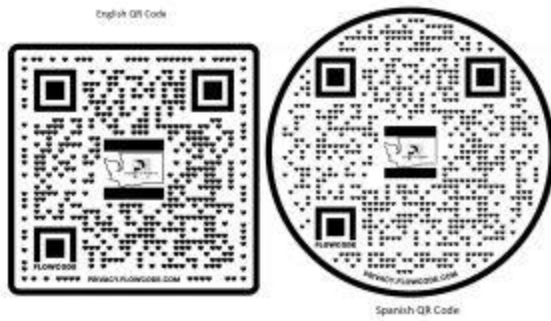
Multicultural Outreach Coordinator: Ana

Media Outreach Coordinator: Maria Jimenez mjimenez@mlchc.org

Office: (509)764-7424



 [Send This To A Friend!](#)



***Please take our survey!
It helps us with our
grant funding. Thank
you!***



*Informative
Articles*

[The Daunting Child Care Challenges For Kids With Disabilities](#)

[DDA OVERNIGHT PLANNED RESPITE](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS



[Parent Connections!](#)



Office of the Education Ombuds

We listen. We inform. We help solve problems.

The Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO) is excited to present our OEO Team Virtual Event.

The first part of the event will be an intro to OEO as an agency and to us as folks working in the agency. The second part of the event will feature breakout rooms on different topics to hear a short presentation and ask questions regarding:

- Special Education and Individualized Education Plans
- Safety Planning (Mental Health/Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying(HIB))
- Language Access
- Grievance Process in the K-12 Public School System
- Homelessness/McKinney Vento and Foster/Kinship Care Rights and Supports

Please Register using this link:

<https://ofm-wa.gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqd--spzlpEtQfp-P2BMf5VbveWTqfzMXH>

Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) will be available. Additional interpretation available upon request. Please request by February 22, 2024. If you have any questions please contact me at 564-669-0323 or by email tamika.dean@gov.wa.gov.

OEO Team
Virtual Event
March 7, 2024
11:00 a.m. PST



Join Us!

Washington State Governor's Office of the

**Education
Ombuds**

Phone: 1-866-297-2597

Web: www.oeo.wa.gov

oeoinfo@gov.wa.gov / www.oeo.wa.gov / 1-866-297-2597

People First

Moses Lake



When:
March 18, 2024
6pm

Where:
Salon Envy
317 S Ash ST, Moses Lake
Contact: Craig at
509-218-7982 or craig@pfow.org

MISSION STATEMENT
The purpose and mission of People First of Washington is to assist all people to realize and appreciate that we are PEOPLE FIRST and our disabilities are secondary. We are equal citizens in our communities.



Educate-Advocate-Celebrate





**MOSES LAKE
HIGH SCHOOL
POOL**

JOIN NOW !

**For more information please
call or email**

**(509) 766-2666
drodriguez@mlsd161.org**



**SWIMMING
LESSONS**

THE BALLET ACADEMY OF MOSES
LAKE IS NOW OFFERING A

*Special Needs
Creative Dance Class*

EVERY MONDAY 4:15-5:00PM

TAUGHT BY KERRY ARONSOHN

KERRY HAS A B.A. IN DANCE, 30+ YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE, COACHES
SPECIAL OLYMPICS CHEER, 10+ YEARS SERVING THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY

QUESTIONS: CALL OR TEXT KERRY 509-855-2152

REGISTER AT BALLETTACADEMYML.COM

LOCATED 230W 3RD AVE, MOSES LAKE



For more
information on
any of our
upcoming events,
please email us at

P2P@MLCHC.ORG



Informing Families *Today and Tomorrow*

A Partnership for Better Communication
on Developmental Disability Issues in Washington State

Applying for Developmental Disability Services in Washington State

DDA: The Door to DD Services



The main door to services for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities in our state is the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). It's where people go to get help for in-home, out-of-home, and community-based services. Learn more about DDA services here: dshs.wa.gov/dda.

Important: Most services are not an entitlement, which means that being eligible for DDA does not automatically result in enrollment for services. There can be a long wait, but it's important to take the first step, which is applying for a determination of DDA eligibility.

#1 To apply for DDA eligibility, you must:



Be a resident of the state.

- If DDA does not consider you a state resident, your application will be denied.
- If you live in another state, your eligibility for services will not transfer.



Have a qualifying condition.

DDA's qualifying conditions for developmental delay and intellectual/developmental disability are used to determine eligibility. You can find them here: dshs.wa.gov/dda (click on Eligibility).

#2 How to apply for a determination of DDA eligibility at different ages:

Birth to Three

Apply for Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT). A Family Resources Coordinator (FRC) will help you obtain screenings, services and supports. Learn more here: del.wa.gov (click on ESIT).



Age Three and Older

Request a determination of eligibility from your local DDA office (or online). Find the office nearest you: dshs.wa.gov/dda.

You will be asked for documents to verify identity, residency, disability, consent, and (where needed) guardianship or adoption records. Visit dshs.wa.gov/dda for an application packet (click on Eligibility).



DDA requires a re-determination of eligibility at age 4, so you will need to re-apply for DDA services *before* that happens. DDA will send a notice 6 months prior to your child turning 4.

#3 It's up to you to request to be assessed for services.

You must call to request services after you have been determined eligible for DDA.

Some services are entitlement, such as personal care through Community First Choice; however, most DDA services are provided through a waiver program, which is not an entitlement. Enrollment in waiver programs are filled based on assessed need when there is available funding. Once you have been enrolled in services, you will be assigned a case manager and service planning will begin. *It's very important to request the services you need, so that you can be contacted when there's an opening for that program or service.*



The Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds: Strategic Plan

(August 2023-2026)



VISION: We envision a public education system that dismantles racism, ableism, and other marginalization to support every student's dreams for the future.

We value our independence, anti-racist values, and responsiveness to communities. We will learn as a team from families, students, and communities and promote this vision.

MISSION

We work with families, communities, and schools to address problems together so that every student can fully participate and thrive in Washington's K-12 public schools.

OUR ROLES

Listen to concerns and address questions about the K-12 public education system

Use informal conflict resolution tools to support collaborative problem-solving and promote education justice

Provide coaching, facilitation, and training about family and community engagement and systems advocacy

Collect data and identify trends to guide our education policy recommendations



Strategic Priorities

Informal Conflict Resolution

OEO assists anyone with questions or concerns about Washington's K-12 public schools. We can provide you with information, referrals, toolkits, and other resources.

OEO's legislative mission is to reduce opportunity gaps. Our strategic plan priorities concentrate on education justice, especially for communities most affected by COVID-19. We are focusing our limited conflict resolution resources, such as informal mediation and coaching, on K-12 students who are:

- Out of school, including students with disabilities receiving partial school days
- People of color, Black, or indigenous
- Experiencing homelessness
- In kinship or foster care
- Involved with the juvenile justice or juvenile rehabilitation systems
- Immigrant, refugee, asylee, or migrant, or students or families whose primary language(s) is not English, or
- Receiving Wraparound with Intensive Services (WiSE) or Children's Long Term Inpatient Programs (CLIP) supports

Strategies:

Proactively build relationships with families, students, and communities seeking education justice in schools to listen and learn from their experiences and strengths

Create more online tools to answer common questions outside our direct intervention priorities

Identify opportunities to create systemic change through the individual concerns brought to us

Outreach

Our outreach priorities reflect the communities prioritized in our conflict resolution. We will also create materials and tools for issues outside our strategic plan to empower families, students, and educators in collaborating.

Strategies:

Collaborate with community, family, student, and educator organizations, as well as government agencies, to co-host events and workshops

Deepen ongoing relationships with organizations and family and student groups, while also increasing statewide awareness about OEO

Use powerful storytelling to share family and student experiences with educators, policymakers, and other families and communities

Policy Advocacy

We will identify and create opportunities to promote racial justice, disability and mental health justice, and language access in the school system. We will bring student, family, and community perspectives and concerns to policy discussions and decisions.

Strategies:

Collaborate with community organizations, families, and students to combat racism, ableism, and other forms of oppression

Learn from and be led by the community, family, and student perspectives most often left out of policymaking

Use our leadership roles on workgroups to advocate for family and student voice

LOCAL SUPPORT GROUPS

Autism Society of WA Grant CO. Chapter
Please call Brian or Laura Jacobson at
509-771-0076 for more information.
grant@autismsocietyofwa.org

Down Syndrome Society of Grant County
For more information check out their
website at: www.DSSGC.org
Email: cbuddywalk@gmail.com
Or call: Denise Ketola at 360-903-3201

Inter-agency Coordinating Councils

Grant County:
Meets monthly via Zoom
For more information please contact:
509-664-3781

Adams County:
Meets bi-annually, for more information please
contact:
Columbia Basin Health
Association at:
509-488-5255



Our Lending Library is
available!

**Get your favorite book and
let's start reading!**



[Lending library](#)

Please click the link [here](#)

Not everyone that comes to the table sits.
Some lie on the floor underneath, some stim and flap nearby,
some run around the table, some twirl and dance at the side,
Everyone is valuable.
Even if you don't sit, you still deserve space at the table.

-Stalen's Way

2024 Discover Pass free days announced!



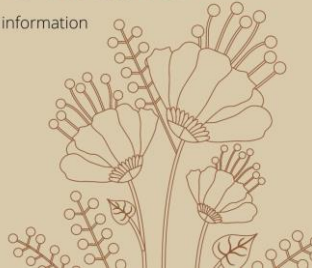
The Washington State Discover Pass Program has designated the Discover Pass free days for 2024. On these days, visitors will not need a [Discover Pass](#) to park at [Washington state parks](#) and on recreation lands managed by [Washington Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\)](#) and [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife \(WDFW\)](#).

The 2024 Discover Pass free days are:

- Jan. 1 — First Day Hikes; New Year's Day
 - Jan. 15 — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 - March 9 -- Billy Frank Junior's Birthday
 - March 19 — State Parks' 111th Birthday
 - April 22 — Earth Day
 - June 8 — National Get Outdoors Day
 - June 9 — Free Fishing Day
 - June 19 — Juneteenth
 - Sept. 28 — National Public Lands Day
 - Oct. 10 -- World Mental Health Day
 - Nov. 11 — Veterans Day
 - Nov. 29 — Autumn Day
-

WEBSITES & RESOURCES

Places to visit for information



[Washington State Governors Office of the Education Ombudsman](#)

[Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction \(OSPI\)](#)

[The Individuals With Disabilities Act \(IDEA\)](#)

[Developmental Disabilities Administration](#)

[Department of Early Learning \(ESIT\)](#)

[Washington State Parent to Parent](#)

[Washington State Fathers Network](#)

[Social Security Administration \(SSI\)](#)

DDA OMBUDS Washington state

Special Olympics Washington

Informing Families

Wishing Star



The Parent to Parent Support Programs provide emotional support, education and information to families of children with special needs and/or disabilities.

Personal support from another parent, who has a child with similar needs, can be helpful in coping with many challenging experiences and feelings.

Helping parent volunteers have completed a training program and are available to provide support and information to other parents. All information will be kept confidential. There is no cost for this service.



Moses Lake Community Health Center is the Grant/Adams Parent to Parent lead agency.

(you do not have to be a patient of Moses Lake Community Health Center to use

Parent to Parent services, they are open to all in our communities)

Moses Lake Community Health Center is committed to providing high quality, compassionate and comprehensive primary health services for the entire family, with a special focus on the underserved and migrant farm worker in our community.

Our mailing address is:

605 Coolidge Street
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).