**Yes, we can do guardianships!**

The Department of Children, Youth and Families(DCYF) staff may consider **three** Title 13 guardianship options.

# Guardianship unsubsidized (no financial assistance)

1. **Guardianship subsidized through a CSO Grant**
2. **Guardianship subsidized by R-GAP**

Guardianships can be considered when both of the following requirements are met:

* The shared planning process determines that guardianship rather than reunification or adoption is in a child’s best interest.
* The regional administrator or their designee agrees to the guardianship.

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| **Subsidized Guardianships** | |
| Financial support offered through the **Community Service Office** (CSO) such as **TANF**. | **The Relative Guardianship Assistance Program (R-GAP)** provides financial and medical support to licensed relatives who meet the requirements of R- GAP. |
| Apply through the CSO | Apply through the Region’s Gatekeepers |
| Household income no longer determines eligibility (effective 7-1-18) | Child must be IV-E eligible; determination is ONLY made by a Title IV-E specialist |
| Do not need to be related to apply | Caregiver must be a relative as defined in RCW 74.15.020(2)(a) or as defined in tribal code or custom for Indian children |
| Can also include medical, depending on eligibility | Relative must be licensed for foster care and child must be in relative’s home for at least six months after the relative obtains their license |

# More questions about guardianships? Here are ways to get answers:

* On our intranet, [Guardianship and RGAP Policy.](http://ca.dshs.wa.gov/intranet/policy/guardianship.asp) The site contains questions and answers for DCYF staff and agency policies regarding guardianship and other important information.
* By contacting ***Adoption and Guardianship Program Manager***Debbie Marker, email: [Debbie.Marker@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:Debbie.Marker@dcyf.wa.gov%20) or
* Contact a ***Regional Guardianship Gatekeepers***:
  + Regions 1: MaShelle Hess, email: [mashelle.hess@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:mashelle.hess@dcyf.wa.gov)
  + Region 2: Lorenzo Lopez, email: [lorenzo.lopez@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:lorenzo.lopez@dcyf.wa.gov)
  + Regions 3 and 4: Ricard Tupling, email: [ricard.tupling@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:ricard.tupling@dcyf.wa.gov)
  + Regions 5: Kathy Keenan, email: [kathleen.keenan@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:kathleen.keenan@dcyf.wa.gov)
  + Region 6: Lori VanClifford, email: [lori.vanclifford@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:lori.vanclifford@dcyf.wa.gov)