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[Connections](#)

[Issue: May 2024](#)

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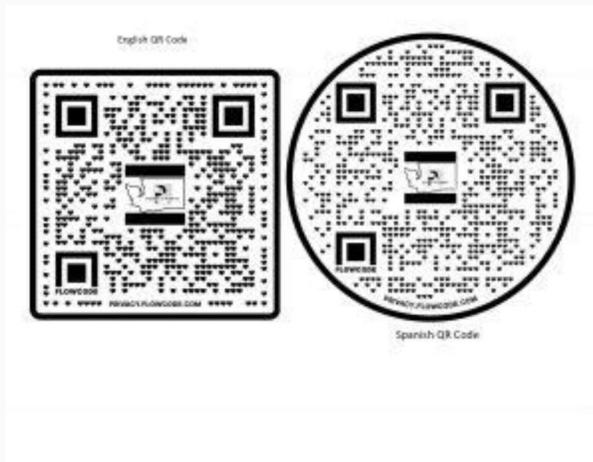
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***Please take our survey!  
It helps us with our  
grant funding. Thank  
you!***



*Informative  
Articles*

[May Is Mental Health Awareness Month!](#)

[15 Small and Quiet Adult Sensory Toys for Autistic Adults & Teens](#)

[Corpus Callosum: Your Child's Superhighway for Connecting the Emotional and Logical Sides of the Brain for Better Learning](#)

*Book of the Month*

[Uniquely Human: A different way of seeing Autism](#)

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For our Parent Connections Calendar please click [here](#)

# CBHA *Family Night!*

Come celebrate family night! There will be activities for your family, community recourses, and more!

May 16th 2024  
from 5:30pm to 7:00pm  
located at Wahitis Elementary  
Gymnasium, 905 S 14th Ave, Othello WA





| 28  
JUNE |

# POOL *Party*

— FREE ENTRY —

RSVP BY JUNE 7TH  
SPACE IS LIMITED TO  
ONLY 100 PEOPLE

401 W 4TH AVE, MOESLAKE, WA  
98837  
FROM 6:30PM TO 8:30PM

RSVP TO:  
P2P@MLCHC.ORG



Grant & Adams County  
PARENT TO  
PARENT



*John Lunderville  
Memorial Foundation*

For more information, please click the link [here](#).



**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 [BALLETACADEMYML.COM](http://BALLETACADEMYML.COM)

LOCATED 230W 3RD AVE, MOSES LAKE

*For more information on any of our  
upcoming events, please email us at  
[p2p@mlchc.org](mailto: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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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*

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## LOCAL SUPPORT GROUPS

### Autism Society of WA Grant CO. Chapter

Please call Brian or Laura Jacobsen at  
509-771-0076 for more information.

[grant@autismsocietyofwa.org](mailto:grant@autismsocietyofwa.org)

### Down Syndrome Society of Grant County

For more information check out their  
website at: [www.DSSGC.org](http://www.DSSGC.org)

Email: [cbuddywalk@gmail.com](mailto: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:  
509-488-5256

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[Lending library](#)

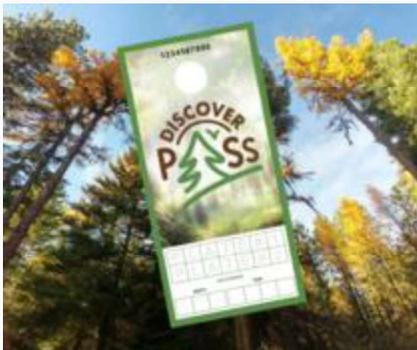
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## 2024 Discover Pass free days announced!

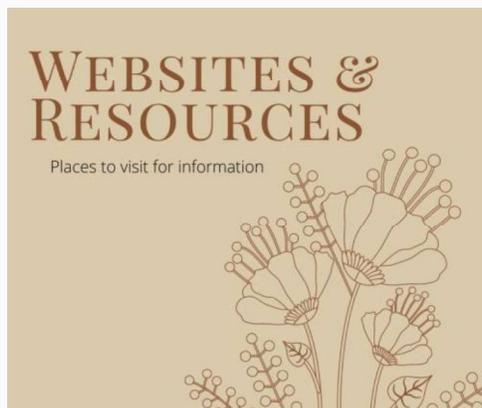


The Washington State Discover Pass Program has designated the Discover Pass free days for 2024. On these days, visitors will not need a [Discover Pass](#) to park at [Washington state parks](#) and on recreation lands managed by [Washington Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\)](#) and [Washington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



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

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

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

[Developmental Disabilities Administration](#)

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[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](#)

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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.

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**Our mailing address is:**

605 Coolidge Street  
Moses Lake, WA 98837

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