



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:

Amara

Address:

5907 Martin Luther King Jr Way S
Seattle, WA 98118

Contact:

(206) 260-1732
<https://www.amarafamily.org>

Organization's General Goals:

Amara is committed to positive long-term outcomes for children and families. We drive systemic change, promote healing, and advance racial and LGBTQIA+ equity, by offering programs and services to families engaged in foster care, and to adoptees and families, post-adoption.

Date of Award:

2023 Q1

Level:

\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Amara.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

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AMARA'S REPORT TO THE TULALIP TRIBES CHARITABLE FUND

Date: 2/28/2024

Name of Organization: Amara

Address: 5907 Martin Luther King Jr Way S Seattle, WA 98118

Contact Person: Jill Rose, Corporate and Foundation Relations Liaison

Phone Number: 206-260-1732

Email Address: grants@amarafamily.org

Grant Purpose: Amara's Kinship and Relative Caregiver Supports Program

Amount of Grant: [REDACTED] Grant Code: Q1 2023 14.2

Time Period Covered: January 1st, 2023 – December 31st, 2023

Amara shares the following report with gratitude for your faith and partnership in our work transform the way families are supported with programming specific to the needs of relative caregivers caring for kids in foster care.

1) Program Goals and Objectives

At Amara, our goal is to increase the wellbeing for children and families impacted by the child welfare system. In our Kinship program we activate this goal by providing wrap-around support for family members as they care for their relative children in foster care. Often, kinship caregivers are stepping up in a time of family crisis and are usually bringing a child into their home unexpectedly. However, there are almost no existing programs to support kinship caregivers who are working through the formal child welfare system.

Kinship and relative caregivers support 50% of all children in foster care in Washington (about 3,500 kids) but only 10% receive any form of financial and emotional support (opposed to 100% of traditional foster families). Kinship caregivers also tend to be over age 55, living on fixed incomes, and have likely not parented in many years. Despite the lack of support, children in kinship caregiver homes experience higher stability and less stress and trauma than when in traditional foster placements or in group homes.

2) Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund Impact

Last year, with generous support from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund Amara worked with and connected 83 kinship caregivers caring for 144 children in 63 homes to resources to help them care for the relative foster child in their home.

With your support, Amara was able to expand our services for kinship caregivers with the launch of two new programs designed specifically to offer a deeper level of support for kinship caregivers in 2023:

- **KinPLUS**-- provides intensive wrap-around support for kinship caregivers in King and Pierce Counties undergoing the foster licensing process in Washington state. Through the KinPLUS program Amara provides wrap-around case management, conducts home visits, connects with youth and support kinship families to stabilize and thrive during the critical 9-month period while they are becoming licensed as foster parents and beginning their kinship caregiver journey.
- **Kin Connections** -- this program works with kinship families after the foster care licensing process. Through this program Amara's kinship team focuses on connecting caregivers to the short-term supports that help meet immediate needs, while simultaneously connecting to other resources and programs that can support families long-term. These short-term supports can include applying for financial assistance, education around navigating the often-complex child welfare system, and/or assisting with requirements for the new child-specific state license. This license allows kinship families to receive monthly foster care payments to help offset the costs of caring for children.

3) A Story of Impact

Odette* had been driving over four hours each week during the chilly winter months to make sure her grandchildren remained in contact with their mother while Odette was caring for them. Odette had been working with Amara's Kin Connections program for months to get support signing up for benefits, navigating the educational and child welfare systems, and maintaining her foster care license so she could care for her two grandchildren. Soon after reaching out to Amara's Kin Connections program for support, Odette shared that one of her greatest needs was new tires because the hundreds of miles she was driving each week from King to Whatcom County to keep the kids connected to their mother. Deep into the winter months Odette was worried about the condition of her tires as the increasing snowfall and ice snow posed dangerous obstacles to her long weekly drives. Central to the support Amara's Kin Connections program provides is connecting kinship families to the resources they need to stabilize and thrive.

Thanks in part to your support, Amara was able to cover the cost of securing Odette new tires. "It is like a super deep, cleansing exhale of relief," Odette said.

Now the whole family can stay safe as they make their long weekly trips.

*Names changed for confidentiality