

Date updated: March 21, 2025

- ☐ Draft Plan
☒ Final Plan

DSHS Policy 7.01 Plan

July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 Annual Plan and Progress Report

Spokane Tribe of Indians (STOI) and

ESA: Division of Child Support (DCS), Region 1, Spokane Field Office

(contact information listed at end of plan)

	Yes	No
Met with Tribe/UIO?	X	
Tribal input received?	X	
Tribal approval of plan?	X	

Most recent meeting date: 02/26/2025

Implementation Plan				Progress Report
(1) Goals/Objectives	(2) Activities	(3) Expected Outcome	(4) Lead Staff and Target Date	(5) Status Update
1) Facilitate improved contact with the Spokane Tribe staff and their clients.	Maintain regular contact, exchange contact information and establish outreach opportunities.	Improved contact and strengthening of relationships to mutually benefit shared clients.	Bobbi Williams - STOI Samantha Dillon – STOI Luanne Ferguson – STOI Martina Garcia - STOI Amanda James – DCS Mike Brakel - DCS Michelle Martin – DCS Target Date: June 2026	Weekly in person meetings continued throughout 2024-2025 plan year. DCS Tribal Liaison, Mike Brakel, attends weekly meetings with Martina. Amanda James meets monthly with Martina. Beginning 2025, Michelle Martin to meet quarterly In person outreach opportunities continued in this last year. Members of the Spokane DCS Tribal Team attended Culture Week at the Lyons office. Mike and Amanda attended the Spokane Pow Wow in August and also attended the S.T.E.W. (Spokane Tribe Employment Workshop) in September which included the Orange Shirt Day Remembrance

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				<p>A “Meet and Greet” is currently in the works for 2025 as our last one was held in 2023. Martina and Mike are working at coordinating this. This has been scheduled for March 11th.</p> <p>DCS is interested in expanding our relationship with other Spokane Tribe programs that may also have impact with child support services, such as Tribal GA and Vocational Rehab. Spokane Tribe has invited people from Vocational Rehab and their Career Development Specialists to attend the Meet and Greet in March.</p>
<p>2) Continue current working relationship and procedures.</p>	<p>DCS & STTP to review procedures with regards to shortening case closure procedures and write off of Tribal debt in special circumstances.</p> <p>Any parent requesting write off of debt owed to the Spokane Tribal TANF Program will continue to be referred to STTP directly.</p> <p>DCS will provide in person service at the Spokane Lyons office for any of STTP’s clients who would like information and/or</p>	<p>Reduce case closure time periods from 90 days to 30 days.</p> <p>Giving relief to parents with unique hardship circumstances.</p>	<p>Yvette Buckley – STOI Martina Garcia - STOI Amanda James – DCS</p> <p>Target Date: June 2026</p>	<p>DCS continues to receive permission to close cases in a timely manner.</p> <p>Closure notices are sent monthly to Martina which she reviews and responds back to DCS which STTP cases can be closed.</p> <p>STTP is now adding their CIF numbers on the Tribal TANF referrals so DCS can add their case number in our system so</p>

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	<p>assistance in obtaining child support services, including child support establishment, paternity establishment, daycare reimbursement, medical reimbursement and modifications.</p>			<p>when documents are generated to the tribe, it will print on them so cases can be identified quickly. This has continued and has improved identifying cases in a timely manner</p> <p>Paying parents requesting write off of debt owed to STTP will be referred to Martina Garcia. STTP is currently in the process of establishing guidelines for possible consideration of write off of Tribal debt.</p> <p>DCS Conference Board attorney, Christi Jackson, is willing to do a presentation as to types of case specific things she looks for when considering debt write off requests for state debt, if STTP is interested.</p> <p>STTP debt write off is still in progress. This will take time as proposals will need to be approved by tribal council</p>

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<p>3) Maintain good case management communication.</p>	<p>Timely communication is critical to effective case management for both DCS and STTP:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) TANF open/close information is critical to accurate case management. Staff may send TANF referrals and closures by email to spotribal@dshs.wa.gov 2) Sharing other household composition changes is also important (newborn added to grant, emancipation, child out of household, new court order, etc). 3) Both programs need to know if a child is receiving SSI. Information from STTP will be sent to spoktribal@dshs.wa.gov Information from DCS will be sent to the STTP Caseworker. When a child is identified as an SSI recipient, DCS will adjust debt to accurately account for any support owed or paid on behalf of the SSI child separately from support owed or paid for other siblings on TANF. 4) The tribe is concerned with the release of license certification actions. DCS will negotiate with all clients in an attempt to release the certification and collect child support. DCS will release the certification of any license while the individual is receiving Tribal TANF or Tribal GA. 	<p>Child support debt owed to the Tribe is reflected more accurately with fewer manual adjustments.</p> <p>Barriers are removed as necessary</p> <p>Tribal sovereignty is respected</p>	<p>Yvette Buckley – STOI Martina Garcia –STOI Bobbie Williams – STOI Luanne Ferguson – STOI Samantha Dillion - STOI</p> <p>Amanda James – DCS Mike Brakel – DCS Michelle Martin - DCS</p> <p>Target Date: June 2026</p>	<p>(Progress Status Item #1) DCS TL's continue to communicate with STTP case managers through phone and email contact regarding referrals and closures. It is helpful to know the reason for closure so DCS can determine if continuation of services is necessary. Temporary closures due to a custodial parent receiving a per capita payment is also helpful so money collected will be disbursed directly to the custodian when not receiving Tribal TANF benefits.</p> <p>A Monthly TANF Approved report along with the Monthly Case Closure report is sent to DCS monthly to aid record accuracy.</p> <p>STTP Caseworkers can email referrals/closures directly spotribal@dshs.wa.gov. This will ensure the referrals are processed in a timely manner as this inbox is monitored by all Spokane DCS Tribal Liaisons</p>

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	<p>5) If DCS fails to serve an individual residing on the reservation by Certified Mail Restricted Delivery, the Tribe's preferred alternate method is for DCS to request Service of Process through the Spokane Tribal Police Department.</p>			<p>In 2024, DCS only had to request one return payment.</p> <p>(Progress Status Item #2) Information sharing about household composition and life events that affect child support is important in maintaining case data integrity and disbursing payments correctly. STTP has been providing this information and communication is going well.</p> <p>(Progress Status Item #3) SSA recipients are coded in the Tribal TANF household because SSA is counted as income for the household. SSI recipients are not coded in the Tribal TANF household. No new cases with regards to children receiving SSI benefits were identified this year.</p> <p>(Progress Status item #4) DCS continues to receive monthly Active Tribal GA listing each month and cross references with any active cases. If an active Tribal GA recipient has a case with DCS and license is</p>

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				<p>certified, it is immediately released.</p> <p>DCS may also be able to assist with modifications for paying parents that are receiving Tribal GA benefits.</p> <p>(Progress Status Item #5) Service of individuals through the Spokane Tribal Police process is working very well. DCS has utilized their assistance on 3 times in 2024.</p>
<p>4) Opportunity for Tribal Court to order withholding of wages.</p>	<p>Should DCS be unable to obtain a voluntary wage assignment by a non-Tribal member employed by the Spokane Tribe, Tribal Enterprise or an Indian owned business located on the reservation, DCS can obtain a garnishment order by using a Tribal Civil Complaint Form and sending it to the Tribal Court Clerk for Judicial Review at: Bldg 268, Agency Square, PO Box 225, Wellpinit WA 99040.</p>	<p>Tribal Court orders would assist in child support being received by the custodians and/or STTP.</p>	<p>Amanda James - DCS</p> <p>Target Date: June 2026</p>	<p>This item will need Tribal Leadership approval. Office of Indian Policy (OIP) and DCS Tribal Relations Team will need to meet with Tribal Leadership to discuss DCS representation in Tribal Court.</p> <p>No change in status update at this time.</p>

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<p>5) Continue implementation of agreed protocol on the handling of child support issues in Spokane County Superior Court family law cases where a party receives or has received Spokane Tribal TANF benefits.</p>	<p>DCS and the Tribe have agreed to the following protocol:</p> <p>When the judge or commissioner becomes aware that TANF benefits are being paid to one of the parties, the judge will notify Debby Kurbitz of the Prosecutor's Office, if not already involved.</p> <p>If it is unclear to the Prosecutor's office whether the TANF benefits being paid are State or Tribal in origin, the Prosecutor will contact the Spokane DCS Tribal Unit to verify the source of the grant.</p> <p>If it is determined that Spokane Tribal TANF benefits are being paid to one of the parties, Ms. Kurbits will notify Joni Wynecoop, Spokane Tribe Executive Director. The Spokane Tribal TANF client will have an interest in the Order of Child Support.</p> <p>Ms. Kurbitz, as attorney for DCS, may have a separate interest in establishing the medical support obligation, since the Tribal TANF client receives medial assistance from the State of Washington in conjunction with Tribal TANF benefits.</p> <p>Ms. Kurbits will make sure that the proposed Order of Child Support has a signature line for the Spokane Tribal TANF</p>	<p>The Tribe has the opportunity to be heard on child support issues in Spokane Superior Court family law cases in which the Tribe has an interest because Tribal TANF benefits have been or are being paid on behalf of a party.</p>	<p>Amanda James – DCS</p> <p>Debby Kurbits (509) 477-2486 Spokane County Prosecutor's Office</p> <p>Joni Wynecoop Deputy Director (509) 458-6500 (reception) Spokane Tribe of Indians</p> <p>Target Date: June 2026</p>	<p>No changes to this process</p> <p>There were no cases in 2024 where this process needed to be followed.</p> <p>Spokane Prosecutor's office does contact DCS TL's when they see that there maybe tribal affiliation with a case prior to taking any action.</p>

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	<p>Program (STTP) separate from Ms. Kurbit's signature line on behalf of DCS. Upon notification to STTP, all the interested parties will either agree and sign off on the Order, or not agree, at which point all the parties, including STTP will be notified of a contested (or presentment) hearing, and after hearing from the parties who appear at the hearing, the judge or commissioner will enter the Order.</p> <p>If an attorney for STTP does not appear at the contested (or presentment) hearing, the judge or commissioner will not enter the Order, unless there is proof, by certificate of mailing, of having served Ms. Wynecoop with a copy of the proposed Order (according to the time required for the particular Order) and of having served Ms. Wynecoop with adequate notice of the hearing.</p> <p>The address and contact numbers for Ms. Wynecoop are as follows:</p> <p>Joni Wynecoop Deputy Director Spokane Tribe of Indians PO Box 100 Wellpinit, WA 99040</p> <p>(509) 458-6500 (receptionist)</p>			

CONTACT INFORMATION SPOKANE TRIBE

TRIBE			
Yvette Buckley	Spokane Tribal TANF Director	509-458-6516	yvetteb@spokanetribe.com
Bobbi Williams	Site Manager/Acting Tribal TANF Director – Wellpinit Office	509-458-8012	bobbiw@spokanetribe.com
Luanne Ferguson	Site Manager – Spokane Office	509-818-1416	luanne.ferguson@spokanetribe.com
Martina Garcia	Accounting Assistant	509-818-1423	martina.garcia@spokanetribe.com
Samantha Dillon	Lead Caseworker – Wellpinit Office	509-458-8003	samanthad@spokanetribe.com
Samantha Brisbois	Caseworker – Wellpinit Office	509-458-8013	sam.b@spokanetribe.com
Virla Crowshoe	Caseworker – Wellpinit Office	509-458-8019	virla.allen@spokanetribe.com
Deb Brisbois	Intake Caseworker – Spokane Office	509-818-1411	debb@spokanetribe.com
Donna Pascal	Caseworker – Spokane Office	509-818-1406	donnap@spokanetribe.com
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Karen Eyre-William	Caseworker – Spokane Office	509-818-1412	karene@spokanetribe.com
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Katherine Fernandez	Civil Court Clerk	509-606-7797	katherine.fernandez@spokanetribe.com or courtclerk@spokanetribe.com
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Robi Flett	Career Development Specialist- Wellpinit Site	509-458-8011	robi.flett@spokanetribe.com
Vicki Raymond	Enrollment	509-458-6500 ext 6523	vickir@spokanetribe.com
Donnie Lebret	MistequaCasino HR	509-935-6167 ext 236	donnie.lebret@mistequa.com
Ceece Corwin	Spokane Casino HR Director	509-818-1534	ceece.corwin@spokanetribecasino.com
Denise Abrahamson	Spokane Enterprises HR	509-458-6578	denise@spokoenterprises.com
Empero Corral	Spokane Tribe HR Generalist	509-458-6576	empero.bougeau@spokanetribe.com
	Spokane Tribal Police	509-258-4569	dispatch@sirpd.com

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR STATE OF WASHINGTON

DSHS			
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Tim Hanson	Child Support Program Manager, Spokane Field Office (DCS)	509-363-4902	timothy.hanson@dshs.wa.gov
Courtney Dale	Tribal Team Supervisor, Spokane Field Office (DCS)	509-363-4920	courtney.dale@dshs.wa.gov
Amanda James	Lead Support Enforcement Officer, Tribal Liaison (DCS)	509-363-5050	amanda.james@dshs.wa.gov
Jessica Blake	Lead Support Enforcement Officer, Tribal Liaison (DCS)	509-363-5043	jessica.blake@dshs.wa.gov
Michelle Martin	Support Enforcement Officer, Tribal Liaison (DCS)	509-363-4962	michelle.martin@dshs.wa.gov
Mike Brakel	Support Enforcement Officer, Tribal Liaison (DCS)	509-363-4975	michael.brakel@dshs.wa.gov
Chris Franks	Senior Manager of Tribal Relations (DCS)	360-664-5031	christopher.franks@dshs.wa.gov
Jim Sugden	Program Administrator of Tribal Relations (DCS)	509-934-5466	james.sugden@dshs.wa.gov
Kristin Krolkowski	Program Administrator of Tribal Relations (DCS)	360-890-1654	kristin.krolkowski@dshs.wa.gov
Janet Gone	Regional Manager, Office of Indian Policy	509-406-3679	Janet.gone@dshs.wa.gov

CRITERIA USED FOR CASES TO BE INCLUDED IN DCS SPOKANE TRIBAL CASELOAD

Paying parent, also referred to as the Non Custodian Parent or “NCP”, is an enrolled member of Spokane Tribe of Indians

NCP is employed with Spokane Tribe of Indians, tribal business or enterprise (it does not matter if the parent is native or non-native)

Receiving parent/caretaker, also referred to as the Custodian Parent or “CP”, is receiving Spokane Tribal TANF benefits

Historical Goals not Actively Being Pursued

Goals/Objectives	Completed/Historical Items	Outcome
Continue current working relationship and procedures.	At the weekly meeting 07/31/19, it was decided since STOI does not have a IV-D program and DCS is enforcing their cases, STOI would follow the State's policies on special circumstances where it is ok to close cases. DCS will not be writing off debt or forgiving debt owed to the tribe, but only following closure policies (some examples are permanently disabled, the one-time SSI project, long term incarceration past child's minority, etc.)	This item is completed, process has been implemented.