

Date updated: February 14, 2025

- ☒ Draft Plan  
☐ Final Plan

### DSHS Policy 7.01 Plan

July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 Annual Plan and Progress Report  
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation/UIO and  
ESA: Division of Child Support (DCS), Region 3, Olympia 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: 03/22/2024

Implementation Plan				Progress Report																																										
(1) Goals/Objectives	(2) Activities	(3) Expected Outcome	(4) Lead Staff and Target Date	(5) Status Update																																										
1) Provide child support services to the Chehalis Tribe. Provide information regarding our services to Chehalis tribal staff.	Olympia tribal team works all cases for Chehalis tribal members and employees of the Chehalis tribe.	Services provided as appropriate.  Members and employees of the Chehalis tribe can expect to interact with knowledgeable staff.	Jaci Johnson Melissa Kover Natalia Guenther Frances Pickernell Amy DeHart Heather Hoyle  <b>Target Date:</b> Annually	All Chehalis associated cases are assigned to Natalia Guenther.  The Chehalis Tribe child support caseload currently has open cases involving 31 non-custodial parents (NCP’s) whom self-identify as Chehalis members.  Attached is a chart showing child support collections from 7/2024 – 12/2024 (most recent collection data). The Division of Child Support will provide a child support collections report on an annual basis. <table><tr><th>Month</th><th>Monthly support obligation</th><th>Current support collected</th><th>Arrears collected</th><th># of NCPs</th><th># of NCPs paying</th></tr><tr><td>Jul-2024</td><td>\$ 7,976.30</td><td>\$ 4,840.30</td><td>\$ 3,440.10</td><td>37</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>Aug-2024</td><td>\$ 7,776.30</td><td>\$ 4,294.05</td><td>\$ 1,772.67</td><td>36</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>Sep-2024</td><td>\$ 7,918.41</td><td>\$ 4,519.30</td><td>\$ 2,508.63</td><td>36</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>Oct-2024</td><td>\$ 8,067.41</td><td>\$ 4,864.71</td><td>\$ 1,238.58</td><td>34</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Nov-2024</td><td>\$ 8,067.41</td><td>\$ 4,382.56</td><td>\$ 2,628.86</td><td>31</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>Dec-2024</td><td>\$ 8,067.41</td><td>\$ 5,651.98</td><td>\$ 2,250.42</td><td>31</td><td>11</td></tr></table> The Chehalis tribal caseload also includes non-tribal NCPs whom are employed by the Chehalis tribe.	Month	Monthly support obligation	Current support collected	Arrears collected	# of NCPs	# of NCPs paying	Jul-2024	\$ 7,976.30	\$ 4,840.30	\$ 3,440.10	37	14	Aug-2024	\$ 7,776.30	\$ 4,294.05	\$ 1,772.67	36	14	Sep-2024	\$ 7,918.41	\$ 4,519.30	\$ 2,508.63	36	12	Oct-2024	\$ 8,067.41	\$ 4,864.71	\$ 1,238.58	34	10	Nov-2024	\$ 8,067.41	\$ 4,382.56	\$ 2,628.86	31	11	Dec-2024	\$ 8,067.41	\$ 5,651.98	\$ 2,250.42	31	11
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	Provide direct access to Olympia tribal team via dedicated toll free number 866-850-1496.	Chehalis members' calls are automatically routed to the tribal team.	The direct contact for Chehalis Tribe is:  Natalia Guenther  <b>Target Date:</b> On Demand	Chehalis caseload calls are directed to Natalia Guenther. If Natalia is unavailable, those calls are taken by other tribal liaisons in the Olympia office.
<b>2) Ensure Communication with Chehalis Tribe for information sharing, joint planning and problem solving.</b>	Meet annually or as requested to update the 7.01 plan.	To ensure Chehalis tribe is informed about child support issues and enable problem solving.	Frances Pickernell Amy DeHart Heather Hoyle Jacqueline Johnson Melissa Kover Natalia Guenther  <b>Target Date:</b> Review Annually	The Chehalis tribe has yet to schedule a date with DCS for the annual 7.01 meeting for 2025 – 2026 plan year.  The Chehalis Tribe last met with DCS for the annual 7.01 meeting on 3/22/2024.
<b>3) Identify needs of American Indian clients &amp; communities and whether current programs and policies meet these needs.</b>	The Olympia Tribal Team is committed to meeting with the Chehalis tribal staff and Chehalis tribal clients for outreach to be available to Tribal members and Tribal staff to resolve any child support issues, help with paperwork etc.  The Division of Child Support is interested in participating in events such as resource fairs, health fairs or other events held to benefit the Chehalis community. The Chehalis tribe may notify DCS of upcoming	Complete outreach efforts to ensure cultural awareness and that the current programs and policies meet these needs.  Participation in outreach will assist tribal members with being more comfortable working with child support.	Natalia Guenther Frances Pickernell  <b>Target Date:</b> On Demand	DCS is willing to provide direct services and outreach at the tribe for Chehalis members on a monthly or quarterly basis.  Olympia tribal team looks forward to participating in future Chehalis community events that we are invited to.

(1) Goals/Objectives	(2) Activities	(3) Expected Outcome	(4) Lead Staff and Target Date	(5) Status Update
	events that they would like DCS to participate in.			
<b>4) The Division of Child Support and the Chehalis Tribe will share training and educational opportunities.</b>	<p>Educating Chehalis tribal staff on child support issues so they can better address concerns and questions from community members.</p> <p>The Division of Child Support is willing to provide “Child Support 101” training to Chehalis tribal staff and the Chehalis community.</p>	Chehalis staff will be better equipped to counsel community members regarding their child support issues. Chehalis tribal community members will have a better understanding of how support is calculated and options available to them such as modification, conference board write-offs etc.	<p>Natalia Guenther</p> <p><b>Target Date:</b> On Demand</p>	
<b>5) The Division of Child Support is willing to partner with the Chehalis Tribe in developing strategies aimed at increasing the number of tribal members paying toward their child support obligation.</b>	The Division of Child Support is willing to meet with the Chehalis social services staff to discuss strategies that result in increasing the amount of child support received each month.	Increase in the number of non-custodial parents supporting their children with child support payments.	<p>Natalia Guenther</p> <p><b>Target Date:</b> On Demand</p>	

### CONTACT INFORMATION CHEHALIS TRIBE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>E-Mail</i>
Frances Pickernell	Social Services Director	360-709-1754	fpickernell@chehalis tribe.org
Amy DeHart	Family Services Coordinator	360-709-1750	amendoza@chehalis tribe.org

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR STATE OF WASHINGTON**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>
Jacqueline Johnson	District Manager	360-664-6978	Jacqueline.johnson@dshs.wa.gov
Melissa Kover	Tribal Team Supervisor	360-664-6876	Melissa.kover2@dshs.wa.gov
Natalia Guenther	Tribal Liaison	360-664-6859	Natalia.guenther@dshs.wa.gov
Heather Hoyle	Region 3 Manager South – OIP	360-522-6018	Heather.hoyle@dshs.wa.gov

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

- A tribal case includes, at the minimum, one **or** more of the following:
  - A noncustodial parent (NCP) who is a member of a federally recognized Washington tribe.
  - An NCP who is not a member of a federally recognized Washington tribe, but is employed by the tribe, a tribal enterprise, or an Indian owned business located on a reservation or trust land in Washington, if:
    - An enforceable order exists, or
    - An enforceable order does not exist, but the Tribal Liaison recommended including the case in a tribal caseload.
  - A party included under a cooperative child support agreement with DCS.
  - A party receiving program services from a Washington:
    - Tribal TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) program.
    - Tribal IV-D program.
  - Paternity needs to be established and CP is a member of a Washington Tribe with a Tribal IV-D program.
  - Cases associated with a Washington tribal TANF case.
  - A Washington tribal TANF arrears-only case.
- A case involving other tribal connections.
  - Such as: One or more parties are members of a tribe. The NCP, CP or child has a tribal surname. The NCP, CP or child lives on or near a reservation. The NCP has a tribal employer. The NCP or CP has tribal income or assets. The NCP, CP or child receives tribal services. The tribe has a IV-D, TANF or foster care program. A CP has an associated tribal TANF arrears only case. The child was conceived on an Indian reservation. The child is potentially eligible for tribal enrollment. There is an existing tribal court order. DCS has a cooperative agreement or informal process with the tribe. A party receives Indian Health Services benefits.

## Historical Goals not Actively Being Pursued

(1) Plan Year	(2) Activities	(3) Expected Outcome	(4) Lead Staff and Target Date	(5) Status Update
2017 - 2018	Continue to provide child support services to the Chehalis Tribe. Provide information regarding our services to tribal staff.	Outreach	Eric Stender	The Division of Child Support discontinued monthly outreach at the Chehalis Reservation in 2017. DCS participated in the Chehalis Tribe's 2017 Health Fair and 2017 Resource Fair.
	Attaching Chehalis per capita payments to pay child support arrears.		Eric Stender	Per capita funds belonging to eleven Chehalis non-custodial parents were successfully attached in 2017.
2018 – 2019	Meet the needs of Chehalis Tribal members by providing outreach.	Outreach	Eric Stender	In 2018, there were several occasions when Eric met with clients residing on the reservation.
	Attaching Chehalis per capita payments to pay child support arrears.		Eric Stender	Per capita funds belonging to eight Chehalis non-custodial parents were successfully attached in 2018.
2019 – 2020	Meet the needs of Chehalis Tribal members by providing outreach.	Outreach	Eric Stender	In 2019, there were several occasions when Eric met with clients residing on the reservation.
	Attaching Chehalis per capita payments to pay child support arrears.		Eric Stender	Per capita funds belonging to eight Chehalis non-custodial parents were successfully attached in 2019.
2020 – 2021	Meet the needs of Chehalis Tribal members by providing outreach.	Outreach	Eric Stender	COVID
2021 – 2022	Meet the needs of Chehalis Tribal members by providing outreach.	Outreach	Eric Stender	COVID

2022 – 2023	Meet the needs of Chehalis Tribal members by providing outreach.	Outreach	Eric Stender	COVID
2023 – 2024	Meet the needs of Chehalis Tribal members by providing outreach.	Outreach	Eric Stender	Eric reports no outreach was requested during this period 7/2023 – 2/2024. Stephanie is the new tribal liaison effective 3/2024.
	DCS will meet with Chehalis Tribe and work to increase the visibility of DCS liaisons and programs.	Meet & Greet	Stephanie Silberlicht Melissa Kover Heather Hoyle	On 6/5/2024, Heather, Stephanie and Melissa attended a meet and greet with Ryan Lyle APS case manager.
2024 – 2025	Meet the needs of Chehalis Tribal members by providing outreach.	Outreach	Stephanie Silberlicht Natalia Guenther	Stephanie reports no outreach was requested for period 7/2024 – 12/2024. Natalia Guenther is the new tribal liaison effective 1/2025.