

DCS Tribal Relations

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Economic Services Administration • Division of Child Support

Program Description

The Division of Child Support recognizes tribal sovereignty and promotes government-to-government relationships with the 29 federally recognized Indian tribes in Washington state. Relationships founded on trust and mutual respect have led to increased understanding, shared vision and improved services to children and families. DCS works with tribes, Urban Indian Organizations, stakeholders and partners to develop and deliver programs, policy and services that meet the needs of Native families in a culturally appropriate manner.

The Tribal Relations Team

- Facilitates DCS' government-to-government commitments to Indian tribes that help to build and strengthen relationships with tribes and tribal programs, partners and stakeholders.
- Coordinates American Indian Policy (DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01) planning for DCS.
- Encourages tribal input on proposed DCS legislation, policy and documentation, and advocates for policies, procedures and laws that respect tribal sovereignty.
- Provides culturally sensitive guidance and resources that educate staff and partners to recognize and honor tribal jurisdiction.
- Drafts, negotiates and monitors Federal Treasury Offset Agreements with seven tribes (including the Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska) as well as DSHS data-sharing agreements with 13 Tribal TANF and Child Support programs.
- Supports the efforts of 30+ DCS Tribal Liaisons who serve statewide as regional contacts to tribes and UIOs, provide outreach and represent DCS at policy meetings, tribal events, conferences and other cultural gatherings.

Highlights

- During Washington state's Fiscal Year 2023, child support collections on DCS' tribal cases exceeded \$8.2 million.
- Child support programs from across the nation continue to recognize DCS for its willingness to effectively partner with tribes in and around Washington.
- To better serve customers and improve our intergovernmental interactions, a DCS pilot project is underway for DCS' Tribal Liaisons to manage cases referred to DCS by out-of-state tribal child support programs.

More information:

Chris Franks, DCS Tribal Relations Team

Phone: 360.664.5031

Email: chris.franks@dshs.wa.gov



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

Transforming lives

(8/2023)