

Community Services Division Tribal Relations

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Economic Services Administration • Community Services Division

Program Description

The Department of Social and Health Services Economic Services Administration's Community Services Division supports government-to-government relationships with Washington tribes. CSD focuses on recognizing tribal sovereignty in developing and delivering programs and services consistent with the Centennial Accord and DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01, American Indian Policy.

CSD shares information and collaborates with tribes and Urban Indian Organizations at the Indian Policy Advisory Committee, the ESA IPAC subcommittee, DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01 meetings and other meetings. Additionally, CSD partners with all federally recognized tribes and UIOs in Washington state to share information, discuss and resolve issues, provide training and coordinate services. To do this effectively, the CSD tribal relations program administrator serves as the lead resource regarding Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs and provides technical assistance and guidance to state and tribal leadership and staff.

CSD has oversight and program development responsibilities for the state's TANF program and other public assistance and related employment and training programs. As such, CSD works government-to-government with 11 Tribal TANF programs involving 16 federally recognized tribes, who provide direct oversight for their Tribal TANF programs. Tribal TANF programs are designed to address the specific and unique needs of American Indian and Alaskan Native families within their service areas. Washington provides a fair and equitable share of State Maintenance of Effort, or MOE, funds to Tribal TANF programs per RCW 74.08A.040. CSD negotiates Intergovernmental TANF Agreements, Operating Agreements and Data Share Agreements with Tribal TANF programs.

Highlights

- Effective July 1, 2023, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service approved Washington State Department of Social and Health Services' request to expand the Tribal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Eligibility Determination Demonstration Project to five additional tribal nations.
- Two additional tribal nations in Washington state have formally expressed interest to the Administration for Children & Families and DSHS to operate a tribal TANF program.

Tribal TANF Programs

- Colville Confederated Tribes (2001)
- Quinault Indian Nation (2001)
- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (1998)
- Lummi Nation (2007)
- Nooksack Indian Tribe (2005)
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (1998)
- Spokane Tribe of Indians (2003)
- South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency: Nisqually, Squaxin Island, Skokomish (2004), Shoalwater Bay (2019) and tribal members on the Puyallup Reservation
- Quileute Nation (2001)
- Tulalip Tribes (2005)
- Upper Skagit Indian Tribe (2007)

More information:

Mary Anderson, Tribal Relations Program Administrator

Phone: 360.628.6442

Email: mary.anderson@dshs.wa.gov



Washington State
Department of Social
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