

**Aging and Long-Term Support Administration**  
**050 - M2 - EB - CONTINUE TRIBAL KINSHIP NAVIGATOR**

Agency Submittal: 11-2017-19-YR Agency Req

Budget Period: 2017-19

**SUMMARY**

Tribal kinship caregivers are in need of information and assistance that directs them to services and support to assist in raising kin children in their care. \$958,000 (\$480,000 GF-State) and 0.5 FTE is required to continue the Tribal Kinship Navigator program in the Colville Indian Reservation, Yakama Nation, and six other tribal areas while also continuing support for additional tribal members to receive services through the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). This service is instrumental in keeping children within their families and community. Many caregivers live on low incomes and are geographically isolated, leading to difficulty in accessing information. This lack of support leaves children vulnerable to suboptimal care and being placed in the formal child welfare system, including foster care.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Grandparents or other relatives often step in to raise children when parents are unable. Many caregivers live on limited incomes, are overwhelmed, isolated and do not know where to turn for support and information to keep the children safe and well cared for. These problems are heightened when the children have special needs associated with earlier trauma in their lives. The needed supports are especially critical in tribal areas where elders and other relatives are more often responsible for kin children. Without this support, families are less able to provide ongoing care and the child is at greater risk for entering the formal child welfare system, including foster care.

**PROPOSED SOLUTION**

Funding is requested to continue the Tribal Kinship Navigator Program in the Colville Indian Reservation, Yakama Nation, and six other tribal areas while continuing support for other AAAs to serve tribes in their vicinity. The funding was provided as one-time funding in FY17 and this request is to continue that program into the 2017-19 biennium and ongoing. This includes 4.0 FTE contracted Kinship Navigator positions along with 0.5 FTE to manage the Kinship program, which is now a \$2 million annual program with the recent addition of the Tribal Kinship Navigators.

**EXPECTED RESULTS**

By funding this request, kinship caregivers will have access to information and services in their local tribal communities. As kinship families are often unaware of available supports, Kinship Navigators provide crucial links between the caregivers and services. These critical links help reduce stress and create more stable environments to help keep children out of the child welfare system; allowing more children to remain with their families which is a preferred alternative to entering the foster care system.

If this request is not approved, caregivers will continue to encounter difficulty in accessing essential information about services that would assist them in caring for their relative. This could have a negative impact on the quality of care the child receives and could ultimately result in the child being placed in the formal child welfare system rather than



**DSHS VISION**

People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

**DSHS MISSION**

To transform lives

**DSHS VALUES**

Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

**050 - M2 - EB - Continue Tribal Kinship Navigator**

remaining with their family and community. The costs of caring for a child in foster care are greater than those of providing services to assist families in caring for their kin children.

Children eligible for these services are highly vulnerable members of our society. By funding this request, the state will meet its commitment to care for the most vulnerable among us.

**STAKEHOLDER IMPACT**

This proposal is expected to have support from Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), tribal governments, kinship advocates including the WA State Kinship Care Oversight Committee, elder advocates, and providers of other services. There is no known opposition.

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Program Contact: Susan Engels, (360) 725-2527

OTHER CONNECTIONS

Performance Outcomes/Important Connections

**1. Does this DP provide essential support to one or more of the Governor's Results Washington priorities?**

Goal 4: Healthy and Safe Communities - Fostering the health of Washingtonians for a healthy start to a safe and supported future.

**2. The decision package meets the following DSHS' strategic objectives:**

1.1: Protect adults who are vulnerable who live in their own homes and in facilities through timely responses to allegations of abuse and neglect.

**3. Identify other important connections or impacts below.** (Indicate 'Yes' or 'No'. If 'Yes' identify the connections or impacts related to the proposal.)

- a) Regional/County impacts? Yes, most AAAs are operated by a coalition of local or county governments.
- b) Other local government impacts? No
- c) Tribal government impacts? Yes, this program serves tribal members directly through both the kinship navigator positions in the Colville, Yakama, and six other tribal areas as well as through the AAAs that serve other tribes.
- d) Other state agency impacts? No
- e) Responds to specific task force, report, mandate or executive order? No
- f) Does request contain a compensation change or require changes to a Collective Bargaining Agreement? No
- g) Facility/workplace needs or impacts? No
- h) Capital budget impacts? No
- i) Is change required to existing statutes, rules or contracts? No
- j) Is the request related to litigation? No
- k) Is the request related to Puget Sound recovery? No
- l) Other important connections? N/A

**4. Please provide a detailed discussion of connections/impacts identified above.**

Eight Tribes submitted a Tribal Navigator Proposal, along with a letter of commitment to conduct a Tribal Navigator Program for FY 2017.

The Kinship Navigator Program in an effective intergenerational program; it impacts both the children who are being provided a more stable home setting, as well as supporting the kinship caregivers. More than one-half of

**050 - M2 - EB - Continue Tribal Kinship Navigator**

grandparents within Tribal communities are responsible for their grandchildren (2011-13 American Community Survey). In Washington's 2007 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System – Centers for Disease Control (BRFSS) survey, it was determined that kinship caregivers experienced much greater health risk than other family caregivers. For older grandparents and relatives, the stress of caring for young children, accompanied by their own health difficulties, can be overwhelming and can result in stress-related illnesses (Generations United). Through the Tribal Navigator Program, relatives are also encouraged and instructed on how to increase their own self-care.

The Tribal Navigator Program, operated by tribes in service areas of AAAs that do not currently have a Kinship Navigator Program, will allow for more kinship caregivers to be served in these underserved areas.

**Alternatives/Consequences/Other**

**5. What alternatives were explored by the agency, and why was this alternative chosen?**

Nine Washington counties do not have access to a Kinship Navigator available through the AAAs. Multiple tribes in these areas do not have the resources needed for designated Kinship staff to provide trusted referrals to concrete services related to financial, health, educational, respite, legal, along with other basic needs. The new Tribal Kinship Navigator Program with eight participating tribes would be an effective way to help fill the gap in navigator services so that greater numbers of tribal caregivers can receive the support and assistance they need in raising their kin children.

**6. How has or can the agency address the issue or need within its current appropriation level?**

If funding is not provided to continue the program, the Tribal Kinship Navigator program in Colville Indian Reservation, Yakama Nation, and six other tribal areas will no longer be provided.

**7. Does this decision package include funding for any IT-related costs (hardware, software, services, cloud-based services, contracts or IT staff)?**

- No**
- Yes (Include an IT Addendum)**

**Fiscal Detail****050 - M2 - EB - Continue Tribal Kinship Navigator**

<b>Operating Expenditures</b>	<b><u>FY 2018</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2019</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2020</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2021</u></b>
001-1 General Fund-State	240,000	240,000	240,000	240,000
001-C General Fund-Medicaid	239,000	239,000	239,000	239,000
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>479,000</b>	<b>479,000</b>	<b>479,000</b>	<b>479,000</b>
<b>Staffing</b>	<b><u>FY 2018</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2019</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2020</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2021</u></b>
FTEs	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5

**Performance Measure Detail**

Activity:	Incremental Changes			
	<b><u>FY 2018</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2019</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2020</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2021</u></b>
<b>Program: 050</b>				
E051 Program Support for Long Term Care	0	0	0	0
No measures submitted for package				

**Object Detail**

	<b><u>FY 2018</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2019</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2020</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2021</u></b>
A Salaries and Wages	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
B Employee Benefits	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
E Goods and Other Services	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
G Travel	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
N Grants, Benefits, and Client Services	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
TZ Intra-agency Reimbursements	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
<b>Total Objects</b>	<b>479,000</b>	<b>479,000</b>	<b>479,000</b>	<b>479,000</b>

**DSHS Source Detail****Overall Funding**

<b>Operating Expenditures</b>	<b><u>FY 2018</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2019</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2020</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2021</u></b>
<b>Fund 001-1, General Fund-State</b>				
<b>Sources Title</b>				
0011 General Fund State	240,000	240,000	240,000	240,000
<b>Total for Fund 001-1</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>240,000</b>
<b>Fund 001-C, General Fund-Medicaid</b>				
<b>Sources Title</b>				
19UL Title XIX Admin (50%)	239,000	239,000	239,000	239,000
<b>Total for Fund 001-C</b>	<b>239,000</b>	<b>239,000</b>	<b>239,000</b>	<b>239,000</b>
<b>Total Overall Funding</b>	<b>479,000</b>	<b>479,000</b>	<b>479,000</b>	<b>479,000</b>