



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration  
PO Box 45050, Olympia, WA 98504-5050

November 24, 2020

Dear Tribal Leader,

The Department of Social and Health Services, Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (AL TSA) values the partnership and collaboration with federally recognized tribes in Washington state in support of elders and individuals with disabilities to live with good health, independence, dignity and control over decisions that affect their lives.

Governor Inslee signed into law the Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Trust Act in 2019. The LTSS Trust is an employee-funded public insurance program that can help individuals needing assistance with activities of daily living delay entry into the Medicaid LTSS system. The program will enable eligible individuals to purchase services and supports such as in-home personal care, adult day services, adaptive equipment, home modifications, dementia supports and more – up to a lifetime maximum of \$36,500.

Current legislation does not include an opt-in option for tribal employers. It is estimated that tribal enterprises employ approximately 31,000 individuals who will not have access to the program without new legislation supporting a tribal opt-in.

AL TSA is inviting tribal representatives to participate in a virtual work group to discuss an opt-in pathway for tribes that would enable employees of tribal enterprises to participate in this new program. Tribal representatives in the workgroup will assist the Department of Social and Health Services, the Employment Security Department, and the Health Care Authority in understanding tribal concerns and practical insights regarding access to the program and the next steps for potential tribal roundtables and consultation. The first workgroup meeting will be scheduled after the January 2021 IPAC meeting.

If you or a tribal enterprise representative is interested in participating in the workgroup, contact Andrea Meewes Sanchez at [Andrea.MeewesSanchez@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:Andrea.MeewesSanchez@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Bill Moss, Assistant Secretary  
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration  
*Transforming Lives*

cc: Marietta Bobba, DSHS AL TSA  
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