May 29, 2018

Dear Tribal Leader,

SUBJECT: Funding opportunity for the development of culturally relevant Tribal Respite Provider Agencies through Lifespan Respite Washington.

The Department of Social and Health Services, Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (ALTSA) has a new opportunity to increase respite service options tailored to the needs of American Indians/Alaskan Natives and their caregivers. ALTSA was awarded an Administration for Community Living Lifespan Respite: Advancing State Lifespan Respite Systems Grant. The goal of the grant is to strengthen Washington’s respite system to become more sustainable while expanding to specialized populations, including American Indians/Alaskan Natives. Respite services support unpaid caregivers so they are able to take needed breaks from the demands of caregiving.

The competitive solicitation enclosed is seeking Federally Recognized Tribes, Recognized American Indian Organizations (RAIOs), and Tribal Coalitions of Federally recognized Tribes/RAIOs to support and expand the current lifespan respite voucher program to tribal communities. The successful bidder will work with the statewide Lifespan Respite Washington host agency to identify, develop and increase culturally relevant Respite Provider Agencies and develop outreach methods to expand access to the program. Attachment A has information regarding Lifespan Respite Washington and the respite voucher process. ALTSA will contract with up to five (5) successful bidders.

Complete details on the application process and timelines are included in the attached Request for Applications. ALTSA reserves the right to adjust funding levels subject to the number of applications received and availability of funds.

ALTSA will hold an information session on June 4, 2018 at 10:00 am to respond to questions. The conference call number is 360-407-3780 and PIN number 358141#.

All applications must be received by the ALTSA Tribal Affairs Administrator by July 2, 2018. Please contact Marietta Bobba, Tribal Affairs Administrator at 360-725-2618 or bobbam@dshs.wa.gov for more information.
Sincerely,

Bea Rector
Director, Home & Community Services

DSHS: Transforming Lives

Enclosure: Request for Applications for Lifespan Respite Expansion to Tribal Communities

Cc: IPAC Delegates
   Karen Fitzharris, ALTSA Project Director
   Marietta Bobba, ALTSA Tribal Affairs Administrator
   Ann Dahl, ALTSA MFPTI Project Manager
   Susan Engels, ALTSA State Unit on Aging Office Chief
   Justin Chan, DDA Tribal Liaison
   Tim Collins, DSHS OIP Director
   Brenda Francis-Thomas, DSHS OIP Regional Manger