

PART I: INTRODUCTION, ASSURANCES, CFS 101

(1) Introduction

**Children's Administration
Department of Social and Health Services**

Child and Family Services Plan: Introduction

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is the umbrella agency in Washington State charged with the administration and coordination of social and health services and financial assistance for both adults and children. The DSHS Children's Administration (CA) is the organizational unit responsible for the administration of public child welfare, including Title IV-B programs, Independent Living, and CAPTA.

Within DSHS, CA is being realigned in July 2004 into the following divisions: Field Operations, Practice Improvement, Management Services, Program and Policy, Field Operations, Management Services, External Affairs and Information Technology.

CA is responsible for a full continuum of public child welfare services for children and families in Washington State and administers child protection, child welfare, family reconciliation, Independent Living, adoption and licensing services through forty-four local offices in six geographic DSHS regions.

CA submits this Child and Family Services Plan for 2005-2009 as the federally required request for funds. The Plan is presented in four parts: Introduction, with the required assurances and request for funds, the Final Report for 2000-2004, the 2005-2009 Child and Family Services Plan, and Appendices.

The centerpiece of our 2005-2009 Child and Family Services Plan is CA's Strategic Plan, our integrated planning document which incorporates state requirements, federal requirements, and the priorities identified by Tribes, stakeholders, advisory committees, foster parents, foster children, management and staff. The Strategic Plan is a "living document," evolving over time and, as new priorities emerge, the plan will be updated to reflect those changes. First created in 2000, the Strategic Plan serves as:

- the heart of our Child and Family Services Plan,
- our seven year strategic plan,
- our biennial budget plan,
- our Quality Improvement Plan, and
- our plan for improving outcomes and meeting Child and Family Services Review requirements.

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