

## **State/Tribal Relations: Why is it Important?**

[Census statistics](#) show that the poverty rate in 2012 for single-race American Indians and Alaska Natives was **29.1%**--the highest of any race group. For ESA to achieve our mission "To transform lives by helping people build better lives", we must continue to focus on working in partnership with Washington's 29 federally recognized tribes to develop culturally relevant services. Culturally relevant services begin by recognizing Indian sovereignty and building government-to-government relationships with each tribe. Closing this poverty gap is critical in impacting the health and safety of American Indians and decreasing poverty rates in Washington. ESA's success in State/Tribal relations has resulted in intergovernmental agreements, and programs and services for American Indians consistent with the [Centennial Accord](#), [DSHS American Indian Administrative Policy 7.01](#), and [RCW 43.376](#). For some great training on Tribal Relations please see the Federal Office of Personnel Management online training "[Working Effectively with Tribal Governments](#)", the online *DSHS 7.01 Administrative Policy Training* (available through LMS), and the in-person Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) [Government to Government Training](#).

ESA staff have access to many great resources. Check out the public [DCS Tribal Relations Internet Website](#) which contains [Tribal Liaison Contact lists](#), [FAQs about Native Americans](#), [ESA 7.01 plans](#), [Child Support and TANF Agreements with Tribes](#), [a Map of Tribal IVA, IVD, and IVE Programs in WA State](#), pertinent state and federal laws and policy, and many other resources. The [State/Tribal Relations Intranet Page](#) contains information on [CSD Tribal Relations Contacts](#), [Tribal TANF Programs and Agreements](#), and other resources.