

Tribal Relations Team



We lead DCS's tribal relations efforts in partnership with DCS leaders, staff, and Tribes to improve the lives of children and families.

– *Our Mission*

DCS and Tribes – Bridging cultures to provide exceptional child support services.

– *Our Vision*



DCS Division of Child Support

Our History

For over two decades the Washington State Division of Child Support (DCS) and Indian Tribes have partnered together, learned from each other, and developed a variety of child support agreements and processes.

That effort began with a commitment to recognize the sovereignty of each Indian Tribe and understand each other's governments and issues concerning child support. Building and strengthening relationships is critical. Relationships founded on trust and mutual respect are investments that have led to increased understanding, shared vision, and improved services to children and families in Indian Country.

The Tribal Relations Team leads these efforts with over 25 statewide DCS Tribal Liaisons who manage specialized tribal caseloads and serve as key contacts for Tribes at a local level.

Our Goals

- Advocate for policies, procedures, and laws that respect tribal sovereignty
- Build and strengthen relationships, trust, and mutual respect with all Tribes and stakeholders
- Advance intergovernmental agreements, contracts, and processes
- Provide valuable and timely training, guidance, and resources to DCS staff, Tribes, and partners
- Develop innovative approaches to provide accessible and culturally relevant services

DCS Tribal Relations Team

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Olympia, WA 98507-9162

Toll Free: (800) 457-6202
Phone: (360) 664-5000
Fax: (360) 586-3274

Tribal Relations Website

www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/tribal

DCS Website and Field Offices

www.childsupportonline.wa.gov

Everett (800) 729-7580
(425) 438-4888

Fife (866) 243-4449
(253) 922-0454

Kennewick (800) 345-9981
(509) 374-2000

Olympia (866) 850-1496
(360) 664-6900

Seattle (800) 526-8658
(206) 341-7175

Spokane (800) 345-9982
(509) 363-5000

Tacoma (800) 345-9976
(253) 597-3700

Vancouver (800) 345-9984
(360) 696-6100

Wenatchee (800) 535-1113
(509) 886-6800

Yakima (800) 441-0859
(509) 249-6000



What are the Core Values of the Tribal Relations Team (TRT)?

Respect Sovereignty

We recognize and value the sovereign status of Tribes and communicate on a government-to-government level.

Relationships

We demonstrate the highest level of respect when working with Tribes, stakeholders, and partners. We seek direct, open communication that strengthens trust and confidence. We value community outreach.

Integrity

We strive to earn the trust and confidence of the people we work with through open, honest, and ethical interaction.

Growth & Development

We commit ourselves to the professional growth and development of those in our team and others.

Excellence

We commit to hold ourselves to the highest ethical and professional standards.

What Services can TRT Provide to You or Your Tribe?

- Serve as a statewide liaison and resource to Tribes
- Communicate critical information and seek tribal input regarding proposed policy, law, and organizational changes
- Negotiate and draft intergovernmental child support agreements and contracts regarding: comprehensive child support, Tribal TANF, federal tax offset, and computer system data sharing
- Outreach, training, and resource materials about child support services
- Technical assistance and presentations to Tribes interested in enhancing child support services or applying for federal child support funding
- Research and resolve child support policy and tribal case issues
- Publish informative documents, resources and information on the DCS Tribal Relations Website

What Information is on the DCS Tribal Relations Website?

Our site, located at www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/tribal is a comprehensive, user-friendly resource, that will connect you to:

- Contact lists and resource links
- Federally recognized Tribes in Washington State
- Tribal Child Support and TANF program information
- State/Tribal child support agreements
- Federal and State tribal child support policy
- Regional American Indian Policy 7.01 Plans
- The Centennial Accord
- Much more!

What Services does TRT Provide to DCS Staff and Partners?

- Support the DCS Director by serving as a statewide resource and point of contact for tribal relations
- Training and technical assistance on state/tribal relations and government-to-government principles
- Draft internal tribal-specific child support policy. Review proposed laws, policy, and procedures for impact on Tribal Governments, tribal members, and state/tribal relationships
- Guidance and assistance in resolving DCS tribal policy and case issues
- Publish informative documents, resources and information on the DCS Tribal Relations Website
- Coordinate regional American Indian Policy (DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01) Plans for DCS
- Draft and facilitate combined data share agreements

