

DRAFT DOCUMENT

**Policy 7.01 Implementation Plan with the
Yakama Nation and Region 1 Community Services Division
Timeframe: July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027**

	Yes	No	Notes
Did Yakama Nation meet with the Community Services Division?	X		Virtual meeting held February 10, 2026, from 9:00am to 12:00pm.
Did Yakama Nation provide input?	X		
Did Yakama Nation receive Tribal approval?			

Implementation Plan				Progress Report
(1) Goals/Objectives	(2) Activities	(3) Expected Outcome	(4) Lead Staff and Target Date	(5) Status Update
1.) Keep open lines of communication with Yakama Nation Tribal Council, Administrators, and Program Managers.	The Toppenish Community Service Office Administrator (CSOA) will communicate consistently with the Yakama Nation Deputy Director of Human Services.	Keep open positive communication to best serve customers and Yakama Nation Tribal members.	DSHS Staff: Cheryl Evans-Holbrook Raquel Cisneros Dawn Larson Yakama Nation Staff: Merida Kipp Crystal Bass Caseymac Wallahee Target Date: Ongoing	The Toppenish CSOA will send the Yakama Nation Director of Human Services policy changes and Community Service Office operational updates that might affect Yakama Nation Tribal members. Toppenish CSOA Dawn Larson will coordinate with Yakama Nation Deputy Director of Human Services Merida Kipp to develop a streamlined process to serve shared customers.

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	The Toppenish CSO staff work cordially with the Nak Nu We Sha Program, Commodity foods, LIHEAP Program, and Area Agency on Aging services.	To alleviate any problems, questions or concerns on the application/benefit to clients.	DSHS Staff: Dawn Larson Janet Gonzales Yakama Nation Staff: Merida Kipp Mary Wahpat Cassey Aranda Target Date: Ongoing	Yakama Nation and DSHS Staff work together daily or as needed to share information.
	The Office of Indian Policy (OIP) Regional Manager shares all state employment and training opportunities with Region 1 Tribal list serve.	To share information with Yakama Nation and enhance employment and training opportunities.	DSHS Staff: Janet Gone Raquel Cisneros Stephanie Morales-Guizar Target Date: Ongoing	Job announcements are sent to Yakama Nation Personnel Office by Janet Gone, OIP Regional Manager.
2.) Invitation to participate with the Local Area Planning (LPA) committee, share community resources and data/information with the Yakama Nation.	Share data regarding Yakama Nation and Native American participation, sanction rate, and other data to help Yakama Nation plan and provide coordinated services.	Collaboration and coordination for local area services and support services for clients.	DSHS Staff: Cheryl Evans-Holbrook Raquel Cisneros Dawn Larson Dennette Woodiwiss Dannette Scott Yakama Nation Staff: Merida Kipp Crystal Bass Caseymac Wallahee	Yakama Nation WIOA Program and BIA Social Services Program are part of the Local Planning Area meetings to help with collaboration and coordination of services. Toppenish CSOA Dawn Larson will add Yakama Nation staff to the Yakima Kittitas and Skamania Local Planning Area committee.

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(1) Goals/Objectives	(2) Activities	(3) Expected Outcome	(4) Lead Staff and Target Date	(5) Status Update												
			Jenece Howe Cassey Aranda Sky Graybell Teresa Garza Target Date: March 2026													
	Provide 'ad-hoc' data report identifying the number of tribal members receiving financial assistance under specific programs.	Assist Yakama Nation with data.	DSHS Staff: Raquel Cisneros Yakama Nation Staff: Merida Kipp Target Date: March 2026	CSOs continue information-sharing with tribes on clients that are shared by both programs. Number of Yakama Nation Tribal Members receiving benefits through the CSOs: Statewide Totals: December 2025 <table border="1" data-bbox="1465 722 1984 1036"> <thead> <tr> <th>Program</th> <th>December 2025</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SNAP (Basic Food)</td> <td>3,280</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Classic Medical (non-cash)</td> <td>292</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TANF</td> <td>308</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BFET</td> <td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ABD/HEN</td> <td>76/14</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Source: ESA-EMAPS Report M4605/4413 <i>*The above number may not be complete due to self-declaration and coding errors.</i> R1 DRA - Raquel Cisneros will share this data monthly.	Program	December 2025	SNAP (Basic Food)	3,280	Classic Medical (non-cash)	292	TANF	308	BFET	31	ABD/HEN	76/14
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	Region One CSOs and Yakama Nation Commodity Food Program work together on Yakama Nation client eligibility.	Expedited assistance so that customers receive food assistance as soon as possible.	DSHS Staff: Dawn Larson Janet Gonzales Yakama Nation Staff: Mary Wahpat Target Date: Ongoing	Toppenish CSO Staff will continue to work together with Yakama Nation Commodity Food Staff to ensure there is no duplication of benefits and eligibility for clients is timely and accurate.
	The Washington Connection Community Consultant will collaborate with the Yakama Nation Library on a regular basis to ensure the program needs are being met.	Assist Yakama members in accessing Washington Connection.	DSHS Staff: Guadalupe Olivera Yakama Nation Staff: Jonathan Lamere Target Date: September 2026	Yakama Nation Library program manager and DSHS Washington Connection Community Consultant will collaborate on Washington Connection program.
3.) Share resources to serve the Yakama Nation.	The Toppenish CSO works with Yakama Nation Housing Authority, Yakama Nation Shelter/Village of Hope, Noah's Ark, Casey Family Program, Cold Weather Shelter/Iniitnu't, Nak Nu We Sha, HeadStart, CSO/YN/BIA group and DCFY to assist with housing needs and other programs.	Serve Yakama members with housing issues, foster children, relative caregivers and homeless customers.	DSHS Staff: Dawn Larson Janet Gonzales Yakama Nation Staff: Merida Kipp Target Date: Ongoing	The Toppenish CSOA will contact Yakama Nation Agency Director and program managers to determine how CSD can best assist Yakama Nation members with support services.

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4.) Work together with the Yakama Nation and assist Yakama members access to DSHS programs and supports.	The Region One CSOs participate in Yakama Nation Community Events.	To assist with community outreach efforts and awareness to Yakama members.	DSHS Staff: Dawn Larson Adam Taylor Janet Gone Yakama Nation Staff: Merida Kipp Target Date: Ongoing	Adam Taylor, Region 1 Mobile Outreach Truck (MOT) Administrator will coordinate with Yakama Nation Deputy Director Merida Kipp for scheduling with Yakama Nation Community Events. MOT Truck Calendar Link: DSHS Mobile Offices
	Explore DSHS staff attending Yakama Nation Housing's pre-occupancy meetings for the new housing units.	Yakama members will be informed of DSHS programs and support.	DSHS Staff: Dawn Larson Janet Gone Yakama Nation Staff: Jana Kent Target Date: July 2026	Yakama Nation Housing will work with the Community Service Office Administrator to determine how to best serve housing clients. Janet will invite Dept. of Commerce presenter to the CSD/YN/BIA quarterly tribal meeting to discuss available housing resources.

YAKAMA NATION AND DSHS CONTACT LIST

YAKAMA NATION			
Merida Kipp	Deputy Director, Yakama Nation Department of Human Services	509-865-5121 Ext. 6060	Merida_kipp@yakama.com
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DSHS			
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Barb Mooney	Basic Food Employment and Training Program Manager	509-714-1961	barb.mooney@dshs.wa.gov
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Janet Gone	Regional Manager – Office of Indian Policy	Desk: 509-865-7529 Cell: 509-406-3679	janet.gone@dshs.wa.gov
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Completed or Tabled Items

Goal/Activity/Outcome	Date	Item