

Community Services Division Tribal Relations

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Economic Services Administration · Community Services Division

Program Description

The Department of Social and Health Services Economic Services Administration's Community Services Division supports government-to-government relationships with Washington tribes. CSD focuses on recognizing tribal sovereignty in developing and delivering programs and services consistent with the Centennial Accord and DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01, American Indian Policy.

CSD shares information and collaborates with tribes and Recognized American Indian Organizations at the Indian Policy Advisory Committee, the ESA IPAC subcommittee and DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01 and other meetings. Additionally, CSD partners with all federally recognized tribes and RAIOS in Washington state to share information, discuss and resolve issues, provide training and coordinate services. To do this effectively, CSD designated a specialized and dedicated position, the Tribal Relations Program Administrator, to serve as the lead resource regarding Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs and provide technical assistance and guidance to state and tribal leadership and staff.

CSD has oversight and program development responsibilities for the state's TANF program and other public assistance and related employment and training programs. As such, CSD works government-to-government with 11 Tribal TANF programs involving 15 federally recognized tribes, who provide direct oversight for their Tribal TANF programs. Tribal TANF programs are designed to address the specific and unique needs of American Indian and Alaskan Native families within their service areas. Washington provides a fair and equitable share of State Maintenance of Effort, or MOE, funds to Tribal TANF programs per RCW 74.08A.040. CSD negotiates Intergovernmental TANF Agreements, Operating Agreements and Data Share Agreements with Tribal TANF programs.

Highlights

- CSD is currently preparing revisions to the initial proposal to the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Services for approval to expand a demonstration project that would allow interested tribes to determine SNAP eligibility.
- In 2021, CSD established a project team to develop a process and agreement for CSD staff to issue Electronic Benefits Transfer cards at selected tribal outstations. This project resumed as CSD staff returned to in-person services.

Tribal TANF Programs

- Colville Confederated Tribes (2001)
- Quinault Indian Nation (2001)
- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (1998)
- Lummi Nation (2007)
- Nooksack Indian Tribe (2005)
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (1998)
- Spokane Tribe of Indians (2003)
- South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency: Nisqually, Squaxin Island, Skokomish (2004), Shoalwater Bay (2019) and tribal members on the Puyallup Reservation
- Quileute Nation (2001)
- Tulalip Tribes (2005)
- Upper Skagit Indian Tribe (2007)

More information:

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