

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, or CSD, promotes and supports government-to-government relationships with Washington tribes by recognizing tribal sovereignty in the development and delivery of programs and services consistent with the Centennial Accord and DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01, American Indian Policy.

The CSD Tribal Relations Program Administrator serves as the lead resource regarding Tribal TANF programs and provides technical assistance and guidance to state and tribal leadership and staff. CSD shares information and collaborates with tribes at the Indian Policy Advisory Committee, its ESA subcommittee and at DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01 and other meetings. CSD partners with all federally recognized tribes and Recognized American Indian Organizations in Washington state to share information, discuss and resolve issues, provide training and coordinate services.

CSD has oversight and program development responsibilities for the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, program as well as other public assistance and related employment and training programs.

CSD works closely with 11 federally recognized tribes that operate TANF programs (involving 16 tribes). 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.

In 2009, CSD was granted a federal demonstration project to allow the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe to determine Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, eligibility. CSD recognizes that tribes are in the unique position to better serve tribal members in their area and that some community members face barriers in accessing SNAP services, but could access those services if offered by a tribal program. Following the success of this project, CSD recently organized a project team to develop a comprehensive implementation plan that will be presented to Food and Nutrition Service for approval in hope of expanding this project to other interested tribes.

In addition to the SNAP demonstration project expansion, CSD established a project team to develop a process and agreement for CSD staff to issue Electronic Benefits Transfer, or EBT, cards at selected tribal outstations.

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 (SPIPA) 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:

Mary Anderson, Tribal Relations Program Administrator

Phone: 360.628.6442

Email: mary.anderson@dshs.wa.gov