

# DCS Tribal Relations

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services  
Economic Services Administration • Division of Child Support

## Program Description

The Division of Child Support (DCS) recognizes tribal sovereignty and supports and promotes government-to-government relationships with the 29 federally recognized Indian tribes in Washington state. DCS works with tribes, Recognized American Indian Organizations, stakeholders and partners in the development and delivery of programs, policy and services that meet the needs of Native families in a culturally appropriate manner.

## The Tribal Relations Team

- Facilitates DCS' government-to-government commitments to Indian tribes that help to build and strengthen relationships with tribes and tribal programs, partners and stakeholders.
- Coordinates American Indian Policy (DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01) plans for DCS.
- Seeks tribal participation in the review of proposed DCS legislation, policy and forms, and advocates for policies, procedures and laws that respect tribal sovereignty.
- Educates and trains agency staff and partners to recognize, honor, respect and value tribal sovereignty; provides culturally sensitive guidance and resources.
- Drafts, negotiates and monitors Treasury Offset Agreements with seven tribes including the Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska as well as Data-Sharing Agreements with 13 Tribal TANF and Child Support programs.
- Supports the work of over 30 DCS statewide Tribal Liaisons, who serve as local and regional contacts for tribes, families and RAIOS, organize outreach and represent the division at tribal meetings, conferences and cultural gatherings.

There are currently 60 tribal child support programs in the nation, with one more in start-up phase. Eight of these programs are in Washington state and are providing full child support services, including: paternity establishment; location and identification of individuals; withholding of income from tribal businesses or other sources; and order entry and modification of child support orders.

## Highlights

- **State and tribal relationships founded on trust and mutual respect** have led to increased understanding, shared vision and improved services to children and families.
- **Tribes and states around the nation continue to recognize DCS** for its efforts to partner with tribes in Washington and with those from neighboring states (i.e. Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska).

### More information:

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