

# 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 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 culturally appropriate policy and program services that meet the needs of American Indian and Alaskan Native families.

### The Tribal Relations Team

- Is a primary resource in the facilitation of DCS' government-to-government commitments that help to build and strengthen relationships with tribes and tribal programs, partners and stakeholders.
- Educates and trains agency and partner staff to recognize tribal sovereignty and the principles of the Centennial Accord and DSHS American Indian Policy (Administrative Policy 7.01).
- Coordinates division participation at Indian Policy Advisory Committee and ESA subcommittee meetings, and regional DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01 meetings that seek tribal collaboration on proposed DCS legislation, policy and forms, while advocating for policies, procedures and laws that respect tribal sovereignty.
- Drafts, negotiates and monitors Treasury Offset Agreements with seven tribes including the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, as well as Data-Sharing Agreements with 13 Tribal TANF and Child Support programs.
- Offers technical assistance and support to the efforts of over 30 DCS statewide Tribal Liaisons who serve as local and regional contacts, organize and attend outreach, and represent the division at tribal meetings, conferences and cultural gatherings.

Of the 60 tribal child support programs currently operating across the United States, eight are located within Washington state:

- |                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Tulalip Tribes               | • Quinault Indian Nation    |
| • Colville Confederated Tribes | • Nooksack Tribe            |
| • Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe  | • Lummi Nation              |
| • Suquamish Tribe              | • Puyallup Tribe of Indians |

Tribal child support programs provide full child support services, including: paternity establishment; location and identification of individuals; withholding of income from tribal businesses or other sources; and establishment 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 state, 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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Washington State  
Department of Social  
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