

Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF)

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 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).

CSD is the DSHS division with oversight and program development responsibilities for the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program as well as other public assistance and their related employment and training programs.

Federally recognized tribal governments can apply with the federal Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families to administer their own TANF programs and operate under a Tribal Family Assistance Plan designed to address the specific needs of American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) families within federally defined service areas.

Washington state provides a fair and equitable share of State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds to Tribal TANF Programs per RCW 74.08A.040. CSD negotiates an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with each tribe. The IGA includes the MOE payment schedule, reporting standards, performance measurement criteria and reference to relevant state and federal laws, regulations and agency guidance.

CSD's oversight of the IGA ensures information sharing through a local Operating Agreement between a tribe and a CSD Community Services Office (CSO), and a Data Share Agreement to prevent fraud and duplication of services.

The CSD Tribal TANF Administrator serves as the lead resource regarding Tribal TANF programs. CSD collaborates and shares information with tribes at the Indian Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC) and the IPAC ESA subcommittee. CSD also participates in local meetings with tribes to share information, coordinate services and identify and resolve administrative issues under DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01, American Indian Policy.

In Federal Fiscal Year 2018, 17 states featured Tribal TANF programs. Washington ranked second in the country (behind California) with 11 Washington Tribal TANF programs, one of which is a Recognized American Indian Organization (RAIO) serving four tribes.

Tribal TANF Programs

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

More information:

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