

2014 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

TRIBAL TANF

Request	FY14	FY15	13-15
FTE			
GF-State		PLACEHOLDER	
Total			

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Economic Services Administration (ESA) requests funding in order to support Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs to be operated by the Yakama Nation and South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA). By funding this request, these Tribal TANF programs will have the resources necessary to operate a TANF program and the State's WorkFirst program will maintain funding at its current level.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Yakama Nation has informed the Federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of its intent to operate a TANF program. SPIPA has also informed ACF that the Chehalis Tribe will be joining the SPIPA TANF program. The proposed start date for the Yakama Nation's Tribal TANF program and the SPIPA expansion is February 2014.

The Yakama Nation is one of the largest Tribes in Washington State. The Yakama Nation wants to serve all Indian families on the Yakama Reservation, Yakima County, Kittitas County, Klickitat County, and Benton County.

The expanded SPIPA Tribal TANF service area and population would include Indian families on the Chehalis Reservation and in Cowlitz, Lewis and Grays Harbor counties, as well as Chehalis Tribal members in the current SPIPA service areas.

Federal law specifies that Tribes have the authority to operate their own TANF programs. Currently, there are 11 tribal TANF programs that cover 13 Tribes in Washington State. When a tribe opts into its own TANF program, ACF and the state transfer to the tribe federal TANF and state maintenance of effort (MOE) funds. As required under federal law (45 CFR 286.20), the amount of the federal TANF Block Grant that is permanently transferred to the Tribe must be "equal to the dollar amount of the Federal funds that the State spent for AFDC and related programs for the Tribe's designate service population in the services area in fiscal year 1994". The amount of state MOE that is transferred is required by state law (RCW 74.08A.040) to be a

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"fair and equitable amount". This RCW also requires that the amount of state MOE funds to be transferred be specified in the biennial appropriations act.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

This request is for the GF-State (TANF MOE) funds that will be dedicated to the operation of the Tribal TANF programs operated by the Yakama Nation and SPIPA. This amount will be negotiated once these Federal Tribal TANF programs have been approved by ACF. The amount of the GF-State funds needed will be the difference between ESA's current spending associated with the specified Tribal populations and the amount necessary for the Tribes to operate a fully functioning TANF grant and services programs. This will result in a need for increased funding for several reasons:

- 1) The federal amount to be transferred is based on a caseload level in 1994. Current caseload is lower. As caseload has fallen, funding has been removed from ESA's budget.
- 2) The average cost per unduplicated assistance unit for the Tribes is higher than it is for ESA. All calculations used to determine Tribal costs are based on the actual costs of the unduplicated assistance units in the TANF program. This amount is higher due to the longer length-of-stay of tribal families on the grant, the higher per capita administrative costs (due to the lack of economies of scale) and the service package that the Tribe will provide (as defined in the Partnership Participation Plan).
- 3) Citizens have the right to choose where they receive services. ESA's experience has been that some Tribal members elect to stay in the state program. This results in a shortfall in the state program because the calculations assume all those eligible to receive services through the Tribe will do so. When fewer make that choice, ESA is short of funds.

EXPECTED RESULTS

To provide assistance so that the most vulnerable people become independent and self-sufficient while recognizing their Native American heritage.

This decision package supports the Results Washington goal to:

- Help the most vulnerable people become independent and self-sufficient.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

No stakeholder concerns are expected.