

**STATEWIDE AGREEMENT**  
**AMERICAN INDIAN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES**  
**And**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**  
**DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**  
**And**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND**

In the spirit of offering services to enhance the independence of individuals with disabilities in Washington State the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS), the Department of Services for the Blind (DSB) and the Washington Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) agree to work cooperatively to facilitate access to vocational rehabilitation services for American Indians and Alaskan Natives with disabilities who want to work. This Agreement is for Washington State residents and represents the cooperation, coordination, and collaboration necessary to create an effective service delivery partnership designed to increase employment opportunities for those served by our programs.

The parties to this Agreement commit to upholding and promoting the values and principles contained in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. DVR, DSB, and AIVRS will meet all required obligations and responsibilities contained in their respective federal, tribal and/or state laws and regulations.

This Agreement will not abridge any powers, rights or responsibilities under applicable federal, tribal, and/or state laws, state and/or constitutions, standards, administrative rules or Executive Orders of either party. All activities under this Agreement will be carried out in accordance with these conditions, laws, rules, standards, and orders.

**PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT**

- ◆ Skokomish Indian Tribe/Chehalis Indian Tribe Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ Colville Confederated Tribes VR Program
- ◆ Cowlitz Indian Tribe Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ Lummi Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ Nisqually Indian Tribe / Squaxin Island Tribe Vocational Rehabilitation Program (South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency)
- ◆ Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians – North Intertribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ Samish Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ Yakama Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ Spokane Tribe of Indians Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ Coeur d'Alene Tribe Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Career Renewal Program
- ◆ Washington Department of Services for the Blind

- ◆ Washington Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

## **SERVICE POPULATION**

The Congress of the United States mandates DVR and DSB to serve all eligible individuals with disabilities within Washington State, including American Indians and Alaskan Natives who are members of federally recognized tribes.

The Congress of the United States mandates an AIVRS to provide vocational rehabilitation services to eligible American Indians and Alaskan Natives with disabilities living on or near a reservation. The defined service area and defined service population shall be established by the individual AIVRS.

## **PURPOSE**

All AIVRS funded by Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) are required to have a written cooperative agreement with DVR and DSB.

All parties to this Agreement have a responsibility to provide quality vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities, to assist such individuals to become more empowered, more independent and economically self-sufficient through employment outcomes which provide each individual meaningful, gainful, and sustained work. Consistent with this responsibility, the goal of this Agreement is to ensure:

1. American Indians and Alaskan Natives receive the fullest scope of vocational rehabilitation services possible;
2. American Indians and Alaskan Natives are offered an informed choice of program, services and service providers;
3. A cooperative and service-oriented relationship is established and maintained between DVR, DSB and AIVRS; and
4. The individual programs and their consumers benefit from shared expertise, shared training, professional collaboration, and the enhanced capabilities that grow from this relationship.

This Agreement will not place restrictions on any program in the delivery of vocational rehabilitation services to American Indians and Alaskan Natives with disabilities, nor will it abridge the absolute rights of the individuals receiving services.

## **SHARED VALUES AND PRINCIPLES**

Parties to this Agreement agree to the following shared values and principles:

- ◆ AIVRS, DSB and DVR are equal partners with special sets of expertise in serving consumers successfully.
- ◆ Mutual respect for cultural contributions, traditions and values.
- ◆ The invaluable contributions and wisdom of our elders.
- ◆ Independence for people with disabilities.

- ◆ Individuals with disabilities can work.
- ◆ Informed choice.
- ◆ Cooperation among partners improves and expands employment opportunities for consumers of vocational rehabilitation programs.
- ◆ Successful vocational rehabilitation of American Indians and Alaskan Natives with disabilities requires the provision of professional and culturally appropriate services.

## **PROGRAM COORDINATION**

All parties to this agreement will:

- ◆ Cooperate in providing vocational rehabilitation services to American Indians and Alaskan Natives with disabilities to ensure full access to all available resources.
- ◆ Jointly serve eligible American Indian and Alaskan Natives consumer cases when it is in the best interests of the individual.
- ◆ To the maximum extent possible, DVR and DSB will use existing information provided by the AIVRS to expedite eligibility determination.
- ◆ Obtain necessary releases of confidential information prior to sharing information about an individual with other parties under this Agreement.
- ◆ Provide consumers with appropriate referral information when they may be eligible and/or may prefer to co-enroll in vocational rehabilitation services from another party to this Agreement.
- ◆ Provide AIVRS and state vocational rehabilitation counselors with adequate time to work cooperatively on cases where an individual is being jointly served by both programs.
  - Programs will maintain separate case service records.
  - Invite respective vocational rehabilitation counselors to participate in case management activities at the earliest stage, identification of functional barriers to employment, plan development meetings, visits to work sites, and marketing outreach efforts.
  - Individualized Plans for Employment will, when appropriate, be jointly developed and accepted by each partner and consumer to assure delivery of a comprehensive level of services in a coordinated manner.
  - Make timely collaborative decisions on matters which affect the progress of consumer services, and ensure services are not duplicated.
  - Accommodate AIVRS and state vocational rehabilitation counselors with office space, as needed, to meet with American Indians and Alaskan Natives who wish to receive services at an AIVRS or state vocational rehabilitation office other than the office where the individual's vocational rehabilitation counselor is assigned.

- ◆ Agree that consumers maintain the right to seek assistance through established channels, including, but not limited to, the Client Assistance Program, Fair Hearing, Administrative Review and, where applicable, tribal courts.
- ◆ DVR and/or DSB may enter into a fee for services contract with the AIVRS to serve individuals who live within the program's established service delivery area but not within the AIVRS's service population.
- ◆ AIVRS, DVR and/or DSB will work together to identify and designate a VRC as tribal liaison within each office and/or area to meet with American Indian and Alaskan Native consumers and collaborate on consumer needs.
- ◆ AIVRS, DVR, and/or DSB will support staff, in particular liaisons, in attending each other's training opportunities and meetings (e.g. 7.01 meetings).
- ◆ DVR and DSB are committed to working together with AIVRS partners to identify and recruit qualified tribal members as applicants for current and future openings at all levels in the State VR programs. DVR and DSB will continue to develop job shadowing, internship and practicum opportunities to increase employment opportunities for tribal members.
- ◆ DVR and DSB are committed to providing mentoring, training, and promoting qualified tribal members to be successful in employment at all levels in the State VR programs.
- ◆ DVR and DSB will provide notification to tribes of potential funding opportunities. (i.e. grant notifications)
- ◆ In the event that AIVRS client service resources are no longer available, AIVRS, DVR and/or DSB partners will have a conversation about the availability of DVR and/or DSB resources to avoid interruption of client services. **See Appendix A, Tribal Contingency Plan.**

## EXCHANGE OF EXPERTISE

AIVRS, DSB and DVR will:

- ◆ Meet at least annually to review program, service, or other issues that may arise.
- ◆ Maintain open communication to ensure program and consumer information of mutual concern is shared:
  - Computer technology related to providing vocational rehabilitation services, including the shared data systems.
  - Current information regarding Community Rehabilitation Programs and Independent Living Providers certified to provide services to consumers.
- ◆ Exchange training, collaboration, technical assistance, assessment tools, and other program information to enhance service delivery to American Indians and Alaskan Natives with disabilities.

- Parties will collaborate with one another in the development of joint curriculum for training.
- AIVRS, DSB and DVR will share information regarding training opportunities and include staff in training whenever possible and will offer training that will maximize cultural responsiveness and enhance ability to better meet the needs of American Indians and Alaskan Natives with disabilities.
- Area training sessions will incorporate training specific to the interaction between AIVRS, DVR, and DSB.
- Assist in accessing work related information through the Employment Security Department.

### **MODIFICATIONS AND TERMINATION OF THIS AGREEMENT**

This Agreement is intended to be a living document, changing as necessary, to meet the needs of the parties and the service population. Amendments, revisions and addenda to this Agreement shall be entered into with mutual agreement of the parties noted.

This Agreement may be terminated by any party; such termination must be delivered, in writing, (30) thirty days in advance, to all parties. By such termination, no party may nullify obligations incurred prior to the effective date of the termination.

Directors of Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation programs, DVR and DSB will meet annually to review the MOU and consider amendments. These meetings should include: DVR and DSB Directors, DVR Area Managers and DSB Field Services Team Leaders, Field Services Chiefs, DVR Statewide Tribal Liaison; and selected Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisors/Tribal Liaisons.

### **TERM**

This cooperative Agreement shall take effect from the date of signature and shall continue, without disruption, until an annual review is completed and agreed upon by all parties, unless amended as noted above.

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Nothing in the Agreement shall be construed as a waiver of the sovereign immunity of the tribes.

Signature by DVR, DSB and each AIVRS official will engage the MOU for that AIVRS.

If any element of this Agreement is determined to be invalid, the remainder of the provisions within this Agreement will not be affected.

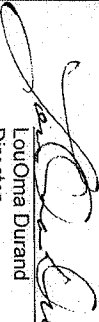
### **SIGNATORIES TO THE AGREEMENT**


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- ◆ Colville Confederated Tribes VR Program
- ◆ Cowlitz Indian Tribe Vocational Rehabilitation Program

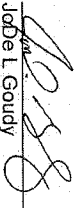
- ◆ Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ Lummi Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ Nisqually Indian Tribe / Squaxin Island Tribe (South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency Vocational Rehabilitation Program)
- ◆ Stillaguamish Indian Tribe – North Intertribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ Samish Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ Yakama Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- ◆ Spokane Tribe of Indians Vocational Rehabilitation Program
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- ◆ Washington Department of Services for the Blind
- ◆ Washington Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

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And  
DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

SIGNATORIES:

  
Lou Oma Durand 10/31/16  
Director  
Department of Services for the Blind

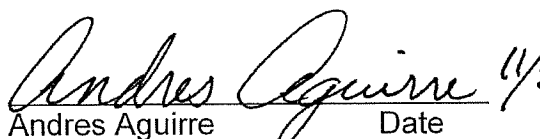
  
Andres Aguirre 11/2/16  
Director  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

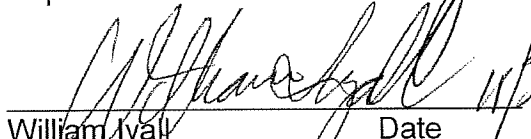
  
Jode L Goudy 2/15/17  
Chairman  
Yakama Tribal Nation

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\_\_\_\_\_  
LouOma Durand                      Date 10/31/16  
Director  
Department of Services for the Blind


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andres Aguirre                      Date 11/2/16  
Director  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

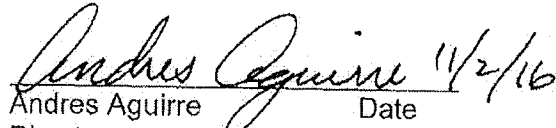
  
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William Iyall                      Date 11/30/2016  
Chair  
Cowlitz Tribal Council

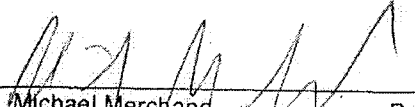


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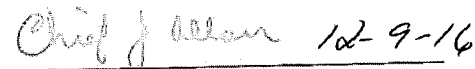
  
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Andres Aguirre                      Date 11/2/16  
Director  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Merchand                      Date  
Chair  
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

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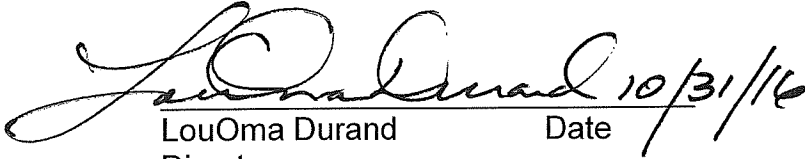
	<u>10/31/16</u>		<u>11/2/16</u>
LouOma Durand	Date	Andres Aguirre	Date
Director		Director	
Department of Services for the Blind		Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	

  
12-9-16  
Date

Chief Allen  
Chairman  
Coeur d'Alene Tribe Vocational Rehabilitation Program  
Career Renewal Program

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LouOma Durand                      Date  
Director  
Department of Services for the Blind

 11/2/16

Andres Aguirre                      Date  
Director  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation


 12/12/16


Thomas Wooten                      Date  
Chair  
Samish Indian Nation

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LouOma Durand                      Date  
Director  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Andres Aguirre                      Date  
Director  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Miller                      Date  
Chair  
Skokomish Indian Tribe


DSHS/DVR SO


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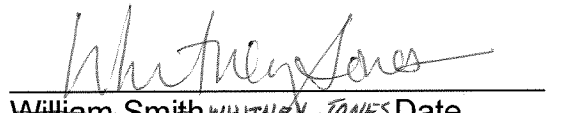
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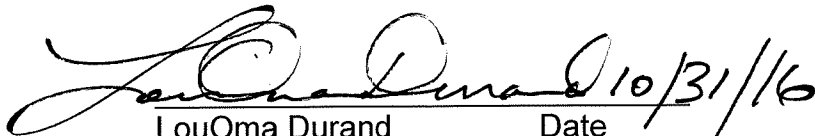

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LouOma Durand                      Date  
Director  
Department of Services for the Blind


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andres Aguirre                      Date  
Director  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

  
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William Smith WHITNEY JONES Date  
Executive Director  
South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency

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	<u>10/31/16</u>		<u>11/2/16</u>
LouOma Durand	Date	Andres Aguirre	Date
Director		Director	
Department of Services for the Blind		Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	

	<u>11/30/16</u>
Carol Evans	Date
Chairwoman	
Spokane Tribe of Indians	

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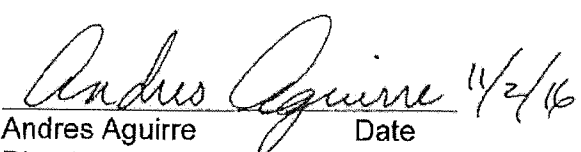
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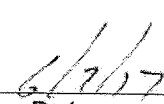


David Lopeman                      Date  
Chair  
Squaxin Island Tribal Council

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**SIGNATORIES:**

	
LouOma Durand	Andres Aguirre
Director	Director
Department of Services for the Blind	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Date	Date
10/31/16	11/2/16

	
Ted Wright	
Executive Director	
North Intertribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program	
Date	
	6/2/17