



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
INDIAN POLICY AND SUPPORT SERVICES
PO Box 45105, Olympia, WA 98504-5105

April 6, 2007

Dear Tribal Leader:

I would like to invite you or your representative to a Consultation on May 30, 2007 at Squaxin Island Tribal Little Creek Casino and Resort from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. The Children's Administration has been working on two important areas, 1) the anticipated increase to the Indian Child Welfare (ICW) contracts and, 2) the Local-Tribal ICW Agreements.

In Governor Gregoire's proposed 2007 budget a \$1,782,000 biennial increase for Indian Child Welfare was included.

"Children's Administration (CA) is requesting \$1,782,000 for the 2007-2009 Biennium to increase Indian Child Welfare (ICW) resources to Tribal ICW programs. This funding will continue to address equitability of case management and services to meet the needs of dependent children. This will result in additional resources to strengthen Tribal ICW programs to ensure a comprehensive array of services to meet the increased demands for safety and security of Tribal children."

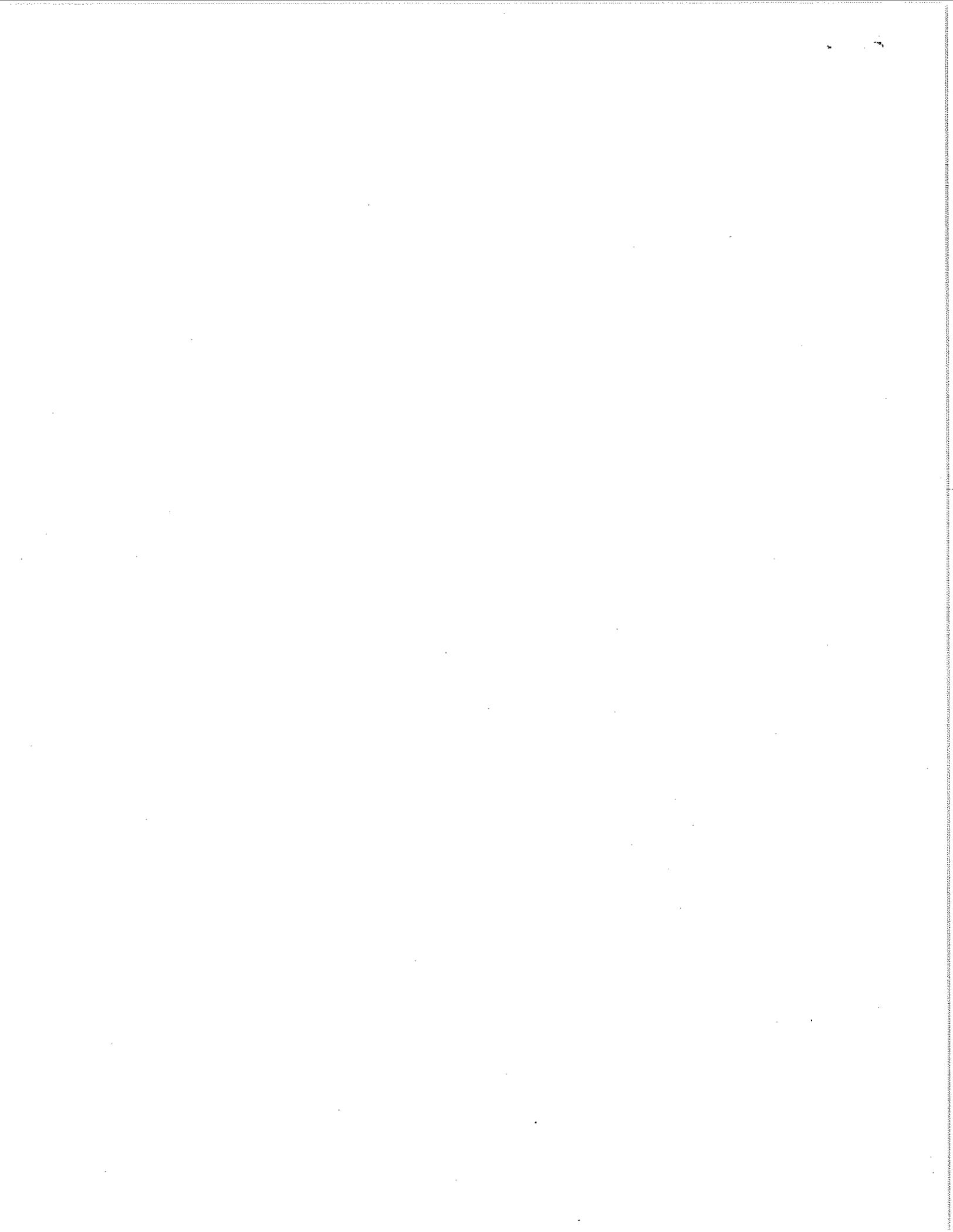
A full copy of the administration's Decision Package for this funding request is enclosed.

In anticipation of the increase in funding for Tribal ICW cases, we are seeking your input on how to distribute the appropriated funds to the Federally Recognized Tribes and Recognized American Indian Organizations. The House, Senate, and Governor's final budget included \$1,782,000 for the biennium.

The current proposed alternatives for the distribution of the additional funds are included and will also be available in spreadsheet form at the April 11th and 12th Indian Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC) meetings for discussion. A complete second draft package that will include the funding distribution spreadsheets and the most current local agreement draft will be sent out to Tribal Chairs, IPAC delegates, and workgroup participants by April 18, 2007.

These options were developed at the March 14th IPAC meeting held at the Tulalip Tribe. As with previous consultations on funding distribution, we remain open to hearing other proposals. Our schedule for the IPAC/ICW workgroup meetings will be on April 11th in Olympia at Office Building 2 and the final scheduled meeting on May 8th at a place to be determined. An update of the efforts of the workgroup will be presented to IPAC on April 12th.





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The second item we are seeking consultation on is the Local-Tribal ICW Agreement. Currently, there are dated agreements with some tribes and incomplete unsigned or draft copies of agreements. The Tribes have requested uniformity and consistency to these agreements. To address this, the IPAC/ICW workgroup began discussions on these agreements. Enclosed you will see the "Working DRAFT Agreement". This is a working document which will also be on the meeting schedule listed above.

The intent of these agreements is to establish a framework of consistent elements needed by the Governments and the conduit for the Tribes and Regional Administrators to negotiate the Tribe's unique needs in accessing services for their children and families. This is also to address the disparity in accessing services currently existing across the state.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Colleen F. Cawston, Director Indian Policy and Support Services by email cawstcf@dshs.wa.gov or telephone 360-902-7816 or Nancy Dufraime, ICW Manager Children's Administration by email nadu300@dshs.wa.gov or telephone 360-902-7578.

Sincerely,



Robin Arnold-Williams
Secretary

Enclosures (3)

cc: Cheryl Stephani, Assistant Secretary, Children's Administration
Colleen F. Cawston, Director, Indian Policy & Support Services
Nancy Dufraime, ICW Manager

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