

## **State Centennial Accord Plans**

### **Washington Department of Commerce**

The Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce) is the lead state agency charged with enhancing and promoting sustainable community and economic vitality in Washington.

Commerce is a medium-sized, cabinet-level state agency tasked with the mission to grow and improve jobs in Washington State. In 2009, at Governor Gregoire's request, the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) became Commerce. The agency conducted an extensive stakeholder outreach process and delivered a set of priorities and organization recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for developing Washington's innovation economy. The transformation of Commerce (which included transfer of some programs to other state agencies) was completed in 2010.

Commerce is committed to the successful implementation of the Centennial Accord's policies for achieving government-to-government relationships. This 2012 Centennial Accord Plan identifies how we interact with tribal governments. This plan will be updated as programs that affect tribes change.

Commerce partners with local governments, tribes, non-profits, business and industry organizations, and community groups. Working together, we guide funding and expertise to meet unique local capacity and economic development needs. Commerce's mission also serves to focus our statewide partner network on sustaining and improving Washington's competitive business climate to retain, grow and attract businesses and jobs here.

Commerce's work touches the lives of all residents, though our resources are primarily delivered through other organizations that provide direct services in communities across the state. About 93 % of our 2011-2013 biennium budget is pass-through. Capital funds represent 68 % of the department's resources and fund infrastructure, housing, energy, and community and economic development projects throughout the state.

#### **Commerce's Eight Priorities**

Competitiveness - Retain, grow and attract businesses by improving and communicating Washington's competitive advantages.

Education & Workforce Training - Improve performance of the education system to better match workforce skills to employer needs.

Efficient & Effective Regulation - Reduce time and costs of meeting regulatory requirements, while maintaining their benefits.

Infrastructure Investment - Enable local governments to have adequate infrastructure to accommodate allocated growth and enable economic development and business opportunities, while maintaining the quality of life.

Community Capacity - Mobilize and enhance local assets that strengthen community ability to meet the economic and social needs of Washington's families, workers and employers.

Rural Focus - Improve economic performance of rural areas.

Sector Focus - Increase Washington's share of high- growth, high-employment, traded sectors.

Small Business - Make Washington the best state in the country to start and grow a small business.

**1. Programs**-The following programs and services are available to tribes.

### **Business Services**

Technical assistance is provided by regional staff to connect tribal driven business development needs with state, public, and other resources including private.

The International Trade Division assists small and medium sized businesses in Washington state compete successfully in the global economy. Staff provide Washington businesses looking to export into the following countries with market research, trade leads. Staff also coordinate trade-related activities such as incoming and outgoing missions, trade shows, seminars and conferences.

- European Program
- Japan Program
- Mexico Program
- China Program
- Taiwan Program

### **Infrastructure Investment**

#### Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB)

CERB is a twenty member board administered within Department of Commerce. CERB members include voting representatives from large and small businesses, federally recognized Indian Tribes, Legislators, local government and non-voting members from State Departments of Commerce, Employment Security, Revenue and Transportation.

CERB awards grant and loan funding for eligible public facilities for planning, acquisition, construction, repair, reconstruction, replacement, rehabilitation, or improvement of bridges, roads, domestic and industrial water, earth stabilization, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, railroad, electricity, telecommunications, transportation, natural gas, buildings or structures and port facilities, all for the purpose of job creation, job retention, or job expansion.

### **Community Services and Housing**

Community Services and Housing programs at Commerce partner with tribes to:

- Develop and preserve affordable housing
- Promote individual and family self-sufficiency
- Reduce homelessness
- Address the causes and effects of crime and violence
- Invest in community facilities

Specific programs include:

Community Economic Opportunity Programs

Asset Building, Community Defined Solutions, Commerce WorkFirst, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Individual Development Accounts,

Capital Programs

Child Care Facility Fund  
Weatherization  
Energy Matchmakers

Crime Victim-Related Programs

Crime Victims Service Centers (VOCA), Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Prostitution Prevention, Sexual Assault Prevention, Sexual Assault Treatment, STOP Violence Against Women, Victim Witness Assistance

Housing-Related Programs

Lead Hazard Control; Farm Worker Housing, HOME General Purpose, Housing Assistance for Persons with Mental Illness, Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS, Housing Trust Fund, Independent Youth Housing, On-Farm Housing Loans, Tenant Based Rental Assistance, Foreclosure Fairness, Housing and Essential Needs

**2. Funding Distribution**-List of funding distribution methods currently available to tribes.

**CERB**

CERB programs do not include funding distribution methods per se. Eligible applicants apply to the CERB Board for funding on an individual basis. Applications are reviewed to determine if they meet CERB threshold requirements. Projects must create significant private sector jobs, or significant private sector investment. If applications meet threshold review, they are analyzed for project feasibility. The CERB Board meets every two months to make a final decision on whether or not to approve a CERB application.

**Community Services and Housing**

Community Services and Housing programs at Commerce use contracts as the primary method for distributing resources, primarily grants and loans, to tribes. Commerce distributes federal and state funds for competitive and formula-based programs.

### **3. Definitions**

**Eligible CERB applicants** are: Tribes, Port Districts, Counties, Cities, Towns, special purpose Districts and other municipal corporations or quasi-municipal corporations in the state providing for public facilities.

### **4. Consultation Process-Procedures**

The CERB Board set its program funding policies on an annual basis. The CERB Board membership includes a federally recognized Tribal member. This membership is a voting membership on the Board.

Commerce Community Service and Housing programs have frequently engaged tribes on program development and fund distribution. For example, tribal interest in state and federally funded weatherization programs has created the need for a Commerce tribal liaison who coordinates with tribes across the state in order to weatherize housing stock or establish weatherization programs.

### **5. Dispute Resolution Process-**

Disputing parties will attempt to address disputes informally through staff contacts and Commerce program managers. Progressively higher levels of management will review the dispute until consensus is reached. The Commerce director or designee may engage the Governor's Office and tribal council or other elected leaders as appropriate.