

2025 Centennial Accord Agency Highlights



Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
September 2025

To accommodate persons with disabilities, this document is available in alternative formats and can be obtained by contacting us at 360-902-8825.

Visit our website at www.goia.wa.gov.

Table of Contents

Department of Agriculture.....	1
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.....	3
Washington State Attorney General’s Office.....	5
Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA).....	7
Office of the State Auditor.....	8
Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF).....	10
Department of Commerce.....	18
State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)	20
Washington State Conservation Commission.....	21
Department of Corrections (DOC)	22
Department of Ecology	24
Employment Security Department	26
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council	27
Department of Enterprise Services.....	28
Washington State Governor’s Office of Equity.....	31
Department of Financial Institutions (Financial Education & Outreach).....	33
Office of Financial Management.....	34
Department of Fish and Wildlife.....	36
Washington State Gambling Commission.....	50
Washington State Board of Health	51
Department of Health.....	52
Washington Health Benefit Exchange	60
Health Care Authority	62
Washington State Historical Society.....	65
Washington State Office of Independent Investigations (OII).....	67
Office of the Insurance Commissioner.....	69
Washington State Department of Labor & Industries	70
Department Of Licensing	72
Liquor and Cannabis Board	73
Washington’s Lottery.....	74
Washington Military Department.....	75

The Office of Minority & Women’s Business Enterprises (OMWBE).....	78
Department of Natural Resources	80
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	83
Puget Sound Partnership	85
Recreation and Conservation Office	87
Results Washington (Office of the Governor).....	89
Department of Revenue (Executive Division, Tribal Partnerships Program).....	90
Office of the Secretary of State.....	91
Department of Social and Health Services.....	94
Office of the State Treasurer	100
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Office of Native Education.....	101
Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC)	105
Washington Department of Transportation	107
Utilities and Transportation Commission	109
Department of Veterans Affairs.....	111
Washington State Patrol	112
Washington Technology Solutions (WaTech)	114



STATE OF WASHINGTON
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

1110 Capitol Way S, Suite 225 • P.O. Box 40909 • Olympia, WA 98501-0909
PHONE (360) 902-8827

September 20, 2024

haʔl sləx̌il txʷəl gʷəlapu, siʔiʔab dʔiišəd. Good day to you honorable and noble people, my dear people.

On behalf of the State of Washington, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs presents the 2025 Centennial Accord Agency Highlights Report. This annual report is mandated under RCW 43.376 in recognition of our government-to-government relationship with Indian Tribes and summarizes the work state agencies have done this past year to partner with Tribal governments, serve Tribal communities, and follow through on commitments and tasks from previous Centennial Accord meetings. We encourage you to review this report and reach out to the state agency contact listed in the report if you have questions or are interested in learning more about a specific policy, program, or project.

While this report showcases areas of valuable collaboration and engagement, more work is needed to fully implement the government-to-government relationship as envisioned by the Centennial Accord and Millennium Agreement. Our Tribal-State collaboration and partnership is more important than ever as we face continual attacks on our communities, our environment, and our shared values. Together, we can build strong relationships and create a safer, healthier, and thriving environment for our Tribal communities and all Washingtonians.

With much gratitude and respect,

Tim Reynon
(spuyaləpbaʔš - Puyallup Tribe)
Executive Director

This page intentionally left blank.

Department of Agriculture

Summary

As part of its primary interactions with Tribes, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) facilitates access to nutritious, local, culturally relevant foods; manages animal health, food safety, and pesticide regulatory programs; assists with trapping and eradicating invasive species; and provides outreach and education to rural communities.

Highlights

- At the request of Washington State University Extension, the WSDA Avian Health Program gave a presentation titled “Backyard Flock Biosecurity: How You Can Keep Your Flock Safe from HPAI” to 17 participants on the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. The intent of this “Coop to Table” workshop was to promote food sovereignty through classroom instruction on proper care of chickens and rabbits, backyard flock biosecurity, and a hands-on demonstration of safe backyard poultry and rabbit meat processing.
- The WSDA Emergency Management Program provided incident management support during the highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak, ongoing since May 2022. Between June 2024 and July 2025, there were nine positive detections in the state. Tribes were contacted for awareness and coordination if suspect or infected premises were found on Tribal land, if a control area was on Tribal land, or if surveillance activities occurred on Tribal land. The Emergency Management Program coordinated with the State Emergency Operations Center to provide updates to Tribal partners throughout the incident.
- WSDA Food Assistance provided nearly \$1.9 million in federal and state funding to support hunger-relief efforts in 32 Tribal communities. Many Tribal partners participated:
 - The Local Food Purchase Assistance program (\$544,000) increased access to local and culturally relevant foods.
 - The state funded Emergency Food Assistance Program (\$1.35 million) empowered Tribes and Tribal organizations to make decisions that address the specific needs of the Tribe via food pantries and/or food vouchers.
 - Secondary benefits included USDA foods and improved access partnerships, particularly in rural and/or remote Tribal communities.
- The WSDA Pesticide Programs provided pesticide registration information, and compliance technical assistance and training, to the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. Free waste pesticide collection and disposal services were provided to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

- The WSDA Nutrient Management Technical Services program partners with Tribal communities on several water resource protection groups across the state, including the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Lummi Nation, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Nooksack Indian Tribe, Samish Indian Nation, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, and the Tulalip Tribes.
- The Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences (NRAS) program continues to collaborate with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation to monitor surface waters for pesticides. NRAS also works with the Wapato Irrigation Project (WIP) to include WIP water management and agricultural production in WSDA's drought impacts studies.
- In 2025, WSDA completed the Climate Resilience Plan for Washington Agriculture. Tribal governments and organizations were engaged as part of the development and completion of this report, most significantly through the Intertribal Agriculture Council. The Climate Action Plan for the Territories of the Yakama Nation was included in the report as an example of successful local planning and action.
- The WSDA Regional Markets Program supported Tribal communities:
 - \$25,000 Local Food System Infrastructure Grant awarded to Feed Seven Generations for a project designed to increase markets and enhance Tribal food systems within King County and the surrounding Tribes.
 - \$63,250 Local Food System Infrastructure Grant awarded to Native Candy for the construction of a mobile processing unit for Tribal fisherman to smoke, preserve, and package Wild Columbia River Salmon.
 - WSDA Farm to School Program continued to support two Tribal schools and two Tribal early-care and education programs that were previously awarded Farm to School Purchasing Grants totaling \$54,700 across state fiscal years 2024 and 2025:
 - Chief Leschi School, \$20,000
 - Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, \$10,000
 - Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, \$14,700
 - Wa He Lut Indian School, \$10,000

Staff Contact

Evan Sheffels, Senior Policy Advisor and Tribal Liaison

360-902-1918 | ESheffels@age.wa.gov

Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Summary

The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) is the state's sole agency with the mission to preserve and protect Washington state's cultural resources. The agency has project review authority under federal and state law and Executive Order 21-02. We are responsible for ensuring that agencies (land use and transportation planners) conduct Tribal consultation during project planning. Consultation must be conducted in a collaborative and meaningful way. DAHP is required to solicit comments from affected Tribes prior to making decisions on archaeological and Native American burial excavation permits and is responsible for the recovery of and repatriation of human remains.

Highlights

- 20,000 reviews were submitted to DAHP in 2024. In 2025 the number will be closer to 21,000.
- Sixty-one renewable energy projects are currently under review by staff for effects on cultural resources.
- Archaeological surveys are being conducted on state lands for least-conflict energy facility siting locations using Climate Commitment Act funding.
- DAHP's statewide archaeological risk assessment model has been updated with new archaeological data and the incorporation of Government Land Office maps.
- DAHP staff continue to participate as a member of the Society for American Archaeology Government Affairs Committee focusing on federal impacts to cultural resources.
- Ninety-three new human skeletal remains cases were opened in 2024. There are 50 new cases as of July 2025. The total number of cases opened and investigated since August 2008 is 1,048.
- Tribes have been notified of 811 nonforensic human skeletal remains cases since August 2008.
- DAHP is temporarily holding 254 cases for repatriation at the request of Tribes.
- A total of 3,084 cemeteries and burial sites have been recorded in the state since August 2008.
- 104 archaeological excavation permits were issued in 2024 and over 99% were completed within the 60-day time frame.
- Staff continued participating in multi-agency and multi-Tribal cultural work groups for the Columbia and Snake River Systems, the Upper Columbia Clean Up, Hanford Clean Up, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensed reservoirs, and the Skagit Project relicensing.
- Staff also continued participating in Tribal cultural resources group for the Seattle City Light Skagit Project relicensing.
- Staff continue to participate in a multi-agency work group to address Washington state's unreinforced masonry historic structures. DAHP was awarded a grant to create a portal to track these structures and seismic upgrades.

- The director is part of the larger Climate siting group.
- The director is currently the Vice-President of the National Council of State Historic Preservation Officers.

Concerns: The U.S. Supreme Court's Seven County Infrastructure decision on the National Environmental Policy Act is changing how federal agencies implement their compliance requirements. Most federal agencies are changing regulations to guidance and narrowing the scope of what should be analyzed. Exemptions under the State Environmental Policy Act reduces the activities that require cultural resource review. Both these changes will have a major impact on the avoidance and/or protection of cultural resources.

Staff Contact

Allyson Brooks, Ph.D., State Historic Preservation Officer

360-480-6922 | allyson.brooks@dahp.wa.gov

Washington State Attorney General's Office

Summary

The Attorney General's Office (AGO) recognizes self-determination is core to Tribal sovereignty and must be integral in decision-making that affects Tribes, Tribal lands, and Tribal rights.

The AGO also affirms that it is a priority to continue to strengthen the government-to-government relationship established between Tribes and the state and commits to a policy that requires the use of both consultation and consent as tools to further this engagement.

Highlights

Tribal Warrants Enforceable by State Law Enforcement.

A new law took effect this year that provides the legal framework for both state and Tribal law enforcement agencies to certify Tribal warrants as state warrants. The AGO documents the certification status of Tribes and provides that information to state law enforcement agencies and court officials.

Addressing the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People crisis.

The state's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women/People (MMIWP) Task Force successfully held its annual summit that the Lummi Nation hosted. The Task Force released its third annual report to the governor and the Washington State Legislature. It was accompanied by reports commissioned by the Task Force titled, "Confronting the Crisis: Addressing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People in Washington" and "Family and Survivor Interviews: Qualitative Analysis." Earlier this year, the AGO released the Missing Indigenous Persons Toolkit for friends and families to use if someone they know goes missing. The toolkit recognizes that families and friends are often the best advocates to help find their loved ones.

Missing Murdered Indigenous Women People Cold Case Investigation Unit.

The MMIWP Cold Case Investigation Unit is assisting with 23 active investigations across the nation and made its first arrest for the 2016 cold case of George David. The Cold Case Unit is structured to provide additional investigative resources for law enforcement agencies who are seeking additional support for their cold cases. The AGO was awarded \$1.5 million from the U.S. Department of Justice to assist the MMIWP Cold Case Investigation Unit and fund the Tribal policy team to establish statewide Tribal partnerships that will research, identify, and create an inventory of missing and murdered Indigenous people from before 1980 (Boarding School era cases will be included).

The Indian Boarding School Truth and Healing Tribal Advisory Committee.

The Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) released its preliminary report in June. This report highlights the importance of building a strong foundation of trust with Tribes and Tribal communities regarding the initial findings of American Indian boarding facilities that operated in Washington state. This year, the TAC will focus on listening sessions with Tribes that will be grounded in respectful, culturally appropriate language and actions.

Staff Contact

Asa K. Washines, Tribal Liaison

360.878.0664 | asa.washines@atg.wa.gov

Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA)

Summary

ArtsWA promotes and documents the public value of the arts. ArtsWA's Tribal Cultural Affairs (TCA) program works to support Washington Tribal communities, Native artists, and culture-bearers as they preserve and carry forward their traditional practices, creating space for art and culture to thrive for generations to come. TCA recognizes the inherent authority of Tribes and maintains the highest respect for Tribal governance.

ArtsWA recognizes the critical role that cultural fluency plays in the vitality of Native youth and Tribal Nations and the important place the arts and culture hold in Tribal economies. With additional funding from the Legislature, TCA can — in close consultation with Tribal leaders and their communities — cocreate culturally relevant services for Tribal members.

Highlights

- Legislators included baseline funding in fiscal year 2024 to support Tribal arts and culture.
- TCA determined that — with additional funding from the Legislature — it could provide programming and funding for Indigenous artists, Indigenous art organizations, Tribal governments, Indigenous entrepreneurs, Tribal museums, Tribal schools, and urban American Indian organizations.
- ArtsWA hired TCA Program Manager Angelena Campobasso (Colville) — following Cheryl Wilcox's retirement — and hired Program Coordinator Linnea Ingalls.

Grant Funding

In fiscal year 2024, TCA continued its Tribal Art and Culture grant for Tribal Nations within Washington state. Tribal Arts Grants were issued to 20 federally recognized Tribes. All Tribes who applied were funded. Grants were designed to be flexible to meet the needs of each Tribal community. Grant-funded projects include language restoration and preservation, traditional regalia making, enhancing a youth center with art created by Tribal members, sweat lodge art, youth culture camp, support for canoe journeys, and traditional weaving.

Outreach/Engagement

TCA provided extensive outreach to Tribes, Tribal organizations, urban American Indian organizations, Tribal nonprofits, Tribal museums, Tribal schools and colleges, Tribal arts organizations, and Tribal/Native artists.

Staff Contact

Angelena Campobasso, Tribal Cultural Affairs Manager

360-815-1539 | angelena.campobasso@arts.wa.gov

Office of the State Auditor

Summary

The Office of the Washington State Auditor (SAO) Government-to-Government Relationship with Indian Tribes policy recognizes self-determination is central to Tribal sovereignty and must be integral in decision-making that affects Tribes, Tribal lands, and Tribal rights. Since 2012, RCW 43.376 has governed the responsibilities of state agencies when it comes to the conduct and maintenance of relations with federally recognized American Indian Tribes.

During the past year, SAO has taken significant steps to ensure it is in compliance with state law. Our Office affirms that it is a priority to establish strong government-to-government relationships between Tribes to better inform our work. We are committed to using both consultation and consent in all interaction with Tribes.

Highlights

Coming Into Compliance

- **New internal policy:** We implemented a new internal policy that guides how we establish and maintain relationships with Washington state's Tribes and brings us into compliance with RCW 43.376.
- **Appointment of Tribal Liaison:** We specified that the agency's Deputy State Auditor, supported by the Director of Legislative & Policy Affairs, would serve as SAO's Tribal Liaison and directly report to the State Auditor. SAO also has an internal policy to ensure that SAO employees who interact with American Indian Tribes receive proper training.
- **Training:** SAO has worked to comply with RCW 43.376 by having employees who interact with Tribes take the Government-to-Government Training offered by the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA). To date, 26 of our employees who are most likely to interact with Tribes have been trained by the GOIA, including 23 employees this past year.

Performance Audits

- SAO frequently engages in work that reviews programs and offers recommendations that could affect Tribal governments when it comes to public moneys, grants, and programs that could intersect with Tribes' interests. Performance audits compare what an agency is currently doing against what is (1) required by law and (2) recommended by leading practices. We offer recommendations for improved outcomes that could include money-saving methods or better processes for service delivery. Performance auditors regularly seek to understand Tribal perspectives when planning audits that may have a nexus with Tribal interests. A few highlighted Performance Audits are:
 - Growth Management Act: county and city compliance with the state's 120-day permitting requirement (April 2, 2024)
 - Housing Finance Commission - Tenant purchase options (November 19, 2024)
 - Community Engagement During Contaminated Site Cleanups (April 29, 2025)
 - Ensuring Climate-Resilient Infrastructure to Meet Washington's Growing Energy Needs (June 24, 2025)

Staff Contacts

Kelly Collins, Deputy State Auditor

564-999-0807 | collinsk@sao.wa.gov

Scott D. Nelson, Director of Legislative & Policy Affairs

564-999-0804 | nelsons@sao.wa.gov

Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)

Summary

The following highlights provide a high-level overview of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families' (DCYF) child welfare, early learning, and juvenile rehabilitation programs and services that exist to improve physical, mental, and emotional outcomes for Tribal children and communities.

Highlights

Office of the Secretary

In January 2025, we welcomed Tana Senn as DCYF's new secretary. Since assuming the role, Secretary Senn has fully embraced the agency's government-to-government relationships with Tribes across Washington state, attending the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs' government-to-government training. She accepted invitations to meet with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Council and the Colville Business Council, demonstrating her commitment to listening and learning firsthand. Secretary Senn also participated in key Tribal forums including the Tribal Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC), the Indian Child Welfare (ICW) Subcommittee, and the Indian Policy Early Learning Committee (IPEL), where she heard directly from Tribal leaders about their priorities.

Additionally, she attended the Tribal Opioid Summit to better understand the devastating impacts of fentanyl in Tribal communities and to explore how DCYF can be a strong partner in supporting prevention, intervention, and healing efforts.

Child Welfare

The Child Welfare (CW) division collaborates with DCYF's Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) in numerous ways to ensure that Tribal children, youth, and families are being supported most effectively. The following are examples of this collaboration:

- CW ensured that incoming DCYF staff receive training on ICW policies and procedures. CW collaborated with OTR and The Alliance for Professional Development, Training and Caregiver Excellence to update Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) training for staff and providers, including: ICW Policy training, Comprehensive Qualified Expert Witness (QEW) training, and ICW Legal training.
- Finalized the Active Efforts guide for CW staff which included significant involvement and collaboration with OTR and Tribes.
- Collaborated with Tribes to centralize the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP). CW supported and ensured Tribal voice was heard and updated data collection for GAP to include information about the Reason to Know policy, Tribe affiliation, Tribal court guardianship, and Tribal court.

- Collaborated with OTR and Tribes on policy and procedure updates for CW's Procedure Manual Transformation Project.
- Updated data collection and identified ways that we can follow up on potential Native American Ancestry through the Relative Engagement Unit.
- Partnered with OTR and Partnership and Prevention Services (PPS) to create ICW Practice Highlights within the Family Practice Model, Practice Profiles. Focused on engaging bias awareness with all families and caregivers.
- The percentage of youth in the D.S. Class has decreased by 30.9% from the June 2022 baseline. The total number of children and youth experiencing night-to-night placements and placement exceptions decreased by 76% from January 2024 to December 2024. The number of unique youth experiencing placement exceptions/night-to-night stays over a calendar year decreased 59% from calendar years 2023 to 2024.
- The United States' 24th ICWA Court was launched in region 5, Pierce County, on September 24, 2024. The ICWA Court was developed in consultation with national experts, court partners, Tribal partners, and persons with lived experience in the child welfare system. The ICWA Court docket will offer families a dedicated team committed to both the letter and the spirit of ICWA, quarterly training for all court participants. Currently there are 21 children being served by the court. The first reunification and dismissal occurred on June 5, 2025.
- Region 5 centralized their Active Efforts staff under one unit to support the needs of the Puyallup Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, and Suquamish Tribe and families. The unit developed a guide outlining its purpose and appropriate requests to help staff and other community partners gain a clearer understanding of its role. In the last 12 months, the average monthly referrals have been 57 cases.

ICW Legal Unit

DCYF's new ICW Legal Unit launched in 2025 to ensure Tribes are afforded the opportunity to intervene in dependency, guardianship, and termination of parental rights cases for which there is reason to know a child is or may be an American Indian child.

The unit prepares ICW Legal packets sent to Tribes and the Northwest Bureau of Indians Affairs, coordinates closely with the Offices of the Attorneys General across Washington state, and maintains all Tribal response to ICWA Notice records.

Early Learning

Due to statewide budget reductions, DCYF was required to prepare for structural changes. These changes ended up affecting all major Early Learning (EL) programs including Early Achievers, Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC), and Early Support for Infant and Toddlers (ESIT).

Highlights

- OTR supported \$7.5 million in Tribal Early Learning Funds (TELF), which provided resources to Tribal early learning programs and Tribal-serving early learning programs. Funding goes toward programs providing culturally appropriate services in an inclusive manner. This opportunity was co-designed alongside our Tribal partners and served over 4,000 Tribal children across Washington state. The TELF grant was awarded to 16 Tribal Nations throughout the state.
- Hosted Early Childhood Equity Grant technical assistance sessions for Tribes in collaboration with OTR.
- Issued over \$48,000 in grants to Tribal providers through Child Care Complex Needs Fund and Early Achievers Needs-Based Grant.
- EL attended IPEL meetings, gathering input on access, facilities, and living wage implementation.
- Ongoing collaboration with Department of Commerce to improve Tribal access to the Early Learning Facilities Grant.

Tribal IECMHC

The Tribal IECMHC initiative is a landmark effort dedicated to promoting culturally responsive and preventive mental health support for Tribal communities.

- DCYF, in partnership with Dawn Yazzie of Dził Nitsaa Consulting & Services and the Child Care Aware of Washington Holding Hope, launched a culturally grounded mental health consultation model.
- A framework — guided by Tribal elders, Traditional Knowledge, and the IECMHC Tribal Advisory Group — is in place to support mental health in Tribal early learning programs. The framework reflects Traditional Indigenous Knowledge and healing practices shared by those Tribal members. Decisions shaping this framework were further cocreated by the Washington IECMHC Tribal Advisory Group.
- Tribal Professional Development Pathway: Five Tribal scholars entered the UW Barnard Center ACT Program to build long-term clinical capacity in Tribal communities.

Early Achievers

Early Achievers is Washington's quality recognition and improvement system for early learning programs. The LOVIT Way Program Evaluation Process (PEP) is now an approved optional assessment pathway for Tribal programs. Currently, 12 Tribal programs (59 classrooms) are using LOVIT to strengthen cultural and language integration.

The LOVIT Way PEP is a culturally inspired early learning program quality assessment and planning tool, developed by the Aboriginal Head Start Association of British Columbia for use in Indigenous programs. A Professional Learning Group is supporting Tribal coaches, covering topics like sovereignty, language, and Indigenizing curriculum and supporting programs using LOVIT Way.

ECEAP

DCYF continues to support Tribal contractors with guidance on curriculum, assessment, mobility mentoring, and compliance. A new Strategic Planning and Operations Team will streamline Tribal ECEAP operations, growth readiness, and slot distribution. Highlights include:

- Preparation for the Indian Child Eligibility Definition (WAC 110-425-0030) implementation beginning on July 1, 2025.
- ECEAP slot impacts: Chief Leschi lost four slots and Tulalip lost two. Lummi, Squaxin, Suquamish, and Swinomish were Held Harmless resulting in zero reductions due to contractor size.
- Six Tribal contractors and two subcontractors will participate in the 2025–26 school year.
- ECEAP Tribal Specialist position was eliminated, Tribal support will continue via the Communications, Engagement and Language Access team.

ESIT

Early intervention services support families as they meet the needs of their children. The ESIT program provides services to children from birth to age 3 who have disabilities or developmental delays. In partnership with families, services can help children be more active and successful during their early childhood years and in a variety of settings. ESIT has continued to identify needs, provide support, and build relationships with Tribal Nations to promote this service.

- DCYF maintains Interlocal Government Agreements with Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and Lummi Nation and is working to onboard the Nisqually Indian Tribe.
- Tribal representation continues on the State Interagency Coordinating Council.
- A Tribal consultant provides support and training rooted in traditional Tribal healing, including a weekly “Tribal Terms” learning feature for ESIT staff and partners.

Juvenile Rehabilitation

- Government-to-government 10.03 plans are currently in development with three Tribal partners. Ongoing engagement includes sharing updates, job postings, training announcements, resources, and presentations at conferences hosted by Tribes.
- Collaborated with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation on community supervision of Tribal youth via GPS.
- Cultural Services provided at Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) facilities included:
 - Green Hill School hosted a Pow Wow in October 2024.
 - Native Project open house/Ribbon cutting ceremony for a new health care facility.
 - Native Circle Culture group has bimonthly sweat lodges.
 - Indigenous youth practice beading, drumming, and moccasin making.
- Served six youth with Community Assisted Reentry voluntary services.
- Harbor Heights in Aberdeen opened and is serving eight youth. It will be at full capacity (46) in the next fiscal year.
- Community Justice Accountability Act (CJAA), as outlined in RCW 13.40.500, provides Tribes and Recognized American Indian Organizations (RAIOs) with a small grant to support youth and families to avoid youth incarceration. Nine CJAA Tribal contracts were in place.

- Eight Residential Custody Service Agreements were signed by Tribal leaders to allow youth to enter state JR facilities via a Tribal court order. Four youth were served under an RCSA. Extended the RCSA to five years.
- Established a substance use disorder Aftercare Contract with Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations.

Licensing Division

The Licensing Division (LD) collaborates with OTR to improve practices and strengthen our relationships, sharing regular project updates to maintain engagement and transparency. Projects currently underway in partnership with OTR include:

- Developing a process that would notify Tribes when a non-CPS intake is received on a foster home or Group Care facility where a Tribal child or a child eligible for membership is placed.
- Creating opportunities for Tribal staff to accompany child care licensing staff on site visits for training and observation purposes, allowing for opportunities to learn licensing practices firsthand.
- Revisions to the WAC for child care, foster care, and group care, as well as the establishment of the new kinship WACs, have been presented in Tribal Engagement, IPEL, and ICW Subcommittee meetings. Additionally, the Foster Care Negotiated Rule Making (NRM) process included two representatives from Tribal Child Placing Agencies (CPAs). There were further Tribal feedback sessions for Group Care NRM and LD partnered with OTR in writing a “Dear Tribal Leader” letter to encourage Tribal input into the Group Care WACs. OTR was involved in the early communications regarding the development of WACs for Residential Private Schools and an overview of the project was shared at an ICW Subcommittee meeting. The WAC will include a section that acknowledges the traumatic history of residential and boarding schools and their intergenerational impact on Tribal communities.
- Tribal CPA partners were invited to a series of Listening and Learning sessions regarding updates in kinship and foster care licensing. Kinship related initiatives were also shared with the ICW Subcommittee, TPAC, and the Indigenous Children, Youth, and Families (ICYF) Conference. Tribal Guidance meetings occurred to discuss kinship WACs and the Kinship Home Study and Reassessment Practice Guide. Meetings with Tribal partners resulted in additional WAC requirements specifically for licensed kinship caregivers caring for American Indian children. LD was fortunate to have guest presenters from OTR for all foundational LD staff training this year. Also, the LD hosted a two-day, in-person foster care licensing orientation for Tribal CPA partners.

Office of Innovation, Alignment, and Accountability

The Office of Innovation, Alignment, and Accountability published the first [ICW Evaluation Report](#), providing metrics that the agency can monitor. This work tracks CW trends in our American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) and AI/AN-multi-racial communities, as well as how changes to practices and services may improve these outcomes across time.

The evaluator assists with ongoing culturally informed pilot programs for Native service providers and provides ongoing technical assistance with ICW Case Reviews and QEW request tracking.

Office of Tribal Relations

OTR is staffed with 25 team members who support the agency in its mission to strengthen its government-to-government relationships with Tribes. DCYF also has nearly a dozen dedicated Tribal specialists located in various divisions across the state. OTR also underwent a leadership transition with the appointment of a new director in November 2024.

Meetings, Conferences, and Trainings

TPAC meetings are held bi-annually; all Tribes and RAIOS are invited to attend. OTR also continues to hold monthly ICW Subcommittee meetings in which state and Tribal partners discuss CW policies, opportunities, and issues. DCYF schedules annual meetings with Tribes, when requested, to develop Tribal plans under the 10.03 policy. IPEL meets every other month.

OTR has significantly expanded training efforts to support the implementation of the revised ICW Policy and Procedures, delivering 163.59 hours of training across 60 sessions to a total of 1,476 participants. This includes 27 targeted trainings for case-carrying child welfare staff, along with specialized sessions for licensing staff, caregivers, and Tribal partners. OTR also hosted the 5th annual ICYF Conference with 392 participants and provided government-to-government trainings for the EL division. To streamline training requests and improve outreach, OTR developed a referral form and continues to tailor training content to meet the evolving needs of DCYF staff and Tribal communities.

Tribal Foster Care Licensing

OTR partnered with the Caregiver Supports Project to launch the Caregiver Supports Agreement for Tribes, which provides payments to Tribes for supporting unlicensed caregivers of Tribal youth. These payments are distinct from foster care reimbursements and acknowledge the longstanding support provided to caregivers by Tribes. The agreement is being rolled out in phases, with 16 Tribes currently eligible to participate.

Local Indian Child Welfare Advisory Committees

OTR has prioritized strengthening Local Indian Child Welfare Advisory Committees (LICWACs) to support the preservation of Indian families, Tribal connections, and cultural identity. With 12 active LICWACs statewide, nearly 200 cases have been reviewed over the past year, fostering collaboration between Tribes and DCYF. OTR is also planning a virtual statewide LICWAC convening to enhance processes and share best practices.

Qualified Expert Witness

As OTR nears its first year managing the QEW program, it has filled over 500 QEW requests and onboarded 17 contractors, prioritizing recruitment from every RAIO to ensure cultural representation. OTR has connected with over 150 potential candidates through outreach to Tribes, RAIOS, and ICWA conferences. Training and support efforts include sessions at 18 DCYF offices, regional meetings, and resource development such as training materials, checklists, and templates to aid caseworkers.

Quality Assurance Team

The OTR Quality Assurance (QA) team conducted two pilot ICW Case Record Reviews. This was the result of a collaboration with two regional offices, which provided baseline information on ICW practice in the field and the opportunity for the QA team to fine tune the newly developed review tool and process.

The QA team also hosted three Active Efforts Virtual Resource Fairs to recruit culturally inclusive service providers with experience in serving Tribal children and families to share their resources and support with DCYF staff. The goal was to create a resource directory for DCYF caseworkers showcasing the unique resources available for Tribal families.

The Active Efforts Community of Practice was launched to support Active Efforts specialists through peer-to-peer collective learning to share knowledge and experience, provide innovative and creative problem-solving support, and enhance knowledge on active efforts work.

Partnership, Prevention, and Services

DCYF continues to advance culturally specific and responsive services for Tribal communities through 10 Tribal pilot programs and partnerships. With funding from the Ballmer Group, DCYF contracted with the University of Washington to provide technical assistance and support formative evaluations, helping Tribes strengthen and refine their prevention programs.

OTR's Tribal Prevention Specialist partnered with Service Continuum to offer three Positive Indian Parenting Train-the-Trainer sessions, providing culturally grounded parenting education aligned with Tribal values. These efforts are part of a broader strategy under the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) to expand culturally responsive, prevention-focused services and honor Tribal sovereignty.

OTR supports Tribal engagement in FFPSA implementation, expands Title IV-E passthrough opportunities, and promotes Tribally designed service models that prioritize community leadership and long-term sustainability.

Strengthening Families

- DCYF, through the Home Visiting Services Account, funds four Tribes and two Tribal organizations to implement evidence-based home visiting models, serving 130 families from Tribal and Indigenous communities:
 - Parents as Teachers (72 family slots): An evidence based early childhood home visiting framework designed to support parents and promote positive child development for families with children from birth to age 5.
 - United Indians of All Tribes Foundation is the oldest of the Tribal-specific programs in the Home Visiting Services Account (HVSA), using federal MIECHV funds (2015) and State General Funds (2020) to serve 24 Urban Indian families in King and south King County and Native Hawaiian families. This program receives direct Tribal MIECHV funds from DHHS outside of DCYF.
 - Suquamish Tribe: Can serve up to 24 Suquamish families.
 - Cowlitz Indian Tribe: Can serve up to 24 Cowlitz and other Native families.
 - Family Spirit (58 families) is an evidenced-based home visiting intervention designed to support Indigenous caregivers during pregnancy and early childhood.
 - Lummi Nation: Can serve up to 12 Lummi families.
 - The Tulalip Tribes: Can serve up to 18 Tulalip families.
 - Hummingbird Indigenous Family Services: Can serve up to 28 “relatives” from among the Urban Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties.

- There are five non-Tribal programs that have specific outreach to Tribal communities using HVSA funding:
 - Whatcom County Health Department Nurse Family Partnership has an outreach specialist and Nurse Home Visitor supporting 13 Lummi families.
 - Yakima Memorial Hospital Foundation/Children's Village NFP incorporates two Yakama Nurse Home Visitors to serve 32 families on the Yakama Reservation.
 - Seattle King County Public Health has a Nurse Family Partnership Nurse Home Visitor work with 13 families from the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.
 - Yakima Farmworkers Clinic Parents and Teachers has a parent educator working on the Yakama Reservation supporting 12 Yakama families.
 - First Step Family Support Center Parents as Teachers has included 12 Tribal families on their caseload from the Olympic Peninsula.
- Funded three Tribal Fatherhood programs, which have done some amazing work with the United Indians of All Tribes, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, and Lummi Nation.

Staff Contact

Cassie Anderson, Director of Tribal Relations

509-780-1965 | cassie.anderson@dcyf.wa.gov

Department of Commerce

Summary

The Department of Commerce's (Commerce) Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) collaborates with the agency's grant-making divisions to strengthen Tribal communities. OTR also conducts internal training for agency staff on Tribal history, Tribal sovereignty, and best practices for managing Tribal funding agreements. In addition to the dedicated work of OTR, Commerce has a unit of Regional Community Engagement Specialists who build relationships with Tribal Nations to deepen its understanding of each Tribe's specific needs.

Highlights

Director's Office

- The Washington State Department of Commerce withdrew funding for a proposed tidal energy research project in response to concerns from multiple Tribal Nations whose Treaty-protected waterways would be affected by the installation and project work.
- Commerce has entered into Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with Tribes since 2024. These agreements demonstrate Commerce's respect for Tribal sovereignty through an agency-and-Tribe agreement that streamlines contracting terms. MOUs also ask Tribal Nations to dictate how we protect Tribal data and engage at every level of Tribal consultation.
- Commerce hosted its annual Commerce Tribal Advisory Committee in October 2025.

Community Services Division

- The Violence Against Women STOP and Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy programs awarded more than \$200,000 to Tribes.
- Additional funding to Tribes is distributed through the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy via the Tribal Government Initiative, Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention, and Wraparound Services of Human Trafficking programs.

Energy Division

- Tribes were awarded \$19.9 million through a variety of Clean Energy Fund sources.
- The Washington Electric Vehicle Charging program awarded \$9 million to Tribes.
- Tribal Benefit Agreements help ensure that Tribes benefit from clean energy projects.
- Commerce hosted four quarterly Healthy Environment for All Act (HEAL) Tribal briefings.
- Yakama Nation was allocated \$20.4 million for rail energy storage and canal solar projects.

Housing Division:

- The Housing Division submitted, in a budget decision package, a set-aside of capital funds for Tribes from the Housing Trust Fund in September 2024. A 10% set-aside was included in the 2025–27 budget, setting a precedent for future state capital budgets.

Local Government Division

- The Tribal Climate Resilience Grant Program administered \$52 million in funding to Tribes.
- The Emergency Rapid Response Program awarded \$560,000 in funding to Tribes.
- The Building Communities Fund awarded \$5,950,000 in funding to Tribes.
- The Digital Navigator Program awarded \$3 million in funding to Tribes.
- The Tribal Planning Coordination Program was established to implement changes to the Growth Management Act.
- The Billy Frank Jr. Heritage Center Grant awarded \$199,820 to the Survival of American Indians Association to use for design and planning of a heritage center in Thurston County.

Office of Economic Development and Competitiveness

- The Office of Economic Development and Competitiveness has partnered with Tribes in several programs and ongoing activities. This includes a Tribal citizen–led organization being part of the Small Business Resiliency Network, and two Native Community Development Financial Institutions participating in the Equitable Access to Credit Program. The Small Business Export Assistance Team is collaborating with Tim Reynon, executive director of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, on expanding overseas markets. The division has also worked to promote the State Trade and Expansion Program, which provides federally backed grants to support foreign market expansion for small businesses.

Staff Contact

Alden Andy, Interim Director, Office of Tribal Relations

360-791-2595 | alden.andy@commerce.wa.gov

State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)

Summary

The Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) — led by a nine- member governor-appointed board — advocates, coordinates, and directs Washington state’s system of 34 public community and technical colleges (CTCs). Each year, about 290,000 students train for the workforce, prepare to transfer to a university, gain basic math and English skills, or pursue continuing education. Our students, graduates, and community partners increase the state’s quality of life and economic vitality as entrepreneurs, employees, consumers, and taxpayers.

The SBCTC’s Director of Tribal Government Affairs (TGA) serves as the primary contact for Tribal government relations and offers guidance to the 34 community and technical colleges to address the disproportionality in rates of American Indian/Alaska Native student recruitment, retention, and completion. The TGA department develops government-to-government training for colleges to build authentic and meaningful relationships with regional Tribal nations, whose lands they occupy, and communities they serve. Tribal engagement needs statewide coordination and training, so colleges are appropriately prepared to begin this work with sovereign nations. CTCs across the state have mobilized and are requesting technical assistance to engage regional and local Tribes and Indigenizing curricula. SBCTC is dedicated to upholding our commitments under the Centennial Accord.

Highlights

- The SBCTC TGA department received a \$9.3 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop a climate-ready workforce with five partnered Tribes: Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation, Makah Tribe, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, and Quinault Indian Nation.
- The SBCTC TGA department partnered with the Spokane Colleges and the Spokane Tribe of Indians to host a Natural Resources Government-to-Government summit to support Native student pathways and ensure workforce alignment.
- Introduced and successfully lobbied for SB 5110 Tribal Elders Tuition Waiver, which allows CTCs to adopt a tuition waiver for elders over the age of 55 who are members of Washington’s 29 federally recognized Tribes.
- Attended ATNI, Washington State Summer Teaching Institute, GOIA Tribal Liaison and Tribal Leaders Congress meetings.
- Met quarterly with the WA CTC American Indian and Indigenous Advisory Board, of which Squaxin Island Tribe Chairman Peters is a member.
- Presented at the Washington State Indian Education Summer Teaching Institute in Omak, on Indigenizing curriculum and place-based education.
- Established a Smudge Taskforce to support our 34 CTCs to create local smudging policies at each institution.

Staff Contact

Maya Esquivido, Director of Tribal Government Affairs

360-704-1068 | mesquivido@sbctc.edu

Washington State Conservation Commission

Summary

The mission of the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) is to conserve natural resources on all lands in Washington state through voluntary and incentive-based programs in collaboration with conservation districts and other partners. SCC is the coordinating agency for Washington's 45 conservation districts. Tribes are essential partners for achieving our natural resources goals.

Highlights

- SCC invested significant staff time and agency resources to develop a Tribal engagement framework and began implementing new Tribal engagement principles with the guidance of expert consultants. SCC is working towards developing a Tribal engagement policy.
- 100% of SCC staff have now completed government-to-government training.
- After hearing Tribes elevate the importance of state agency Tribal Liaisons during the 2024 Centennial Accord meeting, SCC secured funding for a full-time Tribal Liaison and will hire this position in 2025, greatly enhancing the agency's Tribal engagement and consultation work.
- Grays Harbor Conservation District formed a strategic, multiyear collaboration with the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) targeting an infestation of invasive European Green Crab (EGC) at the Quinault Marina. This joint initiative centers on consistent trapping, capacity building, and educational outreach. Combined efforts have resulted in the removal of over 30,000 EGCs from the Quinault Marina area. The initiative strengthens QIN's ability to manage invasive species through training, funding support, and formal partnership.
- The San Juan Island Conservation District supported the development of the Lummi Guardians program, training Tribal youth in Traditional Ecological Knowledge. The Guardians program is housed at the Northwest Indian College and works with cultural elders on the Lummi Reservation and through the Canadian Gulf Islands to help transition ecological knowledge to the next generation of landscape professionals.
- The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) are vital members of the Walla Walla County Voluntary Stewardship Program work group coordinated by the Walla Walla Conservation District. CTUIR's participation has ensured Tribal "River Vision" and first foods are considered in projects and monitoring.

Staff Contacts

James Thompson, Executive Director

564-233-9919 | jthompson@scc.wa.gov

Kate Delavan, Policy Director

360-280-6486 | kdelavan@scc.wa.gov

Department of Corrections (DOC)

Summary

DOC's mission is to improve public safety by positively changing lives. As of June 30, 2025, the DOC has 14,013 incarcerated individuals and 13,588 individuals under court-ordered community supervision and under the department's jurisdiction. Seven percent of those in prison and 5% of those under community supervision identify as American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN), which is a 2%–3% increase since June 2024. There is currently a 35% recidivism rate among the AI/AN population, which is 2% higher than last year and 6% higher than 2023, as well as being above the overall DOC recidivism rate of 25%. The percentage of DOC staff that have provided voluntary ethnic origin and self-identified as AI/AN is 2.15%.

Highlights

Meetings, Summits, and Conferences

At the end of 2024, the governor appointed Tim Lang to serve as the Secretary for the Department of Corrections (DOC). He is working hard to continue the positive government-to-government relationships with Tribal leaders. He followed Tribal leaders' suggestions and made the Office of Tribal Relations' director a direct report to the Secretary.

The department established the Corrections Indian Policy Advisory Committee to recognize Washington state's unique relationship with Tribal governments and honor Tribal sovereignty. Secretary Lang and co-chair Vice Chair Greninger will host a meeting September 2025. Additionally, DOC leadership will be visiting Tribes and meeting with Tribal leaders for more one-on-one interactions and in-person communications.

DOC actively participated in the third annual Washington State Tribal Opioid and Fentanyl Summit, attended by both Secretary Lang and Deputy Secretary Russell. DOC leadership joined in collaborative workgroups and discussed topics such as public safety and the justice system, continuum of care, housing and wraparound services, family and community services, and community response. DOC staff continue to join and participate in workgroups and meetings to continue the conversations to aid in both learning and sharing with Tribes and other agencies on the opioid crisis, including efforts to reduce its interdiction and presence within our system. We also are looking at ways to assist when individuals are released, such as NARCAN education and the provision of NARCAN kits.

With the implementation of the 1115 Waiver, there will be staff assigned to assist in the re-entry for AI/AN individuals and the connection to Tribal Health Services.

DOC has put a strong emphasis on gender informed practices to meet the needs of all individuals under the jurisdiction of the department. Through gender-specific practices and trauma informed principles, DOC strives to enhance the overall well-being benefiting the individual, their family, and their community upon reentry. DOC plans to continue training and educating staff to continue this great work.

The department also continues to advance the patient centered medical home (PCMH) health care delivery model which uses a highly individualized approach to health care and increases opportunities for all culturally appropriate interactions allowing AI/AN incarcerated individuals to choose support networks extending beyond their primary medical teams.

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) and Memorandums of Agreement (MOA)

DOC has multiple MOUs and MOAs with Tribal governments:

- Implementation of Senate Bill 5694 allows Washington Tribes with federal sentencing authority to house their incarcerated individuals at DOC facilities, where individuals can access health care, programming, and religious and cultural services.
- DOC and Tulalip Tribes continue the interagency agreement for Tribal Probation Officers and Administrators to attend and have access to DOC's Community Corrections Officer's Academy.
- DOC and Nisqually jail's contract for housing of short-term sentences is an invaluable partnership that we look forward to continuing.

Contract for Services Specific to AI/AN Incarcerated Individuals

DOC contracts with Unkitawa to facilitate religious and cultural events such as Powwows, sweat lodges, regalia making, and drumming for AI/AN individuals housed in DOC prisons.

Staff Contacts

Colleen F. Cawston, Director Tribal Relations

360-789-1655 | Colleen.Cawston@doc1.wa.gov

Harj Aulakh, Management Analyst

360-515-6661 | Harj.Aulakh@doc1.wa.gov

Department of Ecology

Summary

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) partners with Tribes to protect, preserve, and enhance Washington's land, air, water, and climate for current and future generations. Ecology and Tribes frequently consult and coordinate on projects throughout the state in connection with air quality issues, climate resilience efforts, water quality permits, water cleanup plans, water right actions, shoreline management, spill response, toxic cleanup, environmental impact assessments, and more.

Highlights

Agreements

- **Air quality:** The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Nooksack Indian Tribe, and Tulalip Tribes signed a memorandum of understanding to expand air monitoring and explore air pollution reduction strategies.
- **Chehalis Basin:** With interagency agreements, Ecology provided \$375,000 to Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation and \$445,000 to Quinault Indian Nation to help with the Chehalis Basin Strategy, restore salmon habitat, and reduce flood damage.

Climate

- **Climate and Carbon Offset grants:** Ecology awarded \$21 million to 28 Tribes for clean energy project development, climate resilience work, consultation on clean energy siting, and consultation on Climate Commitment Act funded projects. Additionally, \$3 million was shifted to allow 21 recipients to continue work on projects initiated in 2023–25. Finally, \$5 million went to six Tribes to help design and assess carbon offset projects.
- **Blue Carbon Inventory:** Ecology is developing an inventory of coastal habitats, including tidal forested wetlands, mudflats, seagrass beds, and other coastal ecosystems, and has presented on the inventory at Tribal conferences and several State-Tribal Climate Roundtables.
- **Cap-and-Invest Program:** Ecology held seven Tribal forums and participated in five state-Tribal climate roundtables, engaging on rulemaking, policy, linkage, offsets, Emissions Intensive Trade Exposed industries, greenhouse gas inventories, fluorinated gases, and vehicle emissions standards.

Rulemaking and Legislative Actions

- **Aquatic Life Toxics:** In 2024, Ecology completed the biggest update to the rule in 30 years, updating 16 pollutants and adding criteria for 14, including 6PPD and PFAS. Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission gave feedback. The rule is awaiting federal approval.
- **Columbia and Snake Rivers:** In 2025, Ecology began implementing EPA's Temperature TMDL — a plan to address warming water. Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and Spokane Tribe of Indians are on the committee, and others participate when able.

- **Human Health Criteria:** Ecology completed a rulemaking in 2024 that adopted existing federal water quality human health criteria into state regulations. The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Makah Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, and Suquamish Tribe made the request.

Research, Cleanups, Restoration, and Training

- **Deschutes Estuary restoration / Capitol Lake:** The Legislature shifted this work to Ecology as of July 1. Ecology is working to assign resources and coordinate contracts and management with Department of Enterprise Services. The agencies are committed to the restoration and are collaborating with the Squaxin Island Tribe.
- **6PPD-quinone:** Tribes collaborated with Ecology on more than \$1 million in state and federal funded 6PPD stormwater research. Lummi Nation is measuring contaminants in surface waters; Nisqually Indian Tribe is evaluating stormwater treatments; Snoqualmie Indian Tribe is evaluating unamended grassy swales and a floating wetland for mitigation effectiveness; and the Tulalip Tribes are supporting crumb rubber research. Ecology also led an educational workshop for over 60 Tribal members and staff at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians’ 2024 Natural Resources Summit.
- **Hanford cleanup:** Ecology, U.S. Energy, and EPA consulted with the Nez Perce Tribe and Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation in fall 2024 on the Holistic Agreement. They held sessions with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Nez Perce Tribe about tank retrieval and closure, facility closure, and soil and groundwater cleanup.
- **Derelict vessels:** The Northwest Straits Commission worked with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to remove 49 derelict vessels posing environmental threats and impacting access to cultural resources in Skagit County.
- **Habitat restoration:** Ecology’s Washington Conservation Corps provided 126 weeks of field crew support for various restoration projects at no cost to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Quileute Tribe, and Tulalip Tribes.
- **Eatonville landfill:** The Nisqually Indian Tribe requested a cleanup of the landfill in 2020. Ecology worked with Eatonville and Weyerhaeuser to evaluate cleanup options. In 2025, all parties signed a consent decree to clean up and remove contents of the landfill. Work will be completed by 2026.
- **Waikiki Spring Creek restoration:** Ecology awarded \$450,000 in grants to the Spokane Tribe of Indians to improve streamflows in the tributary to the Little Spokane River. The work will enhance a degraded wetland outlet, restore fish passage, modify the creek channel for larger flows, and enhance habitat for native Redband trout.
- **PFAS at Yakima Training Center:** The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation met with Ecology in 2024 regarding PFAS contamination at the army facility and in the East Selah community. Ecology presented updates and sought input on the investigation.

Staff Contact

Tyson Hawk Oreiro, Executive Advisor for Tribal Affairs

360-485-3970 | tyson.oreiro@ecy.wa.gov

Employment Security Department

Summary

The Washington State Employment Security Department (Employment Security) collects unemployment taxes, provides unemployment benefits, analyzes and disseminates labor market and employment information, manages the Paid Family and Medical Leave program, and co-manages WA Cares, the state's long-term care program. Employment Security is also an active partner in WorkSource, Washington's employment and training service delivery system. Employment Security engages Tribes on a government-to-government basis and serves Native people across these programs.

Highlights

- Employment Security hired a full-time Tribal Liaison to strengthen the agency's government-to-government relationship with Tribes.
- WorkSource participated in job and resource fairs serving job seekers and employers in rural and urban Tribal communities, at times partnering with Tribes to co-host the events. WorkSource Okanogan, for example, partnered with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to host a September 2024 job and resource fair in Nespelem.
- WorkSource presented information on employment and training services for veterans to the Joint American Indian Veterans Advisory Council on several occasions.
- Employment Security supported Tribal emergency response efforts. For example, WorkSource worked with partners to deliver food to White Swan community members impacted by the 2024 Slide Ranch Fire.
- Employment Security supported Tribal workforce analyses and data requests, including one custom request for employment and wage data for the Spokane Tribe of Indians.
- WorkSource and the Yakama Warriors Association co-hosted the "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" event, an annual state-recognized occasion honoring Vietnam veterans.
- Employment Security continued its partnership with Native Action Network through the Unemployment Insurance Community Navigator program, helping the agency reach 74 people eligible for unemployment benefits.
- Employment Security partnered with Local Workforce Development Boards through the Economic Security for All (EcSA) initiative and use of the Department of Commerce Community Reinvestment Fund to support workforce development opportunities statewide. For example, the Olympic Workforce Development Council formalized a memorandum of understanding with the Suquamish Tribe to establish a collaborative framework for serving Tribal citizens eligible for EcSA and CRF incentives.

Staff Contact

Preston Parish, Tribal Liaison

360-918-3631 | preston.parish@esd.wa.gov

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

Summary

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) serves as a “one-stop” shop for permitting and siting major energy facilities in the state of Washington. As part of the process, EFSEC seeks to identify: (1) Tribal resources or rights potentially affected by a proposed energy facility; and (2) ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects on Tribal resources and rights.

Highlights

In its second year of existence as a newly independent state agency, EFSEC continued to build the infrastructure and processes needed to deepen engagement with Tribal nations and identify the impacts of energy facilities on affected Tribes. Highlights of this work include:

- Finalized the first interagency agreement with a federally recognized Tribe to provide funding with Climate Commitment Act funds for the completion of a Traditional Cultural Property Study of a proposed energy facility. The initial agreement now serves as a template for other agreements under development.
- Developed a soon-to-be-adopted internal Tribal consultation policy, establishing the foundation for EFSEC’s respect-based engagement with Tribes that recognizes its commitment to a constructive government-to-government relationship with federally recognized Tribes. The next step is development of a Tribal communications protocol.
- Within the Tribal consultation policy, established a requirement for staff working with any Tribe to attend the Washington State Government-to-Government Training facilitated by the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs within six months of hire. As of the reporting deadline, eight members of EFSEC’s siting and compliance division have completed the training.
- Continued to review internal policy and processes for individual Tribal communications to strengthen participation throughout the course of project pre-application, application, construction, and ongoing compliance. As part of that process, there was on-going staff-level collaboration with Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and environmental and cultural resource staff. In addition, EFSEC provided notifications to the Tribes in Washington and neighboring states of the application for site certification received for the Wallula Gap Solar project; EFSEC’s pre-application discussions with developers for a battery energy storage system in Skagit County; and a renewable energy facility in Kitsap County.
- Engaged in government-to-government consultations with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

Staff Contacts

Sonia Bumpus, Executive Director

360-664-1363 | sonia.bumpus@efsec.wa.gov

Lisa C. McLean, Legislation & Policy Manager

360-664-1345 | lisa.mclean@efsec.wa.gov

Department of Enterprise Services

Summary

We strengthen the business of government by managing centralized business and operational support services that Tribes and other government entities may use so that they can focus on their core missions. DES brings the policy, planning, and oversight of central services together.

We are committed to the Centennial Accord principles and to achieving the following goals:

1. Recognize and respect each Tribe as a sovereign government with a distinct culture and governmental structure that serves their Tribal members and greater community.
2. Constantly improve the value and effectiveness of the services we provide to Tribal governments.
3. Continuously improve our understanding of Tribal government needs so that we can find and remove barriers to accessing our services.
4. Find shared concerns to offer early discussion, collaboration, and consultation, if needed.

Highlights

Statewide contracts: Tribal governments located within Washington state can buy goods and services from our statewide contracts. This can save Tribes time and money by using competitively awarded contracts. There are over 185 statewide contracts that include items such as IT Professional services, motor vehicles, communications and marketing, debts collection services, portable sanitation services, and medical protective equipment.

Participating Tribes include:

- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Hoh Indian Tribe
- Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
- Lummi Nation
- Makah Tribe
- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Nooksack Indian Tribe
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
- Quileute Tribe
- Quinault Indian Nation
- Samish Indian Nation
- Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
- Shoalwater Bay Tribe
- Skokomish Indian Tribe
- Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
- Spokane Tribe of Indians
- Squaxin Island Tribe
- Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
- Suquamish Tribe
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
- Tulalip Tribes
- Upper Skagit Indian Tribe

Supplier diversity: The DES Procurement, Inclusion, and Equity (PIE) Program works to create a sustainable increase in the procurement of goods and services from small and diverse businesses by creating and implementing inclusive procurement practices and building a pipeline of available businesses. The PIE program works with Tribal and Tribal-member-owned businesses and organizations to identify businesses that are willing and able to contract with the state.

To support Tribal-member-owned businesses and increase their ability to contract with the state, this year the PIE Program:

- Attended Tribal events including the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, the National Center for American Indian Enterprise economic development session in Seattle, and the Entrepreneur program at the South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency.
- Presented on several Tribal economic development panels.
- Partnered with organizations including Native PTAC, Native Chamber of Commerce, Native Action Network, and Sister Sky.

Washington's Electronic Business Solution (WEBS): For Tribes conducting their own procurement activities, the WEBS platform is free and provides a great way for them to reach potential bidders. Tribal entities can post solicitations to the state's bid notification system to reach over 25,000 goods and services vendors registered in WEBS. They may also search the platform to find potential vendors.

The following Tribes and Tribal organizations are registered to post to WEBS:

- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- Makah Tribe
- Quileute Tribe
- Skokomish Indian Tribe
- Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
- Tulalip Tribes

State/federal surplus: The Makah Indian Tribe of the Makah Indian Reservation is registered to acquire state and federal surplus property. This helps them save on items they need and supports environmental sustainability by keeping items out of landfills. DES encourages all Tribes to engage with the Bureau of Indian Affairs as they have access to federal surplus property at a higher priority level than the states.

Energy performance contracting: Our Energy Program is finishing a construction project for Chief Leschi Schools (a Tribal compact school with the Puyallup Tribe) that will reduce the energy consumption of the facilities. The work includes updates to HVAC and lighting systems and improving the learning environment for the students. A second project in the Chief Leschi Schools is in the early phase of reviewing the cost-effectiveness, feasibility, and design options for installing solar panels.

Capitol Lake-Deschutes Estuary: During conceptual design, DES established partnerships with the Squaxin Island Tribe, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the cities of Olympia and Tumwater to

progress this estuary restoration project. The Squaxin Island Tribe and WDFW supplemented DES and the project team with expertise in estuary restoration.

A diversified funding strategy was developed to obtain additional project funding from federal, foundation, and other sources. This allowed the project to continue moving when the project depleted \$7 million of legislative allocation last year. The Tribe has granted over \$8.6 million to the project to date and is a critical partner in this work.

In partnership with the Squaxin Island Tribe, DES negotiated an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the cities of Olympia and Tumwater, Thurston County, Port of Olympia, and LOTT Clean Water Alliance for long-term governance and shared funding for maintenance dredging in navigational areas following construction.

In the 2025–27 capital budget, the Legislature transferred the Capital Lake Deschutes Estuary project to the Department of Ecology, effective July 2025. DES is partnering with the Department of Ecology to support a smooth transition.

Staff Contact

Ashlee Delaney, Director of Tribal Affairs

360-485-3613 | ashlee.delaney@des.wa.gov

Washington State Governor's Office of Equity

Summary

The Washington State Governor's Office of Equity (EQUITY) works to transform how state government builds relationships with Tribal Nations and communities. Our role is not to speak on behalf of Tribes, but to listen, support, and create pathways that adhere to sovereignty, self-determination, and self-governance. We serve as a connector and guide for agencies to understand how state work intersects with Tribal rights, histories, and protocols.

Highlights

Expansion of Tribal Liaison Staffing

- Advanced the Senior Tribal Relations Liaison and hired an additional Tribal Relations Liaison dedicated to advancing equity beyond reservation boundaries.

Continued Community Engagement and Outreach

- Participated in community gatherings and forums to build trust and deepen relationships.
- Convened a statewide community advisory board to guide EQUITY on community needs and priorities, including housing, mental health, ethical use of Tribal data, and internet access.

Enhancing Digital Equity

- Created and filled the Tribal Relations Liaison for Digital Equity position.
- Co-facilitated the Digital Equity Forum (DEF) and DEF workgroups.
- Distributed DEF Survey to Tribal communities, including in-person outreach to the Hoh Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, Spokane Tribe, and Yakama Nation

Launch of the WA for All Website

- Launched the waforall.wa.gov website to centralize resources for Washingtonians.

Elevating Enterprise Comms Series

- Initiated the Elevating Enterprise Comms series to align messaging strategies and build collaboration strategies across the enterprise.

Launch of SOVEREIGN: *Supporting Our Voices, Empowering Rights, and Indigenous Governance*

- Launched successful, enterprise-wide partnership SOVEREIGN to empower American Indian, Alaska Native, and Indigenous employees and partners within the Washington state government system.

Future Goals

- Continue expanding the Tribal Relations Bench to meet evolving Tribal and community needs.
- Strengthen partnerships with Tribal governments through consistent consultation and collaboration.

Staff Contacts

iisaaksiichaa ross braine (Apsaalooke Nation)

360.870.2503 iisaaksiichaa.braine@equity.wa.gov

Casey Wynecoop (Spokane Tribe)

360.890.6890 casey.wynecoop@equity.wa.gov

Department of Financial Institutions (Financial Education & Outreach)

Summary

An important part of our mission is to work with Washington Tribal communities to expand information and education related to financial products and services. This work is accomplished through financial education grants, outreach and community listening sessions, and partnership development meetings.

Highlights

- Participated in the Chehalis Confederated Tribes 2025 Financial Freedom Fair.
- Collaborated with the Makah Tribe to provide financial education to elementary, middle, and high school students attending the 2025 Makah College and Career Fair.
- Partnered with the Quinault Indian Nation to provide a financial education series to youth enrolled in the Boys and Girls Club of Quinault Indian Nation.
- Partnered with the United Indians of All Tribes to provide a Financial Empowerment workshop.
- Partnered with the Urban Native Education Alliance (UNEA) to provide financial education to youth enrolled in the UNEA Clear Sky Academy and Natives on the Rise programs.
- A financial education grant with Heritage University enhanced financial education outreach (in-person and virtual) for adults throughout the Yakima Valley. This includes some members of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.
- A contract with Money Savvy Generation brought financial education curriculum to 25 Tribal communities, reaching 1,793 students in 31 schools in 19 Tribal Communities.
- Financial education grant funding for the Chehalis Tribal Loan Fund resulted in at least five Tribal members attending workshops for purchasing homes. One participant is pre-approved and currently searching for a home, and many others are actively working toward homebuyer readiness through credit-improvement and budgeting strategies. Additionally, the CTLF Executive Director became certified to package USDA 502 Direct and 504 loans through Rural Community Assistance Corporation.
- A financial education grant with American Financial Solutions resulted in work on Nisqually Tribe TANF with tailored financial education to Tribal community members with a focus on credit, budgeting, and debt management. AFS also worked with the South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA). Through collaboration with SPIPA Workforce Development, AFS provides culturally relevant financial education to support Native families navigating economic transitions. AFS also worked with Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, delivering financial education programs tailored to Tribal members, focusing on budgeting and credit wellness in relationship to homeownership.

Staff Contact

Joepaul Wong, Tribal Liaison/Financial Examiner

360-250-6319 | joepaul.wong@dfi.wa.gov

Office of Financial Management

Summary

The Office of Financial Management (OFM) empowers Washingtonians by helping state agencies and the Legislature connect people, budgets, policies, data, and systems. OFM supports and recognizes the importance of working government-to-government with the 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington state. OFM is committed to consultation with federally recognized Tribes in the work and planning of program development, projects, and policies impacting American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Highlights

Following the closure of the Larch Corrections Center (LCC) in September 2023, the Washington State Legislature directed OFM to convene a task force to assess future options for the site. The LCC Task Force was charged with evaluating reuse strategies for the Larch property that can deliver lasting community benefits while ensuring responsible fiscal and environmental stewardship of the assets. The LCC Task Force was comprised of 13 members, including Vanessa Robertson, Tribal Council Secretary for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. OFM contracted with Halcyon Northwest to facilitate this process and provide technical analysis, feasibility assessment, and engagement with interested parties.

The final [report](#) was transmitted to the Legislature on June 30, 2025. The Task Force reached a strong consensus that the highest priority reuse of the LCC site is development as a multipurpose facility. This facility would flexibly accommodate multiple community priorities such as:

- Law enforcement and public safety training
- Environmental conservation and land stewardship education
- Youth development and seasonal outdoor education
- Community social services support
- Vocational and workforce development programming

In January 2025, OFM hired Mary Anderson as its first Tribal Affairs Liaison. She attended the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Convention hosted by the Kalispel Tribe and the Gratitude with Attitude Potlatch hosted at the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation.

OFM is working to establish an OFM Tribal policy in alignment with the Centennial Accord, Millenium Agreement, and RCW 43.376. This policy will involve feedback and collaboration with the federally recognized Tribes in Washington state. OFM is committed to educating staff on the importance of working government-to-government with Tribes. OFM sent all Budget Division staff and other divisional staff to the government-to-government training session facilitated by the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs.

OFM assisted in and supported the passage of [House Bill 1355](#) during the 2025 legislative session. HB 1355 modifies retail tax compacts between the state of Washington and federally recognized Tribes located in Washington state by increasing revenue-sharing percentages when a compacting Tribe has completed a qualified capital investment.

Staff Contact

Mary Anderson, Tribal Affairs Liaison

360-790-7768 | mary.anderson@ofm.wa.gov

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Summary

The mission of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is to preserve, protect, and perpetuate fish, wildlife, and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife-related recreational and commercial opportunities.

Through a cooperative government-to-government relationship with the Northwest Tribes, we implement this mission by conserving species and habitats and providing fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, and other outdoor recreation activities. Federal case law (*U.S. v. Washington* and *U.S. v. Oregon*) and executive orders provide the foundation for this relationship. We also work closely with the Tribes to restore and protect habitat needed to support healthy fish and wildlife populations in Washington.

Director Kelly Susewind holds the primary responsibility to sustain WDFW's partnerships with Tribes and upholds this agency's role in successful state-Tribal government-to-government relationships. The director delegates authority to senior staff to represent him in many state-Tribal management forums. WDFW Director of Tribal Affairs, Jim Woods, is the senior Tribal liaison within the Director's Office.

Highlights

Director's efforts

Director Kelly Susewind prioritizes and continues to focus on conservation, support responsible resource management decisions, and promote the importance of intergovernmental relations. The Director strives to align and coordinate resource management with Tribal partners. He works to strengthen the government-to-government relationship with Tribes and advocates policies that support self-determination and Tribal sovereignty.

Implementing Policy 5007

The agency continues to implement and train staff on Tribal policy (Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments policy [No. 5007]) led by Jim Woods, Director of Tribal Affairs. The policy facilitates and helps staff communicate and coordinate with federally recognized Tribes. Policy 5007 provides a refined uniform approach to consultation, promotes transparency, enhances communication and coordination, promotes early engagement, and helps us improve state-Tribal relations. It also serves as a curriculum to train WDFW staff on how to work with Tribal governments effectively, understand Treaty Rights, Tribal sovereignty, and self-governance.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

In December 2024, the DEI Team began conversations with The Nature Conservancy, the Whitener Group, and Jim Woods, WDFW Tribal Director, to use "Indian Country: 101" as a training requirement for WDFW staff. The DEI Team, in coordination with the Learning and Development Team, are working on attaining files to import the training into the agency's Learning Management System (LMS). Ninety-two staff members have completed training featuring the Fish Wars documentary within the last 12 months.

Similarly, Jim Woods and Larry Delgado, WDFW DEI Manager, are also looking at attaining the approval to host showings of the documentaries *Covenant of the Salmon People* about the Nez Perce Tribe, and *These Sacred Hills* for agency staff.

The agency is currently working with the Office of Equity as the Pro-Equity Anti-Racism initiative shifts to Impact Teams. Although the wording may change, the agency and the PEAR/Impact Teams remain committed to uplifting the voices of underrepresented and marginalized communities around the state. The Impact Teams will continue to grow the list of external partners throughout our communities to identify, mitigate, and/or remove barriers to accessing services. One of the main service lines the agency is committed to is building a Racially Just Washington and focus on Engagement and Community Partnerships.

Cultural Resources Division

We now have a designated cultural resource division within the Capital and Asset Management Program. This program provides the agency with training, resources, and cultural reviews for WDFW construction, maintenance, acquisition, and restoration projects. The division has developed a project management tool that allows WDFW to submit and track progress toward completion of cultural resources reviews. In the past year, the division has collaborated internally with WDFW project staff on over 800 projects. This understanding of internal workload, as documented in our project management tool, has helped us continue to rightsize the division. We have added two staff this year and anticipate adding three more archaeologists to the team in the new biennium.

This year, the division is developing a project mapping service. This service facilitates mapping project areas, which in turn allows for an agencywide view of planned projects allowing for better cross program coordination. We also developed an agency Cultural Resource Policy to guide our process development, ensure the agency complies with state and federal law, and help us build relationships with Tribal and other state archaeologists. These accomplishments serve as tangible evidence of WDFW's commitment to improve processes and best practices internally and to improve coordination and communication with Tribes.

Recreational impacts on Tribal Treaty Rights and lifeways

Ensuring collective protection of natural and cultural resources while providing compatible recreation is essential to WDFW's mission. WDFW participates alongside the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Washington State Parks, and the Recreation and Conservation Office working with Tribes in Washington on the State Tribal Recreation Impacts Initiative (STRII). STRII operates under a charter adopted at a STRII Leadership Assembly meeting on June 23, 2025. Upcoming efforts include development and adoption of a STRII Agreement and Integrated Plan and pilot of the management framework currently under development within the STRII Technical Working Group.

STRII Vision: "Tribes and state agencies working together to co-develop recreation management tools and an adaptive management framework that effectively coordinates cooperative stewardship of natural and cultural resources and preserves protected tribal rights on state lands."

WDFW representatives serve on the STRII Steering Committee, as well as the Legislative, Information Sharing, and Technical (sub)-Work Groups. In 2024, WDFW contributed to a contract securing professional facilitation for this group and will continue to support a facilitation contract with Bob Whitener from the Whitener Group in the coming year.

WDFW was awarded a \$1 million federal America the Beautiful Challenge grant in response to a proposal co-developed with Tribes. This funding is being used to support Tribal work group engagement and technical expertise for Tribes.

Capital Asset Management Program

We actively manage more than 270 facility and infrastructure improvement projects with a new \$78 million capital budget. Significant new and ongoing projects are expected to carry forward into the 2025–27 biennium including hatchery improvements at Beaver Creek, Wallace River Hatchery, Soos Creek Hatchery, Minter Creek Hatchery, Naselle Hatchery, Toutle River Fish Collection Facility, and the Spokane Hatchery.

There are also several projects at statewide wildlife areas, including six water access sites, and habitat restoration projects including at the Skagit and Chehalis Basin areas. We are planning for construction activities to support Southern Resident killer whale prey initiative at Sol Duc Hatchery, and Palmer Ponds.

Pinniped and Avian management and coordination

We continue to cooperate extensively with Columbia River Treaty Tribes on pinniped removal at Bonneville Dam to implement the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) permit. In addition, WDFW continues to talk with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) and individual Treaty Tribes about pinniped predation impacts and how best to navigate the MMPA.

In 2024, the Legislature passed a bill to establish an avian salmon predation working group to write a report to examine avian predation impacts on salmon recovery. The bill prescribed participants, including identifying Tribes from different parts of the state. After a solicitation, the following Tribes were represented on the working group: Jamestown S’Klallam Indian Tribe, Nez Perce Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Quileute Tribe, and the Yakama Nation. The group’s report was sent to the legislature on June 30, 2025, and is available on [WDFW’s website](#).

State/Tribal hunting coordination

There are 24 Tribes with off-reservation hunting rights in Washington. We regularly meet with Tribal wildlife staff to coordinate wildlife research, conduct population surveys, and establish population management objectives. In the 2024–25 hunting season, nine of the 24 Tribes shared their hunting regulations with the Department. The NWIFC compiles a report of the 20 Western Washington Treaty Tribes’ harvest data, which they then share with us. We have negotiated or maintained [numerous hunting agreements](#) with Tribes. Additional game management coordination is summarized later in this report.

At the request of Treaty Tribes, we updated our draft procedural guidelines for evaluating a Treaty Tribe’s asserted traditional hunting area in spring 2019. Many Tribes provided comments, and a common theme was that we should develop the guidelines collaboratively with the Tribes. We hosted summits on the traditional hunting area guidelines in fall 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2023, and there continues to be significant disagreement inter-Tribally on how to proceed, especially in areas where there are Tribe(s) actively refuting another Tribe’s asserted traditional hunting area.

The Department entered into agreements with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and the Samish Indian Nation to establish them as license dealers so that their government can purchase state licenses for their members. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines provisions for referring certain state hunting and fishing

violations to the Tribe if it occurs in an area near the reservation and the Tribe has adopted the state rules by reference. In addition, the MOU outlines broader fish and wildlife coordination commitments.

State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

Conservation planning and action, such as the SWAP, benefit from the expertise and leadership that Tribes bring to this work. WDFW has hosted SWAP revision briefings (January 2024, June 2024, April 2025) and participated in the First Annual Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Natural Resources Summit (November 2024). These briefings and meetings are to improve the SWAP with information and values from Tribes. In our briefing this spring, we heard that the SWAP should include First Foods as a conservation value, and we have a small working group with the Tribes to find the best fit for that in the SWAP. We also heard from Tribes that we could do much better in our SWAP coordination if we all had greater capacity to collaborate on content development together. These constraints are real barriers to being able to workshop this Plan's content, to get together in regions with similar conservation questions and needs, rather than ask for feedback on draft pieces. With Tribes, we will explore how we could create better eco-regionally oriented collaboration and communication with Tribes throughout the Plan's ten-year period, to be more relevant, responsive, and inclusive in midstream updates.

Hunter Education

WDFW continues to collaborate with Tribal governments to offer hunter education classes, as many Tribes have chosen to implement the state's hunter education curriculum to strengthen their own programs and safety practices. In addition to Tribal members, many hunter education classes are also open to the non-Tribal public. Some classes are taught by Tribal instructors certified by WDFW, while others are taught by Tribal and non-Tribal certified instructors and supplemented with WDFW staff when needed.

Collaborative efforts have grown, and since 2013, WDFW has partnered with nearly 20 Tribes to offer hunter education classes across the state, primarily in the Coastal and North Puget Sound regions. During the past year, WDFW has worked with five Tribes to implement WDFW's hunter education program or are actively working toward that goal: The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the Skokomish Indian Tribe, the Squaxin Island Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

Yakima Basin joint land acquisition – Springwood Ranch

On May 2, the Yakama Nation hosted a celebration with Yakima Basin Integrated Plan partners of the Springwood Ranch acquisition. The 3,600-acre property is jointly managed by the Yakama Nation, WDFW, Kittitas County and the Kittitas Reclamation District. About 1,100 acres will be jointly managed between WDFW and Yakama Nation, a first-of-a-kind partnership for both. Lands were acquired from the nonprofit Trust for Public Land on October 31, 2024. The \$24 million cost of the acquisition was provided by legislative funding through the Capital Budget administered by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. This project represents a significant investment in fish recovery and the site will support spring Chinook, coho, listed mid-Columbia steelhead, and is targeted for reintroduction of threatened bull trout.

Fish Management and Science

North of Falcon

In April, WDFW and the U.S. v. Washington Tribes completed their annual salmon fishery planning process (North of Falcon) using the objectives outlined in the 10-year management plan submitted in 2022. The Puget Sound co-managers received a one-year Endangered Species Act authorization in May from the National Marine Fisheries Service for fisheries planned in 2025 and early 2026. The main salmon topics that focused planning discussions centered on fisheries reductions needed to meet Puget Sound Chinook management objectives, concerns around coastal coho fisheries and productivity, and Puget Sound Chum fisheries and management.

Coastal steelhead

Since 2019, WDFW and the U.S. v. Washington Coastal Tribes have reduced fisheries and implemented other regulations that reduced impacts to coastal steelhead population from fisheries to respond to downturns in stock status. WDFW started a regulatory process in June to consider changes to fishing seasons and fishing gear. WDFW staff will be coordinating information sharing and co-manager feedback throughout the process. These changes are intended to better align expected annual seasons for steelhead, trout, and gamefish fisheries to what they have been in the recent past and consider additional conservation needs for coastal steelhead.

Fish and Wildlife Commission Policy

In 2024, WDFW staff began the process to review and update the Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) policy on salmon management within the Grays Harbor watershed. During this process, Department staff collaborated and coordinated with the Quinault Indian Nation and the Chehalis Confederated Tribes to seek input on the policy development as well as sharing draft policy language. These efforts, coupled with input from the general public, resulted in the successful completion of the policy review process. The updated Grays Harbor Salmon Management Policy was unanimously ratified by the Commission on Oct. 25, 2024.

Hatcheries

After successfully gaining Commission and Governor's Office approvals, WDFW and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation have completed the transfer of the Klickitat Hatchery and the 167 acres of surrounding property to the Yakama Nation. The transfer was complete upon signature of the Quit Claim Deed by Governor Inslee on Dec. 11, 2024, and the deed is now recorded with Klickitat County as of June of 2025. Yakama Nation has broken ground on the Bonneville power-administration-funded infrastructure projects that will transition the facility to an integrated broodstock program for spring Chinook under Yakima Klickitat Fisheries Project guidance in collaboration with WDFW.

As part of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the Biden-Harris Administration invested \$60 million to address Tribal priorities for infrastructure improvements to hatchery facilities that produce salmon in the Columbia River Basin. These funds were made available through the Mitchell Act Program, which is administered by NOAA Fisheries. These funds contribute to a major portion of fish production in the Columbia River Basin. There are currently 22 facilities funded through Mitchell Act supporting the production of 42 million juvenile salmon and steelhead, representing approximately 30% of the total hatchery salmon and steelhead released in the Columbia River Basin.

- U.S. vs. Oregon Parties that operate hatchery facilities funded through Mitchell Act are Yakama Nation, Nez Perce Tribe, WDFW, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. U.S. vs. Oregon Production Advisory Committee (PAC) representatives from these agencies meet annually to discuss Mitchell Act O&M funding levels and allocation with NOAA Fisheries.
- PAC used this existing coordination forum to review, discuss, and prioritize the \$60 million IRA Hatchery Infrastructure funds for Mitchell Act and develop a recommendation for their allocation. PAC considered over 126 major deferred maintenance/capital infrastructure projects at hatchery facilities funded by Mitchell Act during its deliberations.
- Information considered to identify and prioritize hatchery infrastructure projects were consistent with the recommendations from the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) Member Tribes to NOAA Fisheries, which included but was not limited to: location of fish releases, number and species of fish produced, contribution to fisheries (Treaty and non-Treaty), contribution to Tribal restoration programs, and importance as a broodstock source to other Columbia Basin hatchery programs.

European Green Crab emergency management

In September 2024, WDFW — with more than 40 co-managers, Tribes, and other partners — developed a long-term management plan to address European green crab (EGC) from 2025 to 2031. That same year, more than one million EGC were removed from Washington waters. Governor Jay Inslee issued emergency proclamation 22-02, which remains in effect under Governor Ferguson (who has met with Tribes, including the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe), to reaffirm support.

In the 2025 legislative session, the Legislature committed \$6.082 million for state fiscal year 2026 and 2027, of which \$4.406 million (72%) is passthrough funding for cooperative management.

WDFW partnered with Tribal governments and Washington’s congressional delegation to secure additional federal support. Priorities include \$8 million to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Northwest Region for invasive species grants, \$5 million for a Coastal Aquatic Invasive Species Mitigation Grant Program, \$3 million for a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant program, and \$800,000 for U.S. Geological Survey research.

WDFW also provided equipment, training, planning, and field support to Tribes. With continued state and federal funding, WDFW is well-positioned to support co-managers and Tribes in increasing efforts and strengthening partnerships to address the shared challenge of European green crab.

Quagga and zebra mussel prevention and readiness

Invasive Quagga mussels were detected in the Snake River near Twin Falls, Idaho in 2023–24, prompting emergency response efforts. Their potential spread threatens regional infrastructure, ecosystems, water quality, and culturally significant sites, with projected annual impacts exceeding \$100 million.

In response, WDFW expanded monitoring, increased watercraft inspections (54,000+ in 2025), and partnered with Tribes and utilities to strengthen detection and prevention. WDFW also leads a Tribal coordination group to guide joint response planning.

For 2025–27, WDFW secured \$6.24 million (state and federal) to support prevention, rapid response, training, and outreach. The agency is also building long-term management capacity, including partnerships with the Colville, Kalispel, Nez Perce, and Spokane Tribes.

Wildlife Management

Game Management Planning

WDFW is developing an updated Game Management Plan (GMP). This plan content will be like the previous plan and will have 14 chapters that relate to specific hunted species or guilds. The current title chapters are Overarching, Migratory Birds, White-tailed deer, Elk, Cougar, Resident Game Birds, Pronghorn, Black-tailed deer, Bighorn Sheep, Black Bear, Small game Furbearers and unclassified wildlife, Mountain Goat, Moose, and Mule Deer. Previous plans have had a sunset date of six years, however, we are making this plan a living document without a sunset date and will revise as new information or science becomes available. We reached out to Tribes early in this process to see if there was suggested content prior to completion of the draft document. WDFW completed a draft plan and sent it to Tribes for review on Jan. 13, 2025. The initial deadline for comments was Feb. 10, which was extended by 30 days at the Tribes' request. The new comment deadline was March 12, 2025. Department staff met virtually with Tribes on Jan. 24, 2025. The Department received several comments and staff incorporated many of the Tribes' suggestions. Another virtual meeting to discuss those suggested edits was held on May 6, 2025. The draft plan will now undergo a public comment period as part of the SEPA process prior to an anticipated completion in late 2025.

Land acquisition

WDFW's Lands 20/20 is the formal process used to approve potential land acquisitions for funding by the Department. In 2024, that process included a Tribal briefing held virtually on Oct. 10, along with a consultation letter sent Nov. 7 to engage Tribes early in the process of acquisition. Twenty Lands 20/20 applications were considered and approved.

Additionally, WDFW also consulted on 21 land acquisitions during the transaction phase of our process between July 2024 and June 2025. This consultation occurs before WDFW seeks permission from the Commission and before closing on any properties.

Recreation on WDFW-managed Lands

WDFW is entering the fourth year of implementation of the 10-year Recreation Strategy for WDFW-managed Lands (2022). In the past year, the Department has engaged with Tribes in several related actions, including water access area planning in North Puget Sound (Region 4), pilot closures in the Methow Wildlife Area to protect wintering mule deer, and planning and rulemaking to discourage motorized recreation where it is incompatible with conservation of natural and cultural resource goals.

Water Access planning in North Puget Sound

The Department has initiated a management planning effort for water access areas in North Puget Sound (Region 4), which includes 125 water access areas and 16 hatcheries, including nearly 100 boat launches and 70 miles of public fishing easements. Millions of visitors enjoy these sites each year, accessing rivers, lakes, and marine areas for a variety of water-based recreation opportunities. The planning process is expected to extend through 2026.

WDFW hosted two Tribal roundtables in September 2024 to provide early communication with affected Tribes regarding the planning process and to receive early input to inform plan development. Seven Tribes

participated in the sessions facilitated by Copper Strategic, a Seattle-based firm, which WDFW hired to provide neutral third-party support for this early phase of the planning process.

Key takeaways from the roundtables:

1. More comprehensive and current information is needed about WDFW-managed water access lands.
2. WDFW should provide educational resources both at each site and on the Department website to educate users on safety, rules, history, and Tribal Treaty Rights.
3. Repairs and increased enforcement are needed at many sites, and WDFW should examine sustainability and carry capacity for each.
4. WDFW must protect Tribal access to areas to exercise their Treaty Rights.

Methow Wildlife Area closures

WDFW consulted with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation on a pilot seasonal closure of several units of the Methow Wildlife Area. This pilot closure was implemented during the 2023–24 and 2024–25 winter recreation seasons and will conclude following a similar closure this 2025–26 winter season. The intent is to test the use of a partial closure for reducing disturbance of winter range habitat of the Methow Valley mule deer herd. Early results indicate that mule deer use did increase and expand spatially as a result, and we are in the process of analyzing our camera and collar data to inform long-term management to recreation access on the wildlife area. A full analysis will be completed following the third pilot season before a determination is made on whether to make the seasonal closure permanent.

Road and trail inventory and assessment

WDFW is inventorying all existing roads and trails on Department-managed wildlife areas. The impact and sustainability of routes will inform which roads and trails should be designated and remain open to the public (and for which uses), and which routes should be restricted to administrative use or decommissioned. WDFW is reaching out to affected Tribes to request input on the future use and management of these routes. The agency is currently working with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation on travel management planning for the Methow Wildlife Area as part of an update to the Methow Wildlife Area Management Plan.

Construction, Creation and Maintenance of Roads, Trails and Structures Rule

Many miles of unauthorized routes (roads and trails) have appeared in recent years on WDFW-managed lands. These routes often cut through sensitive habitat, interrupt habitat connectivity, and cause direct damage to vegetation, wildlife, and Tribal resources. Without the tools or statutory authority to prevent or cite user creation of new routes or structures without approval, they will continue to proliferate and degrade sensitive resources.

WDFW conducted an extensive rulemaking process to determine how to best limit the development of informal roads on trails on Department-managed lands. Refer to the [WDFW website](#) for more information. The new rule (WAC 220-500-041) will help WDFW better manage wildlife areas and the use occurring on them. It gives WDFW Enforcement tools to discourage the creation of new roads or trails, which can pose a threat to natural or cultural resources and create safety hazards for wildlife area visitors.

WDFW held an early coordination meeting with Tribes on this rulemaking in October 2023 and then conducted outreach to solicit feedback on a revised draft before it went out for public comment in spring 2024. The final rule was effective Dec. 9, 2024.

Rulemaking to restrict motorized recreation to designated routes

Motorized vehicular use for recreational purposes has occurred on WDFW-managed lands for many decades. When motorized use occurs off designated routes determined to be appropriate for motorized recreation, and especially when it occurs off roads altogether, it can be extremely harmful to sensitive soils, plants, water sources, and wildlife species and habitat in general. To date, WDFW has not had adequate regulations to properly enforce driving on appropriate routes. A new rulemaking effort that restricts motorized recreation to routes designated for particular use types (highway vehicles and/or offroad recreational vehicles) and initiates a closed-unless-posted-open policy will give land management and Enforcement staff more effective tools to address this use and its potential impacts. Staff held a Tribal roundtable to introduce potential rule language and solicit feedback from Tribal representatives before moving on to the public engagement phase.

Kiosks and Tribal coordination

WDFW has initiated a new process to include Tribal narratives on new three-panel kiosks on WDFW managed lands. In spring 2025, federally recognized Tribes with interests in Washington were invited to participate and provide information to upcoming kiosks across the state. A handful of Tribes have responded and agreed to be interviewed to provide information for Tribal narratives. WDFW is currently in collaboration with these Tribes to finalize these narratives for kiosks. As of July 2025, there is one three-panel kiosk that has been installed on WDFW-managed lands at Plum Access Area that includes a Tribal narrative from the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe and the Tulalip Tribes.

Habitat

Beaver Habitat Management

WDFW engaged with natural resource representatives of Tribal partners in the development, review, and comment of its new Beaver Habitat Management Guidelines.

Chehalis Basin

WDFW continued to work with the Chehalis Confederated Tribes and Quinault Indian Nation as part of the Chehalis Strategy under development by the Department of Ecology's Office of the Chehalis Basin. The Strategy is intended to restore aquatic species, including salmon and steelhead, throughout the watershed, as well as reduce impacts from catastrophic flooding. Working with the two Tribes, the Chehalis Board, and local salmon recovery entities, WDFW oversaw the completion of multiple restoration projects opening dozens of river miles and restoring hundreds of acres. The Board, including the Tribes and WDFW (as an ex officio member), also settled on a package of long-term strategy actions to model as part of a long-term negotiated path forward on an integrated flood management and aquatic habitat restoration plan. WDFW also participates with the Tribes in a cultural resources workgroup related to Chehalis Strategy flood and fish projects.

Chinook Salmon

WDFW collaborated with Puyallup Tribe of Indians and Western Washington University to investigate impacts of the complex mixture of contaminants present in stormwater runoff on juvenile Chinook salmon migrating towards Puget Sound through Commencement Bay.

WDFW continued to work with staff from Tribes to survey aquatic species for toxic contaminants, including as part of the Washington State Mussel Watch Program and Juvenile Chinook salmon survey.

Columbia Basin

WDFW, in coordination with the Governor's Office, worked with the four lower Columbia River Treaty Tribes and the State of Oregon to pursue funding and other actions in support of the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative (CBRI), a Tribal and state vision for the restoration of healthy, abundant salmon and clean energy in the Columbia Basin. In June 2025, the Trump administration signaled an intent to exit an agreement with the federal government to further the CBRI, but the Tribes and states, collectively known as the “Six Sovereigns,” have vowed to continue working to implement the CBRI through a variety of funding, policy, and legal approaches.

Duckabush Estuary

Project design iterations (65% and 95%) for the Duckabush Estuary Restoration project have been made available for review by interested Tribal staff via the Hood Canal Coordinating Council. While no comments were received, the project design considers information provided by Tribes on channel design and includes features to accommodate Tribal shell fishing access during construction of the project.

Fish Barrier Removal Board

WDFW continued to chair the Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB) collaborating with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to help restore healthy and harvestable levels of salmon and steelhead statewide through the coordinated and strategic removal of barriers to fish passage. For the 2023–25 biennium, the board received a total of \$124 million in Capital, Climate Commitment Act, and Federal PROTECT funding to provide grants to 99 fish passage projects statewide. For the 2025–27 biennium, the board sought \$80 million for 50 fish passage projects but received \$32 million, which will fund the top 13 of the board’s list of 50 projects.

Fish Passage

WDFW continued to develop a comprehensive statewide fish passage barrier removal strategy to focus the efforts of all culvert correction programs into a single strategic approach to maximize the salmon and orca recovery benefits from the public investment. The comprehensive strategy will guide the funding recommendations of the FBRB, as well as other state fish passage barrier correction programs. A final report on the strategy was published in February 2025. Based on recommendations of the Science Panel, employed to produce the statewide strategy, WDFW developed a strategy that uses a mathematical optimization model to rank barriers across the state, the results of which are then incorporated into regional scoring and ranking prioritization strategies.

This hybrid approach of using both optimization and scoring and ranking approaches allows regional groups to continue to prioritize barriers at local, watershed, or regional levels, while including key criteria on statewide

barrier priorities. We are currently developing the optimization model to prioritize groupings of barriers across the state to feed into local scoring and ranking strategies. Developing the optimization model first requires correcting the many errors in the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD). For the 2025–27 biennium WDFW received \$400,000 from the state’s capital budget to correct the NHD for optimization use. The current estimate to produce a corrected NHD for optimization model use is July 2026.

Fishways, Flows, and Screening

WDFW continued the rulemaking process, started in 2021, to develop a new rule section under title 220 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) as necessary to implement chapter RCW 77.57 entitled Fishways, Flow, and Screening. The main goal of the rulemaking efforts is to establish standards for what constitutes a human-made obstruction to fish passage and an improperly screened diversion intake and to address noncompliant, human-made fish passage obstructions and improperly screened water diversions. WDFW is moving toward filing a new CR102, and the public comment period will begin once the draft language and accompanying documentation are complete. WDFW will conduct a new policy outreach presentation with the Tribes.

WDFW is moving the climate adaptive water crossing structure rules to a separate standalone update to RCW 77.55, the Hydraulic Code, and pursuing updated Small Business Economic Impact Statement (SBEIS) and the Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) as part of that rulemaking. We anticipate the updated final SBEIS and CBA will be approved by Dec. 30, 2025, with a Commission hearing on the rule’s language in the winter of 2026.

Grants

WDFW is partnering with Tulalip Tribes in investing \$2.5 million of NOAA Transformational (Phase II) funds on restoration construction in Tualco Valley. This project will restore 11 acres of habitat in the valley, focused on the Foye confluence.

WDFW is partnering with Stillaguamish Tribes in investing roughly \$2.3 million of NOAA Transformational (Phase II) funds on restoration construction in the Trafton Floodplain. This project will restore 38.2 acres of the floodplain.

Habitat Connectivity

WDFW engaged natural resources Tribal partners in the development, review, and comment of the Washington Habitat Connectivity Action Plan. The Washington State Legislature funded WDFW to develop the Washington Habitat Connectivity Action Plan (WAHCAP). The WAHCAP is a science-based roadmap developed through a collaborative partnership to prioritize places and projects to protect and enhance habitat connectivity statewide.

The Plan identifies priority locations for both transportation mitigation projects (e.g., wildlife crossing structures) and landscape connectivity conservation and was developed in close collaboration with the Washington State Department of Transportation, as well as internal and external advisory groups. The plan includes synthesized new and existing spatial data mapping habitat connectivity in Washington state; priority wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots for safety mitigation; priority locations for road crossing structures to mitigate ecological barriers; maps and data identifying priority locations for landscape connectivity conservation; and the statewide and regional scales. The plan also includes strategies to support connectivity

conservation actions and programs at multiple scales. A final draft of the plan is out for review, and the final document is scheduled to be completed on June 30, 2025.

Hoh River

WDFW is collaborating with the Hoh Tribe to assess environmental variables, process ecological data, and identify a representative reach in the mainstem and key tributaries of the Hoh River. This work will support the development of a Habitat Assessment and Restoration Planning model. The model will identify environmental and infrastructural threats, evaluate salmonid population abundance, and guide restoration planning. It will also assess how channel complexity can enhance restoration outcomes and support culturally and ecologically important salmonid populations.

WDFW is identifying and prioritizing Salmon Screening Habitat Enhancement and Restoration sites originally implemented by WDFW during the late 1980s and 1990s for restoration activities. Each site along the Hoh River is being reassessed, and site documentation is updated to reflect current conditions and recommended actions. These updates aim to support cold-water refugia and improve overall salmonid habitat.

Hydraulic Project Approval Rulemaking

WDFW is in the process of integrating climate change considerations into rules that govern Hydraulic Permit Approval (HPA) permitting (WAC 220-660) through the rulemaking process. This multi-year project kicked off with a Tribal Roundtable on Jan. 7, 2025. Rules to be updated include adding requirements for climate change considerations into HPA permitting for water crossing structures such as bridges and culverts and address sea-level rise considerations for marine shoreline projects like bulkheads. Requirements for other HPA project types may also be updated, but water crossings and marine shoreline stabilization are the areas in which the impacts of climate change need addressing the most urgently. The HPA rule amendments will include extensive Tribal and public engagement. The agency published an official rulemaking announcement in the March 19, 2025, edition of the state register. WDFW hopes to complete the entire process by early 2027.

Marine Shoreline

WDFW is establishing a new update and engagement process for the Aquatic Habitat Design Guidelines. WDFW hosted a Tribal roundtable in November 2024 to seek early input on development of the process. An announcement kicking off update process was sent to Tribal representatives in February 2025. Tribal engagement pathways include Tribal briefings and coordination, technical work groups, listening sessions, and an early review of technical products. Initial topics for the update process include Water Crossing Design Guidelines complexity features, climate adaptations, intertidal water crossings, Marine Shoreline Design Guidelines alternatives decision tree, and stormwater management. Updates will be completed through an iterative process including annual identification of priorities and development of a work plan.

Priority Habitats and Species

WDFW engaged natural resources Tribal partners in the development of the Riparian Data Engine. A legislative proviso funded WDFW to develop the Riparian Data Engine (RDE) to identify gaps in riparian vegetative cover and how they relate to stream temperature impairments, fish passage barriers, and salmon stocks. The RDE helps users identify, evaluate, screen, and prioritize riparian restoration projects at various scales. The RDE was developed in close collaboration with Tribes and restoration practitioners. It was rolled out to Tribes on June 10, 2025, and to the public on June 25, 2025.

Puget Sound

WDFW and DNR Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead (HSIL) were awarded U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Puget Sound funds to five Tribes or Tribal consortia as the project sponsor during the HSIL 2024 request for proposals. An additional five selected proposals had one or more Tribes or Tribal consortia as partners. Projects are focused on building capacity for habitat protection and restoration, marine vegetation research, and addressing sea-level rise and habitat resiliency.

The HSIL continued to consult with Puget Sound Tribes on all grant investments for potential impacts to cultural resources to identify which projects need further consultation. The HSIL also hosted two Tribal briefings for early and ongoing communication regarding the development of the Puget Sound Marine Vegetation Implementation Strategy. This strategy synthesizes and builds upon existing kelp and eelgrass strategies to produce a holistic strategy for Puget Sound marine vegetation. In addition to briefings, HSIL engaged Tribal staff and managers in one-to-one conversations, through existing forums, and integrated Tribal input provided on this topic in other processes.

WDFW presented research monitoring 6PPD-quinone (also known as 6PPDQ) in Puget Sound aquatic species at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2024 Natural Resources Summit.

Quinault River

WDFW is conducting drone flights during peak spawning to assess return rates, abundance, and distribution of Quinault River blueback salmon inside channels. Post-spawning monitoring and flight efforts will identify high-use areas, generate heat maps of returning adults, and inform future restoration phases on the upper Quinault River. Additionally, vegetative age inside channels will be analyzed to determine future protection needs using ELJs based on fish usage during peak runs.

WDFW is providing ongoing technical support for large-scale restoration initiatives on the Quillayute River. This includes assessing pre-construction fish use through juvenile counts in project reaches and providing permitting assistance and technical responses to facilitate current and future restoration activities.

Stevens Creek

WDFW is conducting pre-, during-, and post-construction monitoring of a restoration project on Stevens Creek, a tributary to the Humptulips River. This work assesses fish use, distribution, and abundance before and after project implementation. The monitoring aims to evaluate the effectiveness of restoration methods used in this phase of the project.

Enforcement

We continue to implement an agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for enforcement and cooperative patrols of recreational fisheries within the Rufus Woods Reservoir of the upper Columbia River. As a part of that agreement, we provided \$3 million in passthrough funding to create fishing access sites on the reservoir. This benefits state residents and Tribal members, and funds two Colville Tribal fish and wildlife officer positions.

WDFW Enforcement works with Yakama Nation law enforcement partners in areas of joint enforcement concern. It also coordinates response as needed to calls for service on WDFW-managed lands bordering the reservation boundaries to collaborate on effective response.

WDFW is working with the Columbia River Tribes, through the U.S. v. Oregon Management Agreement, on a long-term prosecution referral agreement process that would encompass most violations encountered during patrols.

WDFW entered into a MOU with Cowlitz Indian Tribe in which enrolled Tribal members are allowed to hunt and fish under state rules in certain areas. Any violations encountered by WDFW Police involving Cowlitz Tribe members will be referred to the Cowlitz Tribal Prosecutor for charging.

WDFW meet monthly with the Lummi and Nooksack Tribal co-managers to discuss hot topics relating to natural resource concerns.

WDFW Enforcement works with the coastal Tribes to address special management areas (SMAs) to ensure state harvesters are not fishing within designated SMAs. WDFW police respond to reports of gear conflict between Tribal and non-Tribal fishers.

WDFW Enforcement meets in partnership on the Stillaguamish Integrated Conservation and Rebuilding Project to build and maintain a stronger co-management relationship with the Stillaguamish Tribe. The goals are to:

- Advance salmon recovery.
- Share a clear and consistent understanding of our vision for the Stillaguamish River basin.
- Understand how habitat, harvest, hatcheries, and predators affect Stillaguamish River salmon and steelhead.
- Understand how management actions contribute to conservation and recovery.
- Know what additional actions we need to achieve the expected contribution of each sector.

WDFW enforcement officers continue to work jointly on patrols with Tribal enforcement officers to address Puget Sound fisheries.

Staff Contact

Jim Woods, Director of Tribal Affairs

360-902-2224 | james.woods@dfw.wa.gov

Washington State Gambling Commission

Summary

Our mission is to protect the public by ensuring that gambling is legal and honest and to foster full cooperation between Tribes and the state, based upon equality and a shared concern for the welfare of all the residents of the state and Tribes.

Of the 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington, 29 have compacts for Class III gaming. Twenty-three of the Tribes operate 29 casinos. Seventeen Tribes offer sports wagering, with five offering on-premises mobile sports betting. Seven Tribes operate electronic table games.

Highlights

We continue to meet with the workgroup established to discuss gambling equipment testing. We invited each independent test laboratory (ITL) that performs equipment tests to share information about testing processes, interpretations of technical standards, and testing gaps. The workgroup determined the next step should be gathering information from each equipment vendor on how their equipment complies with the required technical standards. We continue to gather information for analysis.

In September, along with the Cowlitz Tribal Gaming Agency, we facilitated a Tribal-state regulator licensing meeting with 37 attendees representing 14 Tribes. Topics discussed were fraudulent identification training (presented by the Department of Licensing), criminal history information training, and new licensing staff training. In April, we partnered with the Yakama Nation Tribal Gaming Commission for a weeklong training course that was attended by over 40 students. The training covered Tribal and gaming history and class III gaming activity regulation in Washington. In June, 37 Tribal regulators representing 12 Tribes participated in in-depth electronic gaming systems training with hands-on exercises. We also provided technical gaming equipment and vendor licensing training for individual Tribal regulators at their request.

We mutually agreed to amendments with four Tribes: (1) Electronic table games and smoking cessation clarification; (2) electronic table games and sports wagering; (3) electronic table games and high limit room and pits; and (4) electronic table games.

As part of our co-regulatory relationship with the Tribes, and to improve operational efficiency and technology use, we jointly agreed to 24 clarifications of compact appendices and concurred with 336 internal control and game rule submissions. Our intelligence unit sent 43 bulletins to our Tribal regulatory partners to share information on various crimes and suspicious activity. The bulletins requesting assistance with pending criminal investigations often resulted in successful interagency information sharing.

Staff Contacts

Julie Lies, Tribal Liaison

360-486-3586 | julie.lies@wsgc.wa.gov

Jonnie Bray, Tribal Relations Advisor

509-862-8759 | jonnie.bray@wsgc.wa.gov

Washington State Board of Health

Summary

The Washington State Board of Health (Board) is a regulatory agency that serves people in Washington by working to understand and prevent disease across the entire population. We work together with Tribal public health, the Washington State Department of Health (Department), and local health jurisdictions to advance public health practices that protect and improve the public's health. The Board's work focuses on analyzing policies, developing rules, promoting partnerships, and encouraging public engagement in the public health system. The Sue Crystal Memorial Act of 2006 requires that one of four Board Members "experienced in matters of health and sanitation" be a representative from a federally recognized Tribe. In April 2011, Stephen Kutz of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe was appointed to the Board and continues to serve.

The Board connects to the Centennial Accord vision and principles by implementing a government-to-government relationship with each Washington state sovereign Tribe. The Board aims to improve relationships with Tribes and commits to engaging early and often on policies, rulemaking, and other matters. The Board strives to build knowledge around effective communication and collaboration between Board Members and Board staff and Tribes. As a requirement, all Board staff are required to attend and participate in the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs WA State Government-to-Government Training.

Highlights

From July 2024 to June 2025:

- The Board has begun to engage with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs on collaboration, consultation, and Centennial Accord workgroups.
- The Tribal Liaison created a land education sheet for each Board meeting. The meetings are traveling or have a geographical focus. Land education matches the location the meeting is at, or the geographical focus. This is for Board Members and Board staff to learn about Tribes and integrate that knowledge.
- Two Tribal listening sessions were held for the School Environmental Health and Safety Rule Project. Tribal Compact Schools and Bureau of Indian Education schools may choose to implement some or all the standards from the proposed new rule, as these schools are exempt. Many Tribal children attend public and private schools. Tribal members may also work at these schools. The rule is most likely to have a positive impact due to increased minimum environmental health and safety standards.
- Two Dear Tribal Leader Letters were sent to Tribal Leaders. These were regarding school environmental health and safety and Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in drinking water.
- The Board heard a review from the Department on delegated rulemaking for Shellfish. During the Department review for the Board and informal comments, the approach to rulemaking has been changed. Tribal engagement will continue to better address comments.

Staff Contact

Ashley Bell, Tribal Liaison

360-800-7481 | ashley.bell@sboh.wa.gov

Department of Health

Summary

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is committed to honoring our government-to-government relationship with Tribes in all the work we do. Our work is grounded in our [value of Seven Generations](#), inspired by Native American cultures. We seek wisdom from those who came before us to ensure our current work protects those who will come after us. We invite collaboration with Tribes and Tribal organizations as we develop policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affects Tribes and Tribal people.

[The Centennial Accord](#) established a distinct government-to-government relationship between Washington state and federally recognized Tribes, setting a precedent for collaboration. The [Millennium Agreement](#) further outlines implementation guidelines for this partnership. State agencies like DOH are obligated to work with Tribes according to [RCW 43.376](#), and to fulfill this responsibility, DOH adheres to a structured [consultation and collaboration procedure](#).

Highlights

On June 9, 2025, [Governor Ferguson appointed Dennis Worsham as Secretary of Health](#). Secretary Worsham brings more than 32 years of public health leadership and expertise to the role, deep rural and local ties, and a vision for unity to DOH. [DOH welcomed Secretary Dennis Worsham on July 7, 2025](#). In his previous role, Secretary Worsham worked closely with Tribes as part of the Foundational Public Health Services system. Now, as Secretary of WA-DOH, he is committed to honoring Tribal sovereignty through the government-to-government relationship by engaging Tribal leadership when developing and implementing policies, agreements, and programs. This includes consultation and collaboration regarding all aspects of public health programs, services, functions, and activities impacting or targeting Tribal communities, people, and families, and the resources on which they depend. Secretary Worsham shared: “As Washington’s Secretary of Health, I am honored to serve and deeply committed to upholding and strengthening a public health system that is not only resilient, but also more just.”

Tribal Public Health & Relations

The Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR) leads and coordinates activities across DOH while also focusing its attention on policy, partnerships, communications, and data. OTPHR is led by Executive Director Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut.

- **OTPHR Expansion**

To build capacity in our work with Tribal Nations, organizations, and professionals, the office expanded exponentially, adding the following positions:

- Tribal Policy Director, Amber Arndt – March 1, 2024
- Tribal Engagement Director, Rosalinda Fivekiller-Turk – May 1, 2024
- Administrative Assistant V, Lois Scott – July 1, 2024
- Tribal Public Health Systems Specialist, Michaela Marshall – November 16, 2024
- Deputy Director, Jill Edgin – March 10, 2025

- **Policy and Process Improvement**

- *Streamlined Dear Tribal Leader Letter (DTLL) Process*

DOH improved its outreach to Tribes by streamlining the DTLL process and minimizing the burden of our communications to Tribes. DOH now sends DTLLs together, on the same day of the week, and created biweekly rules related to DTLL with the status of all rules currently in the rulemaking process. All DOH DTLLs are [publicly posted online](#).

- *Expanded Internal Staff Resources*

OTPHR expanded resources for office and agency staff who work with Tribes.

- *Tribal Data Sovereignty Training*

OTPHR has worked with DOH's Tribal data team on Tribal data sovereignty training for DOH staff, regardless of their direct involvement in Tribal data work, to instill a common understanding of the importance of Tribal data sovereignty.

- *Government-to-Government Training with GOIA*

In partnership with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA), OTPHR held an in-person government-to-government training for DOH staff to teach the history of Tribal engagement, the responsibility of DOH to ensure government-to-government consultation, and other facets of the nuanced relationship between state government and Tribal Nations.

- *Tribal Public Health Training App*

OTPHR has participated in the American Indian Health Commission's development of a training tool, which will be available for public health professionals to learn about Tribes, Tribal public health authority, and basic Tribal governance.

- *Tribal Attestation*

Washington Tribes can seek attestation for substance use disorder services, mental health services, and licensure. Tribal Behavioral Health Agencies (BHA) applying for licensure and certification may attest that its agency [meets the state minimum standards](#). The department does not assert regulatory jurisdiction over a BHA license issued under a Tribal attestation. Once the department accepts the Tribal attestation, a BHA license will be issued to the undersigned Tribe and include the Tribe on the [current list of licensed behavioral health agencies in Washington state \(PDF\)](#).

Tribal Engagement and Practice

OTPHR actively engages with Tribes and Tribal organizations, participating in recurring committees, taskforces, and meetings, as well as partnering with GOIA, Governor's Indian Health Advisory Council, Governor and Tribal Leaders Social Services Council, and others in a good way. OTPHR strives to present, engage, learn, and share at Tribal conferences and other events. To learn more or request engagement, please reach out to OTPHR@doh.wa.gov

Foundational Public Health Services

- Lummi Nation hosted the Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Steering Committee — comprised of Tribes, local health jurisdictions, the Washington State Board of Health, and DOH — at the Silver Reef Casino for an all-day meeting on November 7, 2024.
- Through FPHS Steering Committee concurrence and Tribal consultation, \$7,000,000 was allocated to Tribes and \$930,000 for Tribal organizations in state fiscal year 2025 for culturally relevant foundational public health services, such as environmental public health; prevention and control of communicable disease; access to medical, oral, and behavioral health; and other services.

Government-to-Government

DOH conducted government-to-government consultation and collaboration on a range of public health initiatives. All DOH Dear Tribal Leader Letters (DTLL) can be found on DOH's [Tribal Public Health and Relations page](#). Selected highlights of the letters include:

- **Inaugural Tribal Data Sharing Agreement**
On January 9, 2025, Tulalip Tribes finalized the first Tribal Data Sharing Agreement with DOH. The full joint press-release is available on the [DOH website](#) and the [Tribal public radio website](#). Tulalip Tribes are the first to initiate a Tribal DSA, which provides a process for them to approve of the use of their data and access key public health systems, such as the Washington Disease Reporting System.
- **Consultation on Tribal FPHS SFY25-SFY27 Biennium**
Tribal FPHS consultation occurs every biennium for the Tribal sector to determine how to allocate their funding. Washington DOH holds this consultation as the passthrough funding mechanism of the Tribal sector. The Tribal sector is led by the “...sovereign tribal nations, and Indian health programs located within Washington” ([RCW 43.70.515](#)) and the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) as the Tribal Coordinating Entity. DOH plays a supporting role as the passthrough entity. The purpose of this consultation was to finalize the funding allocations within the Tribal sector for the Tribes and Tribal Organizations, as well as finalize the funding agreement template and statement of work template.
- **Consultation on Tribal Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) Template**
On June 21, 2021, Washington DOH entered into consultation with Tribes through the AIHC to create an umbrella Tribal DSA. From December 2024 through February 2025, DOH held a series of roundtables and consultations to finalize a Tribal DSA template. Since then, DOH has launched a [Tribal Data Hub](#), held a series of Tribal data sovereignty trainings for DOH staff, and continued implementation with Tulalip Tribes on our process for ensuring Tulalip directs how and when their data are used.
- **Consultation on Environmental Justice Grants**
In July 2024, DOH held consultation on the development of [two environmental justice grants](#). As a result of consultation, 20% of the Workplace Safety for Workers Affected by Climate Change was prioritized for Tribes, along with eligibility for unspent funds, and 10% of the Community Budgeting for Decarbonization and Resilience was prioritized for Tribes.

- **Twenty-eight collaborative DTLLs for Tribal listening sessions.**

Highlights include:

- *Rulemaking:* We provide biweekly DTLLs on all DOH rulemaking. Additionally, we collaborated with Tribes on some specific rulemaking:
 - *Residential Treatment Tribal Attestation* to establish a fee in rule and begin issuing residential treatment facility (inpatient facility) and psychiatric hospital licensure through Tribal attestation by July 1, 2025.
 - *WA Health Permanent rulemaking* regarding implementation of the [WA HEALTH](#) data management system for acute care and behavioral health facilities by requiring their participation in entering data.
 - *Dental Therapy Rules* to implement [ESHB 1678](#) authorizing the dental therapy profession in federally qualified health centers.
- *Opioid Treatment Provider Accreditation Body Service:* [DOH hosted listening sessions](#) with Tribes related to the sustainability of the Opioid Treatment Provider accreditation body (AB) service administered by the department.
- *Environmental Health Disparities Map:* Environmental Health Disparities Map Version 3 is being released in September. Updates were made based on Tribal [consultation in 2023](#), [ongoing government-to-government collaboration](#), and community engagement. Collaboration is ongoing.
- *State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP):* DOH is leading the development of a SHIP, with Tribal representation in decision-making and feedback gathered through a Tribal listening session.
- *Breastfeeding guidelines:* Adapting breastfeeding guidelines for Tribal communities.
- *Overdose data to action in states:* Tribal perspective on whether to develop or expand overdose prevention.

State Health Officer:

DOH's Executive Office of the State Health Officer

- **Center for Epidemiology Practice, Equity, and Assessment (CEPEA)**

Partnered with American Indian Health Commission to start a monthly workgroup — The Tribal Data Opportunity Group — to support Tribal staff working with Tribal data as of September 2024.

- **Tribal Data Team**

These staff join our Equity and Health Assessment Team manager and Tribal Data Senior Epi to round out the Tribal Data Team, tribaldatateam@doh.wa.gov

- Tribal Epidemiologist, Pyone Paing – June 2024
- Tribal Data Project Manager, Carmella Alexis – July 2024
- Tribal Data Coordinator, Lisa Dibianco – September 2024

- [Tribal Data Hub](#)
Launched on the Partner Hub to share resources and create a process for Tribes to submit a form to request data from DOH or enter into a Tribal DSA.
- Hosted staff from five Tribes and two Tribal organizations at the first Tribal-specific day of the FPHS-funded Statewide Assessment Meeting in Wenatchee in May 2025.
- [Healthy Youth Survey \(HYS\):](#)
Maintained the existing Tribal HYS Workgroup comprised of survey staff and Tribal office staff across the four HYS agencies and hosted and supported Tribal engagement and government-to-government collaboration.
- [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System \(BRFSS\):](#)
 - Engaged Tribal public health staff in the BRFSS Technical Advisory Group and participated in Tribal engagement and government-to-government collaboration.
 - Participated in a Tribal Data Opportunities Group presentation and Q&A.
 - Improved data sharing protocols with Tribes, allowing for access to BRFSS data through the same system that local health jurisdictions use.
- [Child Wellness Survey \(CWS\):](#)
Worked with Tribal public health staff in the Technical Advisory Group and implemented Tribal-related materials.

Health and Science

DOH's Office of Health and Science worked collaboratively with Tribal Nations on several initiatives throughout the year.

- **Environmental Justice Grants**
DOH created three new [environmental justice grants](#), including a grant available for Tribes and Tribal organizations to increase their capacity to engage with environmental health disparities map updates, HEAL Act agencies, and the Environmental Justice Council.
- **Water System Plan**
The Office of Drinking Water and the Squaxin Island Tribe are entering into a Memorandum of Understanding for water system plan review. Monthly meetings include open communication about shared water resources, impacts to Tribes' usual and accustomed areas, and expectations of each other.
- **Naloxone Distribution**
DOH's Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) program provided 43,345 naloxone kits to 91 Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Urban Indian Health Organizations. In addition, OEND's naloxone by mail program, in partnership with the People's Harm Reduction Alliance, has been actively accessed by AI/AN individuals, who experience the highest rate of fatal opioid overdose among any racial or ethnic group in Washington state.

- **State Harm Reduction Summit**

On June 2 and 3, DOH hosted the first-ever Washington State Harm Reduction Summit at the Suquamish Clearwater Resort. The summit explored the theme “Liberation Through Love,” anchoring space for personal experience, public policy, and frontline practice to come together. Sessions focused on building community, expanding harm reduction programming, and highlighting innovations in service delivery. The summit was attended by nearly 200 people, including 27 participants from eight different Tribes and Tribal organizations.

- **Infectious Disease Data Sharing**

In 2024, DOH and the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) finalized a protocol — under a data sharing agreement completed in 2023 through DOH’s Office of Infectious Disease (OID) — to conduct biannual linkages between the Northwest Tribal Registry and statewide case data for HIV, syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and mpox. This collaboration improves the accuracy of race data in DOH infectious disease data systems, helping to ensure AI/AN people are correctly identified and represented in public health data.

- **Tulalip Tribes Certifications**

During the past year, the Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance (HAI/AR) Section of DOH provided funding to the Tulalip Tribes for staff time, training, and resources necessary to pursue Certification in Infection Prevention (CIC) and conduct nonregulatory Infection Control Assessment Response (ICAR) consultations with Tribal health settings.

- **Injury Prevention and Control**

A Tribal agreement between the Tulalip Tribes of Washington and DOH HAI/AR was signed on March 13, 2025. This partnership includes plans for a Tribal staff member to assemble SOP/Resource binders for Tribal health care settings; provide in-person skills demonstrations, training, and nonregulatory IPC health care assessments; proactively network with other Tribes on IPC measures; and collaborate with DOH to inform culturally appropriate and applicable IPC guidance and consultative etiquette.

Prevention, Safety, and Health

The Office of Prevention, Safety, and Health encompasses several programmatic and service-focused offices, each working with Tribal Nations to address identified and specific needs.

- **Suicide Prevention**

Native and Strong Tribal Suicide Prevention Media Campaign successfully completed five years of working with Native populations, both on reservations and with urban-based Tribal citizens in Washington to develop and implement a culturally informed and collaborative effort that involved a diverse set of platforms and strategies.

- **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**

Collaboration with Tribal Nations include:

- Integrating Tribal feedback into the 988 hub designation and application process.
- Development of Tribal protocols and including them in DOH’s 988 center contracts; currently implementing Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe’s protocols.

- Continued partnership with Native and Strong to promote 988 (“Press 4”) among Native youth, LGBTQ2IA+ youth, and veterans. Campaign extends into fiscal year 2025–26.
- Planning for an August 2025 launch of chat and text on the Native and Strong Lifeline.
- **Adolescent and Young Adult Health**
In spring/summer 2024, the Washington DOH Adolescent and Young Adult Health Unit contracted with Seven Directions at the University of Washington to conduct four community listening sessions with Washington’s diverse Tribal communities to gather input on school-based health centers. The Washington DOH Team is currently working on a proposal to operationalize recommendations made by Seven Directions in their report, *Community Listening Sessions: Tribal School-Based Health Centers Programming, Needs, Interests, and Preferences in Washington State*.
- **Health Equity Zones**
An Indigenous Advisory Panel led the selection of the Health Equity Zone for Native Communities. The zone is on the ancestral homelands of the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe. Spanning across Kitsap, Clallam, Jefferson, Mason, and San Juan Counties, the award was for \$400,000 over two years. The panel conducted statewide outreach to invite input on the process and to share broadly about the opportunity to Tribal and Urban Native communities.
- **Maternal Health**
In October 2024, funding for Indigenous-led maternal health initiatives were guided by a panel of two organizations. Awardees of the two-year Maternal Health Innovations grants were:
 - Hi•dubal Ba?as (Makah Birth House)
 - Northwest Washington Indian Health Board
- **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)**
WIC has agreements with 14 Tribes, one Tribal organization (SPIPA), and one Urban Indian organization (Seattle Indian Health Board), serving 20 Tribes. Seven Tribal grocery stores are WIC-approved. In 2024, WIC launched online ordering with Walmart, allowing families to order and pay for WIC foods online for pickup or delivery.
- **Care-A-Van Mobile Health Program**
DOH continues to partner with Tribal communities through its Care-a-Van mobile health program, hosting seven events with Tribes during the reporting period. Events included participation at the 3rd Annual Tribal Opioid Fentanyl Taskforce Summit on May 22, 2025, in which we piloted our health and wellness service model, which includes blood pressure and blood glucose screenings, A1C tests, telehealth referrals, and health education services.
- **Telebuprenorphine Hotline**
DOH presented at the AIHC Delegates meeting about the Washington Telebuprenorphine Hotline in June 2025. The agency will engage Tribes as the Hotline expands statewide by January 2026.

Resilience and Health Security

DOH's Office of Resilience and Health Security (OHRS) partners with Tribes and Tribal organizations on an ongoing basis.

- **Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Funding**
OHRS has taken steps to strengthen the effectiveness and timeliness of the Tribal contract process under [CDC PHEP funding](#). This includes early planning, improving communication channels with monthly open office hours, and working closely with Tribal partners.
- **Tribal PHEP Conference**
OHRS helped plan and host the annual Tribal PHEP Conference in conjunction with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, the Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division, and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. The conference provided basic advanced emergency management training, shared best practices in Tribal public health preparedness, and included a breakout session for Washington's Tribes to connect with executive leaders on Tribal emergency preparedness and response topics.
- **Comprehensive Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop**
The Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) creates a collaborative forum in which state, Tribal, and local partners work together to identify threats, hazards, and risks; establish shared preparedness priorities; and apply the integrated preparedness cycle to build, sustain, and enhance capabilities. This plan was presented to Tribal partners at the AIHC monthly meeting to support ongoing coordination and collaboration on preparedness efforts.
- **Medical Logistics**
Advanced operational readiness in medical countermeasures, medical logistics, and volunteer management by hosting joint exercises, including HELLO TTX and MED-ROVER FX, with the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Colville Confederated Tribes, Jamestown S'Klallam, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Tulalip Tribes, and the American Indian Health Commission. Distributed medical material and medical countermeasures to bolster local resources, including 820 HVAC filters; 649 portable air cleaners and replacement filters; 600 N95 respirators; 1,908 COVID-19 tests; 1,500 surgical masks; and 15 pallets of other supplies. These resources were granted to 16 different Tribal entities from 23 resource requests.

Staff Contact

Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, Office of Tribal Public Health & Relations
360-819-7626 | candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov

Washington Health Benefit Exchange

Summary

Washington Health Benefit Exchange (Exchange) acknowledges the need to go beyond its responsibilities to federally recognized Tribes and develop meaningful processes to confer and partner with Tribally led service organizations and the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) in the development of any Exchange policies or actions that have Tribal implications. The Exchange honors government-to-government relations per RCW 43.376, our Tribal Consultation Policy, and the Washington Centennial Accord. While governance criteria are upheld, our work with the 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington state and any community members served by Tribal clinics, Indian health care providers (IHCPs), or Urban Indian Health programs (UIHPs) aligns with the Exchange's values as part of our land acknowledgement, which states: "The process of advancing toward equity and becoming anti-racist is disruptive and demands vigilance to dismantle deeply entrenched systems of privilege and oppression. As health professionals, it is important that we also acknowledge the impacts of the removal from traditional lands and we collaborate actively with Tribes as sovereign Nations to support Indigenized wellness."

Highlights

- Finalized our procurement of a Tribal Lead Organization for work with the Tribal Assistants: the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC).
- Our style guide was updated to capitalize, in all instances, references to Tribes and Tribal in all of our documentation.
- Attended and presented at the AIHC Delegates Meetings, Monthly Tribal Meetings, the Opioid Fentanyl Summit, the annual Tribal Assistant In-Service days, GIHAC, IPAC, GOIA meetings, and sub-committees.
- Held a roundtable and workgroup on the Bronze plan restricted view obstacles. Due to the collaborative work and outcomes, the planned consultation was canceled. We achieved a positive outcome and a format for future updates.
- On May 12, Exchange CEO Ingrid Ulrey and Government Affairs Director Shirley Prasad traveled to Washington, D.C., joining other state-based marketplace leaders from around the country. They talked with members of Congress, their staff, and federal administration officials about retaining federal enhanced premium tax credits and protecting Medicaid.
- This year's open enrollment period saw record numbers, with about 309,000 Washingtonians selecting a qualified health plan (QHP) and the most standard plan selections in the history of the Exchange. Contributors to this increase include enhanced premium tax credits and Cascade Care Savings (state premium assistance). This year saw a record number of plan selections.
 - 309,000 customers selected QHPs.
 - Nearly 49,000 are new customers.
 - About 79% of customers are in a standard plan (Cascade Care).
 - 244,000 customers are in a Cascade standard plan, the highest enrollment in the history of the Exchange.

- 94,000 customers are in a Cascade Select public option plan, up 50% from 2024.
- Premium assistance has been essential in newly accessing and maintaining coverage.

Staff Contact

Charlene Abrahamson, Tribal Liaison

360-688-7853 | charlene.abrahamson@wahbexchange.org

Health Care Authority

Summary

HCA provides health care and support services to Washington residents through a variety of innovative policies, programs, and purchasing strategies. These strategies involve the Apple Health (Medicaid) program, various behavioral health block grants and state provisos, and the Public Employees Benefits Board and School Employees Benefits Board programs.

Through the Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA), HCA seeks to ensure that Washington state utilizes the Medicaid program, administered as a federal-state partnership, and other federal funding sources, such as block grants administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to fulfill the federal trust responsibility of health care, as intended by the federal government. To achieve this goal, we partner with Tribes and Indian Health Care Providers (IHCPs) to address existing funding and service gaps and health inequities and to increase access to quality care and services, following RCW 43.376 and our Tribal Consultation Policy.

Highlights

Office of Tribal Affairs Staffing

The Office of Tribal Affairs administrator position now reports directly to the HCA agency director and sits on the HCA Senior Leadership Team. This HCA change is in compliance with RCW 43.376 and our Tribal Consultation Policy to communicate and collaborate with Tribal Nations on policies and new program implementation that impact the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) health care delivery system. See the [Washington State Health Care Authority](#) website for additional contact details.

Apple Health Coverage and Payments

In calendar year 2024, Apple Health provided health care coverage to more than 81,100 AI/AN citizens statewide. Tribes received over \$493 million for health care, transportation, and administration services, a 20% increase from 2023.

- This includes the implementation of State Plan Amendment 24-0005, providing authority for one pharmacy encounter per day to be paid at the all-inclusive rate. In 2024, Tribes received approximately \$13 million in pharmacy reimbursement, an increase of more than 150% over 2023.
- The Health Care Authority and Tribes are working together to develop a WAC that defines the IHS all-inclusive rate process. This work is intended to create transparency in the process and provide Tribes with the ability to weigh in on HCA decisions that affect them.

Apple Health Innovations for Indian Health

In the previous year, HCA continued or implemented these projects in consultation with Tribes:

- Under the Medicaid Transformation Project (MTP) 2.0, HCA and OTA are working in partnership with Tribes and IHCPs to launch the Native Hub. The Native Hub will be a statewide network of Tribes, IHCPs, Tribal social service divisions, and Native-led, Native-serving organizations in service to whole-person

care coordination. The intention is a Tribally owned and operated organization that can provide the right funding, the right technical assistance, or the right service at the right time, as well as being the right place for Tribes, IHCPs, and Native people as it relates to care coordination and case management.

- This model was presented and discussed when OTA visited each Tribe and IHCP to discuss MTP 2.0, and was presented at the Governor’s Indian Health Advisory Council meeting held on June 11, 2025.
- HCA and OTA are actively pursuing sustainability models to ensure nothing built under MTP 2.0 would be at risk of being shut down and that there would be continued care coordination and case management funding for Tribes and IHCPs.
- Work on the Community Health Aide Program has stalled in HCA, due to competing capacity and funding priorities.
- During the 2025 legislative session, E2SHB 1813 passed, which directs HCA to develop an operational plan for a behavioral health administrative services organization to serve Native people statewide.

Behavioral Health Funding and Innovations for Indian Health

Crisis Response:

- HCA continues to work on implementation of the HB 1877 legislation (Improving the Washington state behavioral health system for better coordination and recognition with IHCPs) focused on amending managed care contracts to ensure contractors and their subcontractors follow the relevant provisions.
- In the spring of 2024, HCA, in consultation with the Tulalip Tribes, appointed it’s second Tribal Designated Crisis Responder.
- HCA launched endorsement and funding set aside for Tribal mobile rapid response crisis teams and community-based crisis response teams.
- HCA completed the Tribal Health Program Profiles in partnership with the Native Resources Hub operated by the Volunteers of America.

Opioid Response:

- AIHC, Tribes, and the Tribal-State Opioid Task Force partnered on the third annual Tribal-State Opioid and Fentanyl Summit, hosted by the Cowlitz Indian Tribe.
- HCA continued expansion of the For Our Lives Campaign including Tribal set-aside for localization of campaign materials.
- HCA wrapped up the Tribal Opioid Abatement set-aside projects along with new funding for the next biennium of \$15.7 million dollars.

Prevention:

- We are continuing work on the Washington State Tribal Prevention System with five pilot sites, all of which have begun development of their community coalitions, focused on data-collection efforts.

Administrative:

- HCA completed consultation on the Indian Nation Agreement Restatement to the Sovereign Nation Agreements which will include funding allocation of over \$10.8 million in block grants and state proviso funding for fiscal year 2026.

Staff Contact

Aren Sparck, Tribal Administrator

360-622-1312 | aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov

Washington State Historical Society

Summary

The Washington State Historical Society (WSHS) partners with our communities to explore how history connects us all. Since 2019, the WSHS team has included a half-time Tribal liaison to help us fulfill this commitment. We continue to honor the government-to-government policy and relationship building with northwest Tribal Nations.

Highlights

- The new permanent gallery “This Is Native Land” will open in October 2025 at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma. With more than 100 Native contributors, the gallery tells the story of Washington’s Tribes from a Native perspective.
- In 2025, the Washington State History Museum will host the 20th annual “In the Spirit Contemporary Native Art” exhibition July 12–September 14. The “In the Spirit” Arts Market and Northwest Native Festival will take place on August 9, featuring Native artists.
- We continue to provide the “Treaty Trail: U.S.-Indian Treaties in the Pacific Northwest” curriculum, free to educators across the state, available at washingtonhistory.org under the Education tab.
- We continue to make progress on the “Dialogue in Place” initiative, a statewide project. As part of our Statement of Commitment, we are reviewing monuments placed by the WSHS for historical accuracy, structural integrity, language, and interpretive sensitivity. We have begun a Tribal consultation and community engagement process to determine the future of these monuments. Currently, eight Tribes are participating and designing markers of their story and experience.
- Repatriation efforts are being made to return several artifacts to the Makah, Nisqually, Puyallup, Skokomish, Squaxin Island, and Suquamish Tribes.

Opportunities

- Heritage Capital Projects (HCP) is a competitive grant available for facilities that provide public access to history. Grant dollars can support new construction, building rehabilitation, architectural/engineering design and property acquisition.
- Diversity in Local History (DLH) is a grant to fund paid internships that support inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility projects. Applicants must have a mission to preserve and interpret history and heritage for the public, and the projects should increase the stories told and communities served in Washington.
- America 250 is an initiative that will take place in 2026 to commemorate the founding of the United States as marked by the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Commemorative activities in Washington will be community based and revolve around the three themes of We the People, Power of Place, and Sharing History.

- The WSHS continues to offer support and programming for museums and cultural centers across the state through our Common Concerns series and other free trainings. We welcome Tribal Museum and cultural center partners to attend, participate, and suggest topics for future programming based on any concerns or initiatives they may have.

Staff Contact

Todd Clark (Wailaki), Tribal Liaison

253-317-1274 | Todd.Clark@wshs.wa.gov

Washington State Office of Independent Investigations (OII)

Summary

OII is a statewide agency tasked with conducting criminal investigations of use of deadly force by law enforcement. As Native Americans have been disproportionately involved in fatal encounters with the police, OII created a Tribal Relations program to ensure meaningful communication, consultation, and collaboration with all American Indian Tribes located in, or with rights in, Washington state.

Highlights

- OII is fully operational in Region 1 (oii.wa.gov/investigations), which has 12 counties in Southwest Washington and the Olympic Peninsula. Becoming operational statewide remains the goal.
- OII currently has five Regional Supervisors, 16 Senior Investigators, and 10 Investigators to respond immediately to new incidents.
- OII is strengthening its Family and Community Liaison programs statewide, with a focus on including Tribal voices at every level. These programs are vital bridges between communities and support systems, ensuring services are accessible and culturally responsive. The agency prioritizes Tribal outreach and engagement, ensuring decision-making reflects the diversity and sovereignty of Tribal Nations in the state.
- Members of the Tribal Relations Division have met with representatives from all OII Region 1 Tribes for initial outreach. This includes Tribal leaders and Tribal police departments.
- OII continues to schedule meetings with Tribal leadership statewide.
- OII has investigated four incidents in Region 1 since Dec. 1, 2024. Two investigations are complete with Final Case Reports found at oii.wa.gov/status-oii-investigations.
- Of the nine prior investigations under review by OII, four have a known Tribal affiliation.
- An OII Tribal Relations webpage has been created with a map showing both OII regions and Tribes in Washington, which can be found at oii.wa.gov/tribal-relations.
- A draft OII Tribal Relations policy has been completed, sent to the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) for review, and is now being provided to Tribal leaders for their input.
- OII supports Tribal businesses when possible and used several Tribal venues in 2024 for legislative outreach events.
- All OII staff must attend GOIA's government-to-government trainings and other anti-racism/anti-bias trainings.
- OII attended all Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs Indian Country committee meetings and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians conventions this past year.
- OII is developing a proposal to hire and train those with no law enforcement experience to be OII Investigators. It is gathering input from Tribal members interested in this project.

Staff Contacts

Angie Smith, Director of Tribal Relations

360-890-6518 | angela.smith@oii.wa.gov

Michelle Charles, Tribal Liaison

564-669-4559 | michelle.charles@oii.wa.gov

Office of the Insurance Commissioner

Summary

The Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) is a statewide elected office responsible for regulating insurance in Washington State. Our mission is to protect the public through fair, transparent, and consistent oversight of the insurance industry. We support Tribal communities by facilitating access to insurance services and benefits that reduce disparities and uphold sovereignty.

OIC's Tribal Liaison actively participates in outreach to Tribes, coordinates with Tribal organizations, and provides access to technical assistance for health plans as well as property and casualty insurance guidance.

Highlights

- Participated in outreach meetings and community listening sessions with Tribal governments across Washington to introduce the OIC's new Tribal Liaison and strengthen relationships.
- Attended and presented at key events, including the ATNI Mid-Year Conference, AIHC Opioid & Fentanyl Summit, and Tribal Assister Training in Yakima.
- Collaborated with the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) to address Tribal concerns regarding Medicaid managed care, Medicare Advantage plans, and behavioral health access.
- Delivered policy updates and insurance guidance during quarterly AIHC delegate meetings and regional Tribal forums.
- Engaged in Tribal-focused events such as the WSSIEA Conference and Tribal Employment Rights Organization Conference to expand insurance literacy and support.
- Washington's Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) conducted 3 three outreach events and 297 one-on-one Medicare counseling sessions for Tribal members.
- Planned Fall fall 2025 listening sessions in partnership with Tribal health clinics, senior centers, area agencies on aging, and community programs.

Staff Contact

Larry Robinette, Tribal Liaison

360-725-7262 | Larry.Robinette@oic.wa.gov

Washington State Department of Labor & Industries

Summary

The Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) aims to keep Washington safe and working through collaboration with Tribal governments, doctors, employers, and workers. L&I acknowledges and respects Tribal Nations' authority and their way of governing. The agency helps workers injured on the job, promotes workplace safety and health, ensures fair pay, and oversees licenses, inspections, and apprenticeships in various industries.

L&I is dedicated to working closely with Tribal governments to ensure everyone understands their rights. To fulfill this commitment, L&I created its own Tribal Advisory Committee. This committee includes representatives from the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, Apprenticeship, Employer Services, Office of Human Resources, the agency's Tribal Liaison, and regional offices. These representatives help make decisions on agency policies and guidelines.

Highlights

Activities from June 2024 to June 2025:

- L&I trained its employees in government-to-government relations to ensure respectful and appropriate collaboration.
- L&I received 215 electrical inspection requests from Tribes.
- L&I worked with Tribes to enhance permit processes and discussed a possible Memorandum of Understanding with Squaxin Island Tribe, with the goal of improving services for Tribal businesses.
- L&I supported Tribal members that joined apprenticeship programs:
 - Apprentices earn wages while learning valuable skills in their chosen trade.
 - Graduates receive nationally recognized certifications.
 - These programs are open statewide in Washington.
- The Tribal apprentice subcommittee is part of the Washington State Apprentice Training Council (WSATC):
 - L&I worked closely with the WSATC.
 - The subcommittee is open to all recognized Tribes and currently includes participants from Tribes. Twenty-nine Tribes are invited, and eight to 10 Tribes are usually in attendance.
 - L&I reported to WSATC quarterly.
- L&I staff participated in various tribal events:
 - Staff attended the Centennial Accord and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Convention.
 - Staff also participated in the State Agency-Tribal Liaison meetings.
 - An additional 10 meetings with Lummi Nation, Makah Indian Tribe, and Tulalip Tribes to discuss start prep or apprenticeship programs with the Tribes.
 - L&I has worked closely with the Lummi Nation to add a preparatory apprenticeship program and are working toward registering the first apprenticeship program with a Washington Tribe.

RCW 70A.02.100 directs covered agencies to offer consultation services to Tribes. L&I had 10 interactions with Tribes to discuss services and ways to collaborate. In the last year, there were 10 interactions with Tribes. During those interactions, L&I worked closely with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Attorney General's Office for guidance.

Staff Contact

Uriel Iñiguez, Tribal Liaison

360-902-5411 | uriel.iniguez@lni.wa.gov

Department Of Licensing

Summary

Department of Licensing's (DOL) mission: Helping every Washington resident live, work, drive, and thrive.

DOL serves Washington residents by licensing drivers, vehicles, vessels, and over 40 different professions. The agency also collects more than \$1.67 billion in fuel taxes and licensing fees each year that fund the state's transportation network.

Highlights

Fuel Tax Compacts – DOL (by delegated authority from the governor) may enter into motor vehicle fuel tax compacts with any federally recognized Tribe located on a reservation in Washington. DOL is party to 24 fuel tax compacts with Tribal governments. We continue to work with Tribes regarding their questions and concerns on fuel compacts. For calendar year 2024, DOL provided \$45.76 million in fuel tax refunds to Tribes pursuant to fuel tax compacts.

Tribal License Plate Compacts – Since 2020, DOL (by delegated authority from the governor) has been able to enter into compacts with federally recognized Washington Tribes to create Tribal license plates for Tribal-member-owned vehicles and Tribal government vehicles. Currently, DOL has license plate compacts with three Tribes: Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, and the Puyallup Tribe.

Reporting Vessel Information – DOL continues to work with Tribes and the U.S. Coast Guard to increase the reporting of Tribal vessel information. A 1994 Consent Decree requires 21 Tribes to issue their members vessel decals supplied by DOL for use in registering their vessels and submitting the vessel information to DOL. For 2024, DOL provided 3,000 decals to the Tribal Fisheries Commission and received 782 Tribal vessel registrations.

Combative Sports Regulation – DOL functions as the State Boxing Commission and regulates combative sports throughout Washington. Some Tribes invite DOL to regulate combative sports occurring in their Indian Country, such as boxing and mixed martial arts events. In 2024, we are scheduled to regulate three events in Indian Country at the invitation of Tribes.

Staff Contact

James Manuel, Tribal and Federal Liaison

360-634-5278 | james.manuel@dol.wa.gov

Liquor and Cannabis Board

Summary

The Liquor and Cannabis Board's (LCB) Centennial Accord mission includes promoting public health and safety across the state and in Indian Country with respect to liquor, cannabis, tobacco, and vapor product production, distribution, sale, and use. We work to support Tribal government revenues and Tribal economic development through partnerships and collaboration. These collaborative efforts with Tribes focus on agreements that determine how Tribes operate their businesses that involve alcohol and cannabis sales.

Highlights

This past year's focus with the Tribes included adding new and updating existing cannabis compacts and liquor Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) to adjust to the changes that Tribes experienced. Both remain significant sources of tax revenue for Tribes and the state. Tribal liquor and cannabis revenue supports Tribal services and programs within their communities. The governor has designated the LCB to negotiate compacts with Tribes that are interested in establishing cannabis programs. The LCB also works with Tribes incorporating liquor privileges into their new or existing establishments that meet state requirements.

LCB continues to work with Tribes in adopting cannabis compacts. To date, the number of Tribal cannabis compacts that the agency has completed remains at 23, and we are currently negotiating with one additional Tribe.

- Through June 2025, we updated Tribal cannabis compacts with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Samish Indian Nation, and the Stillaguamish Tribe. These involved adding new elements and locations.
- To date, we have updated MOAs with the Chehalis Confederated Tribes, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Spokane Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, and the Stillaguamish Tribe.
- During the 2025 legislative session, the [2nd Substitute Senate Bill 5786](#) raised liquor privilege fees effective July 27, 2025. The agency had no input and was not associated with this bill in any fashion. These increases will affect future Tribal MOA Annual Fee Renewals with dates after July 27, 2025. The Liquor and Cannabis Board will utilize the new liquor fee schedule amounts for all regular licensees and Tribal MOA renewals, and copies of the increased retail and non-retail fee changes can be found on [our agency website](#).

Staff Contact

Dr. Marla Conwell, Tribal Liaison

360-819-7383 | Tribal.liaison@lcb.wa.gov

Washington's Lottery

Summary

Washington's Lottery (WSL) is a state agency mandated to generate funds that support state programs. We sell tickets for games of chance to the public. Revenue from those sales pay for the costs of running the lottery business, including producing, marketing, and selling lottery products. All WSL profits support the public good.

The Legislature decides how the government spends this generated revenue. Recipients of WSL's proceeds include the Washington Opportunity Pathways Account, Economic Development Account, Problem Gambling Account, and General Fund Account. WSL has contributed more than \$4 billion to various state programs since its inception in 1982. In addition, we are committed to maximizing opportunities for qualified veteran-, minority- and women-owned business enterprises, and require all contractors to fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and other federal and state nondiscrimination laws.

WSL is proud to have Tribal retailers as partners in support of our mission to benefit Washingtonians.

Highlights

Fiscal Year 2025 Tribal sales

- Fifty-two licensed Tribal retail locations sold tickets totaling more than \$19 million (\$19,197,528).
- Ticket sales at Tribal locations provided \$959,876 in sales commissions to those retailers.
- Tribal locations received \$1,100 in retailer selling bonuses.

Staff Contacts

Cassi Villegas, Deputy Director and Tribal Liaison

360-918-3103 | cassi.villegas@walottery.com

Lance Anderson, Tribal Business Relations

360-485-5809 | landerson2@walottery.com

Kristi Weeks, External/Stakeholder Affairs

360-810-2881 | kweeks@walottery.com

Washington Military Department

Summary

Washington State Military Department (WMD)

The WMD Tribal program is coordinated through the Office of Inter-Governmental Affairs (IGA), providing direct access to the Adjutant General. The WMD works with Tribes through three full-time employees: a Tribal Liaison Officer (TLNO) for the Emergency Management Division (EMD), a TLNO for the Military Department, and a natural and cultural resources specialist within the Construction and Facilities Maintenance Office.

The WMD Tribal outreach efforts are guided by the overarching principles of engagement, responsiveness, collaboration, and follow-up. The following is a short overview of each program:

I. Washington Emergency Management Division

EMD hosted the 2024 Tribal Emergency Managers Forum at Camp Murray, Washington, which was attended by 20 Tribes from around the state. The event provided a unique opportunity for Tribal Emergency Managers to network and discuss a variety of emergency management topics to include plans, training, communications, and mutual aid.

A. Preparedness Grants Program

\$94,606 in Emergency Management Performance Grant funding was awarded to the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, and Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to support all-hazards emergency preparedness efforts.

\$175,500 in Operation Stonegarden awards were provided to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Makah Tribe, and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to enhance border security.

\$50,000 in State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program funding was awarded to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to enhance cybersecurity resilience and reduce cyber risk.

B. Response and Logistics

EMD initiated rulemaking to revise Washington Administrative Code 118-04 to enable federally recognized Tribes to participate in the state's Emergency Worker Program.

Emergency Communications coordinated SHARES HF Radio authorizations between CISA SHARES and the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Makah Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, and Tulalip Tribes for voice and digital emergency communications.

The statewide credentialing program worked with the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Samish Indian Nation, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, and the Suquamish Tribe to assist with credentialing incident management personnel.

C. Hazards and Outreach

(Tsunami) Program published Washington's first Tribal Tsunami Maritime Response and Mitigation Strategy for the Makah Tribe and the Port of Neah Bay. The Program funded pedestrian evacuation maps for various coastal areas for the Tribe.

D. Recovery and Human Services

EMD assisted Tribal nations in applying for and receiving Fire Management Assistance Grants to cover suppression costs of several large wildfires that threatened or damaged tribal lands. EMD also provided technical assistance for damage assessments, disaster declaration documentation, and recovery program delivery to various Tribes included in presidential disaster declarations due to wildfire damage.

E. Emergency Management Council (EMC)

Tribal members from the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, and the Suquamish Tribe serve on the Emergency Management Council. The Council advises the governor and the director of the Washington Military Department on state and local emergency management matters by promoting, assessing, and reporting on statewide emergency readiness.

II. Washington National Guard

The Military TLNO helps coordinate National Guard assets to include civil engineering companies, vehicle recovery specialists, and traffic management teams as part of the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program. Support was provided to the Colville Confederated Tribes, Makah Tribe, Nisqually Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, Sauk-Suiattle Tribe, and Yakama Nation.

WMD assisted the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe in convening the first Tribal Police Counterdrug Leadership conference that brought together more than 20 Tribal Chiefs of Police to discuss WMD support for Tribal drug enforcement efforts.

The Washington Counterdrug Program supported Tribal, federal, and state law enforcement in joint investigations supporting the Lummi Nation, the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, and the Yakama Nation.

Additionally, the program's Western Regional Counterdrug Training Center trained 39 students from various Washington Tribes in tactical medicine, fentanyl safety, investigative support, and leadership, with some courses hosted by the Quinault Indian Nation.

III. Washington Youth Challenge Academy

The Washington Youth Challenge Academy (WYCA) provides a highly disciplined, safe, and professional learning environment that empowers at-risk youth to improve their educational level and employment potential and become responsible and productive Washingtonians. In 2025, the WYCA enrolled cadets from Blackfeet Nation; Tlingit Tribe Alaska; Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate; Blackfeet Nation - Arapaho Tribe; Tsimshian Nation; Puyallup Tribe; and Yakama Nation.

Staff Contacts

James Baumgart, Intergovernmental Affairs and Policy Director

253-921-3879 | james.baumgart@mil.wa.gov

Erik Riske, Tribal Liaison – Emergency Management

253-512-7163 | erik.riske@mil.wa.gov

Bill Elliott, Tribal Liaison – National Guard

360-241-1522 | Bill.Elliott@mil.wa.gov

The Office of Minority & Women’s Business Enterprises (OMWBE)

Summary

OMWBE works to increase equity and participation in public contracting and procurement for small businesses owned by minorities, women, and socially and/or economically disadvantaged people, which includes Tribal members and Native Americans. We manage the state and federal certification programs that certify these businesses. We maintain an online directory of certified businesses so agencies, educational institutions, local governments, and prime contractors can find certified businesses in the industries they need; and assist agencies and educational institutions with best practices to increase spending with minority- and women-owned small businesses. We also lead the Governor’s Subcabinet on Business Diversity (GSBD), which is a cross-agency effort for equity in public contracting and procurement.

Highlights

- **June 18, 2024:** Participated in the Government-to-Government Summit co-hosted by the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and The Evergreen State College, which emphasized the need for stronger Tribal liaison frameworks and highlighted a critical gap in Native contractor availability that informed ongoing strategy development.
- **June – September 2024:** Developed a legislative and implementation framework for an “Availability Pipeline” — a coordinated pathway connecting community and technical colleges, skilled trades, Native-owned small businesses, and government contracting opportunities. This work aims to address the lack of Native contractor pipelines that force Tribes to rely on non-Tribal firms.
- **July 2, 2024:** Hosted GSBD Summer Quarterly Meeting and Mixer at the Reflection Center, in partnership with Two Rivers CDC, which is a Native-led 501(c)(3) that supports Native and local communities through culturally rooted business development and job creation. The event deepened alignment between GSBD and Native economic development partners.
- **Ongoing (throughout the year):** The Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) was invited to all GSBD meetings and remains an active voting member.
- **Government-to-Government Training:** Almost half of the agency has successfully completed GOIA’s one-day Government-to-Government Training with five additional staff identified for future enrollment.
- **Outreach:** Our Business Development team conducted outreach to the following:
 - Northwest Native Apex Accelerator
 - Northwest Native Chamber of Commerce
 - Daybreak Star Radio Network
- **Fiscal Year 2024 OMWBE Annual Report:** Tracks the total number of certified Native American businesses and state spending with Native-owned businesses, which can be found on the [OMWBE website](#).

Staff Contact

Sharon Harvey Hughes, Director of Policy and Tribal Liaison

360-704-8437 | sharon.harvey@omwbe.wa.gov

Department of Natural Resources

Summary

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), led by Commissioner Dave Upthegrove, works alongside Tribal sovereigns to protect Washington's lands and waters. The Tribal Relations team, comprised of a director, deputy director, and a part-time executive assistant, continuously advocates for the Tribal voice at the state agency table and ensures meaningful consultation through appropriate channels.

In partnership with Tribal sovereigns, we improve salmon conditions and protect cultural and natural resources. We also mitigate climate change impacts, support sustainable economies, and manage impacts on state lands.

Highlights

Tribal Summit

Commissioner Dave Upthegrove and Tribal Nation representatives convened at the annual DNR Tribal Summit on June 24, 2025, hosted by the Squaxin Island Tribe. More than 130 participants attended, including Tribal leaders and staff from 21 Tribes, plus the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

DNR and Tribes discussed:

- Shared stewardship of lands;
- Preserving access to cultural resources;
- Collaboration to restore state and federal funding;
- Concerns about Salmon hatcheries and access to aquatic resources; and
- DNR's Trust Land Transfer Program successes, water typing, and adaptive management in forest practices, derelict vessel removals, and kelp and eelgrass conservation.

Kelp and Eelgrass Health and Conservation Plan

DNR continued implementing its collaborative effort to conserve 10,000 acres of kelp and eelgrass habitat by 2040. Informed by Tribal co-stewards and local partners, DNR identified priority habitats and stressor reduction actions in three pilot sub-basins: Grays Harbor, Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca, and South Puget Sound. In summer 2025, DNR plans to permanently protect the Squaxin Island kelp bed through a Commissioner's order, partnering with the Squaxin Island Tribe.

Trust Land Transfer Program

DNR manages state trust lands to produce revenue for essential public services. Some lands have limited income potential but high ecological and recreational values. The Trust Land Transfer Program enables DNR to preserve these areas in public ownership while improving the trust lands portfolio's financial performance.

In the 2025–27 capital budget, the Washington State Legislature fully funded the following trust land transfers:

- The South Lake Ozette transfer near Forks in Clallam County will provide the Quileute Tribe with a 372-acre parcel to use for fish and wildlife habitat conservation and cultural resource access and use. (\$8.9 million)
- The Beckler 6 transfer near Skykomish in King County will provide Tulalip Tribes with a 676-acre parcel to use for conservation and traditional cultural practices. (\$4 million)
- The Okanogan G transfer near Twisp in Okanogan County will provide the Colville Confederated Tribes with a 42-acre parcel to use for fish and wildlife habitat restoration and conservation. (\$450,000)

In addition, the Legislature partially funded (\$3.3 million) the transfer of Tract C North near Yakima in Yakima County to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation for fish and wildlife habitat protection, forest health management, and hunting and gathering. DNR has received over \$17 million. This funding keeps trust beneficiaries whole and helps acquire replacement properties that generate more revenue.

Tribal Wildland Firefighter Training Initiative

DNR received \$800,000 from the Legislature to improve access to wildland fire training programs in the last biennium, providing opportunities for enrolled members of Washington state Tribes and Tribal Nation employees to obtain essential qualifications for wildland firefighting. A total of 11 Tribal Nations participated in this initiative, benefiting from 99 scholarships that included training materials and supplies. Approximately \$700,000 was expended to empower Tribal members and support their roles in wildland firefighting. This initiative covered training-related costs such as per diem, travel, and course fees and signified a cooperative effort as DNR partnered with Washington State University Extension Service. Together, they provided workshops and training focused on fire suppression and prescribed fire, essential components of effective fire management on various landscapes.

Outdoor Access and Recreation

DNR completed the Outdoor Access and Responsible Recreation Strategic Plan in January 2025 after two years of development. The plan coordinates DNR's recreation management with the State-Tribal Recreation Impacts Initiative. DNR uses visitation data for adaptive site management. DNR actively participates in the State-Tribal initiative with dedicated staff and \$60,000 in facilitation support. Despite a 20% budget cut affecting operations, DNR remains committed to Tribal engagement on recreation management.

Conservation

DNR's conservation programs continue a partnership with the Samish Indian Nation in the San Juan Islands. Beginning in the early 2010s, partners collaborated on estuary restoration in Cypress Island's Secret Harbor, with Samish staff conducting baseline surveys and five years of post-restoration monitoring. The partnership has expanded to include grassy balds restoration on Cypress Island and planned butterfly habitat and prairie restoration at Cattle Point Natural Resources Conservation Area on San Juan Island.

Staff Contact

Glenda Breiler, Director of Tribal Relations

360-791-3856 | glenda.breiler@dnr.wa.gov

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Summary

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission cares for many of the state's treasured lands, waters, and historic places. We seek to connect all Washingtonians to their diverse natural and cultural heritage and provide memorable recreational and educational experiences that enhance their lives. Though State Parks manages the fewest acres of any state-managed lands agency, we serve the most visitors per year. Our vision is for our 124 parks, 1,200 miles of trails, and over 120,000 acres to be cherished destinations with natural, cultural, recreational, artistic, and interpretive resources for generations to come. Through the State-Tribal Recreational Impacts Initiative, State Parks is committed to collaborating with Tribes and other state agencies to improve the management of recreation impacts, especially on protected Tribal rights, across state-managed lands and waters.

Highlights

Protecting Cultural and Natural Resources

- Tribes continue to help State Parks understand the potential effects of projects on cultural resources and natural resources. In 2024, over 180 cultural resources reviews were conducted. The archeology team offered inadvertent discovery training for cultural resources and human remains to field and maintenance staff in every park area across the state. State Parks contracted with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to conduct an ethnographic study at a park that will be used to help guide long-term management. Our Environmental Program made nine State Environmental Policy Act determinations.

Supporting Cross-Agency Approach to Addressing Recreation Impacts

- State Parks staff were the lead for the State Tribal Recreation Impacts Initiative steering committee and co-lead for the technical workgroup. This has contributed to partnership and progress between agencies on collaborative land management and improved relationships with Tribal partners.

Key Partnerships with Tribes

- Chairs from Lummi Nation and Nez Perce Tribe engaged with the State Parks Commission when meetings were held in their traditional areas.
- Ongoing partnership with the Nisqually Indian Tribe to develop Nisqually State Park, the newest state park. State Parks is following the Tribe's lead in the design of an interpretive plaza and welcome center and is focusing on telling the story of the area from the Tribe's point of view.
- Collaborated with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe on new exhibits at Mount St. Helen's Visitors Center that include contemporary and historic works by Cowlitz artists and in the Cowlitz language. One of the exhibits includes a new film featuring a Cowlitz spiritual leader. Additionally, there are several short films that highlight the Tribe's use of natural resources.

- Kalispel Tribe of Indians and the Spokane Tribe of Indians are contributing to the planning process for the Glen Tana property at Riverside State Park. This partnership presents opportunities for environmental stewardship and supports salmon reintroduction efforts.
- Facilitated Tribes hosting Canoe Journey landings at Birch Bay, Saltwater, and Fort Worden state parks.

Agency Process Improvement

- Ongoing internal process improvement work to facilitate better collaboration with Tribes earlier in the development of a project, including sending a list of capital-funded projects to Tribes.
- Requested the Administrative Office of the Courts dismiss infraction notices to enrolled members of Washington's federally recognized Tribes, Nez Perce Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation for not visibly displaying a Tribal Discover Pass or Discover Pass. Tribal Discover Passes are provided by request to these Tribes for distribution to their enrolled citizens.

Staff Contacts

Jenna adzalous Bowman, Tribal Relations Director

360.870.4696 | Jenna.bowman@parks.wa.gov

Jeanne "JJ" Jackson McMinds, Tribal Relations Deputy Director

360.870.7731 | Jeanne.mcminds@parks.wa.gov

Keri Murphy, Visitor Center Manager for Tribes to contact for the Tribal Discover Pass

360-902-8518 | keri.murphy@parks.wa.gov

Puget Sound Partnership

Summary

The Partnership's mission is to accelerate the collective effort to restore and protect Puget Sound. Working with our partners, we generate the Puget Sound Action Agenda, which charts the courses to recovery. We manage and report on shared measurements of recovery. We support our partners through mobilizing funding, removing barriers to recovery work, and educating key decision-makers. We are the regional salmon recovery organization for Puget Sound and create the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan, invest in salmon recovery projects, support partner habitat restoration initiatives, and track the efforts to restore salmon populations in Puget Sound.

Highlights

Early and ongoing collaboration with Tribal Nations and consortia is critical and central to our agency operations and collective efforts.

- Tribal officials hold seats on two of our three boards established in statute:
 - Leadership Council (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe)
 - Ecosystem Coordination Board (Jamestown S'Klallam, Lummi Nation, Nisqually Indian Tribe)
 - Science Panel (accepting applications)
- Tribes hold multiple seats on our two advisory boards:
 - Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (Note: Each Tribe within Puget Sound may appoint a representative and an alternate)
 - Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program Steering Committee
- The Partnership and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) co-facilitate the Partnership Tribal Co-management Council (PTCC). PTCC promotes ongoing State-Tribal government-to-government communications, coordination, priority setting, and information sharing.
- The Partnership participates in the Riparian and Climate Roundtables.
- The Partnership provides ongoing match for Tribal implementation and capacity grants through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Puget Sound Geographic Program.
- The Partnership and NWIFC co-host Puget Sound Day on the Hill in Washington, D.C., and Puget Sound Day on the Sound locally, to raise awareness about the need for key policy changes and sustained investment in Puget Sound restoration and salmon recovery.
- The Partnership invited formal consultation on the 2025-2029 Science Work Plan, the Partnership Centennial Accord Plan, the 2027-2029 Puget Sound Restoration and Acquisition RFP, and Phase 2 of the 2026-2030 Puget Sound Action Agenda.
- The Partnership provided sponsorship to the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Annual Convention, Midyear Convention, and Natural Resources Summit.

Staff Contact

Lea Anne Burke, Tribal Affairs Manager

360-628-7532 | lea-anne.burke@psp.wa.gov

Recreation and Conservation Office

Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) manages grant programs, councils and boards, and policy offices that help to recover salmon and orca, create places for outdoor recreation, and protect wildlife habitat and working lands.

Highlights

Grants

For fiscal years 2024–25, RCO awarded more than \$41 million in grants to 22 Tribes for 77 projects to restore and protect salmon habitat, develop athletic and boating facilities, create water access sites, and protect critical riparian habitats. Funding came from 17 salmon-related and nine recreation-related grant programs.

Since 1972, when the agency first funded a Tribal project, RCO has administered 784 grants to twenty-nine Tribes. Totaling more than \$318 million, these projects have helped Tribes with recreation facilities, salmon habitat restoration, fish hatchery improvements, and outdoor education.

Projects

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe partnered with the Columbia Land Trust to remove the Kwoneesum Dam, a defunct dam near the headwaters of a Washougal River tributary in Skamania County. The partners restored fish passage to spawning habitat in the watershed and improved a critical natural ecosystem in the Tribe's ancestral lands. RCO funding included Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board and Salmon Recovery Funding Board programs.

The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians is using RCO grants for the second phase of restoration of this area, a 230-acre estuary in Snohomish County. Restored tidal wetlands will provide important rearing habitat for Chinook salmon. Funding from RCO included the Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program, Targeted Investment program through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and a federal Pacific Salmon Treaty grant.

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation is using a Boating Facilities Program grant to build a boat launch and loading dock, pave parking, and install lights at Nicholson Beach on Omak Lake on the Colville Indian Reservation. The Tribe is using a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to develop a skatepark for the community of Inchelium.

The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation will use Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants to help buy 458 acres of high-quality aquatic, riparian, and upland habitat and 10.2 miles of streambank along the lower White Salmon River corridor to benefit endangered salmon and bull trout.

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)

GSRO collaborates with Tribes throughout its work. For example, GSRO worked with Tribes and Tribal organizations on the 2025–27 biennial salmon recovery work plan that informs the state's biennial budget, on the 2024 *State of Salmon in Watershed* report to the Legislature, and on the intergovernmental work group

that guides orca recovery. GSRO also works with Tribes on initiatives from the Governor’s Office, the governor’s statewide salmon strategy, on federal priorities, and on salmon recovery boards and watershed-based lead entities.

GSRO continued efforts with the Spokane Tribe of Indians to support establishment and funding for a lead entity and reintroduction of salmon above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams.

Washington Invasive Species Council

The council collaborates with Tribes to monitor invasive species, promote a statewide awareness week, and host technical and working groups, workshops, and training. Tribes appoint two council members.

This spring, the council collaborated with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Washington State University to offer invasive species workshops in which 147 registrants across Tribal communities statewide participated. The council is also working to add cultural resource impacts to the prioritization assessment tool, so that effects on Tribes are better considered when assessing impacts of invasive species.

Cultural Resource Consultation

RCO recognizes that archeological and historic resources hold special cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to Tribes. Executive Order 21-02 directs RCO to review state-funded projects and consult Tribes on potential effects. In the past year, RCO has initiated consultation on hundreds of projects with all 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington and five out-of-state Tribes. The work helped protect many archeological and historic resources.

RCO co-hosted the Satellite Cultural Resources Protection Summit in Olympia in October 2024, which drew about a hundred participants. The theme was *Agencies in Action*, and fostered discussions on cultural resource management work and how agencies, consultants, and Tribes can better collaborate. Multiple state and federal agencies and eight Tribes participated in the satellite summit, which was the first hosted by a state agency.

Additional RCO Work and Initiatives

RCO participated in the “State-Tribal Impacts Initiative,” a group of Tribal and state agency staff working to address the impacts of recreation on cultural and natural resources and Tribal Treaty Rights.

One goal of Outdoor Learning Grants program is to infuse traditional ecological knowledge and the John McCoy (Iulilaš) “Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State” curriculum into projects, which led to many projects partnering with Tribes. RCO staff hosted a workshop, which included a panel discussion on establishing meaningful partnerships with Tribes.

Staff Contact

Megan Duffy, Director

360-902-3000 | megan.duffy@rco.wa.gov

Results Washington (Office of the Governor)

Summary

Results Washington's mission is to equip Washington state agencies with tools, performance insight, and collaborative support to improve service delivery — helping government work smarter, faster, and with accountability the public can see and trust. Our work supports state agencies with improvements as they work directly with Tribes and American Indians/Alaska Natives.

Highlights

We hosted two more Governor's Public Performance Reviews to celebrate successes and partner to solve barriers in programs across state government. One focused on poverty and the Working Families Tax Credit. The other focused on community engagement, including the use of digital tools like GIS mapping for cultural preservation in urban planning.

We also hosted our 13th annual Lean Transformation Conference and monthly community of practice meetings to offer state employees tools and methodologies they can apply to their work while supporting the advancement of diversity, equity and inclusion in state government.

Under the new administration, we have shifted our focus to center customer experience. We are currently developing a strategy to lead state agencies in improving service delivery for customers in their key services, and we look forward to partnering with peers in Tribal governments to share learning.

Staff Contact

Jesse Jones, Director

564-250-1911 | jesse.jones@gov.wa.gov

Department of Revenue (Executive Division, Tribal Partnerships Program)

Summary

The Department of Revenue (Revenue) is the state of Washington's primary tax administration agency, overseeing more than 60 different types of taxes.

Revenue remains committed to fostering our government-to-government relationships with the Tribes by dedicating staff and resources to work with the Tribes, Tribal citizens, Tribal businesses, and others doing business in Indian Country.

Director Drew Shirk, actively engages in government-to-government meetings with Tribes. The Tribal Tax Advisory Group (TTAG) is active, and meetings are co-led by the Director and W. Ron Allen, Tribal Council Chairman for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

In 2024, the department developed a legislative proposal that would change two Retail Sales Tax Compacts statutory provisions to equalize the originally anticipated revenues with the actual revenues received under existing compacts:

- For a Tribe that has completed its Qualified Capital Investment (QCI) and has defined New Development, their revenue sharing percentage would increase from the current 60% to 100% of the state portion.
- For a Tribe that has completed its Qualified Capital Investment (QCI) and is in the fourth or subsequent year of compacting, their revenue sharing percentage from all non-New Development would increase from the current 50% to 100% of the state portion.

The department completed consultation with the Tribes and advanced the measure as agency-request legislation. It was successfully passed into law and will become effective July 1, 2027.

Highlights

In addition to the work summarized above, a few other highlights over the last fiscal year include:

- Revenue completing its thirteenth Retail Sales Tax Compact with a Tribal government.
- The department resuming hybrid TTAG meetings as of May 2025.
- Revenue receiving 73 Tribal-focused letter ruling requests.
- Revenue continuing significant retailer education and outreach to meet the commitment made with Tribes during the Fishing, Hunting, and Gathering Exemption process. This ongoing effort saw Tribal tax exemptions integrated into large retailer sales platforms, point-of-sale systems, and even collaborative development of previously non-existent Tribal tax exemption processes at some retailers.

Staff Contact

Daniel Knudsen, Tribal Relations Program Manager

360-534-1586 | danielk@dor.wa.gov

Office of the Secretary of State

Summary

Washington Secretary of State Steve Hobbs and the Office of the Secretary of State continue to work closely with Tribal communities to expand knowledge of their unique histories, ensure their right to vote and participate in the electoral process, and maintain historical and literary documents related to Washington's Tribes.

Highlights

Washington State Library: WSL partnered with the yəhaw̓ Indigenous Creatives Collective to help distribute the beautiful Native Vote posters they curated to 26 Tribal, public, and academic libraries across our state.

[“Project 562: Changing the Way We See Native America,”](#) by Matika Wilbur, represented Washington at the National Book Festival in 2024. We created and distributed bookmarks and posters featuring the book to attendees of the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., and to libraries across our state.

The Washington State Library hosted a one-day summit for Tribal libraries in conjunction with the Washington Library Association Conference in April 2025.

In 2024, 13 Washington Tribes were awarded Native American Library Services Basic Grants (up to \$10,000). Those Tribes included: Colville Confederated Tribes, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Lummi Nation, Makah Indian Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Nooksack Indian Tribe, Samish Indian Nation, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.

In addition, two Washington Tribes received Native American Library Enhancement Grants.

- Nooksack Indian Tribe for \$49,996
 - The Nooksack Tribal Library will replace outdated computers and provide updated software, in addition to partnering with the Nooksack Culture Department and the Cultural Committee to implement interactive language software and virtual reality viewings of Tribal elder videos, historically important places and events, and culturally important places that many Tribal members have never seen. Virtual reality cultural programming will showcase elders sharing oral histories, traditions, and preserved sites in 360-degree videos viewable through headset goggles. This tangible time travel experience will deliver inherited wisdom directly from elders to youth and powerfully instill cultural identity and continuity. Language software will reintroduce the Nooksack dialect in engaging ways to enroll new speakers.
- Makah Indian Tribe for \$149,779
 - The Makah Cultural and Research Center’s Archives/Library Departments will collaborate with the Makah Language Program and Education Department, as well as the Makah Tribal Council’s Recovery Service and Senior Citizens Program, to collectively work on the “Empowering Journey Project” to provide a path to wellness for Makah Tribal and community members in the Cape Flattery region of Washington. The program will support staff to increase access through the

cataloging and transcription of newspaper collections and develop and implement Makah language materials and workshops. Through the connection to their genealogy, ancestral history, and Makah place names, Makah community members will benefit by gaining a deeper understanding of their cultural roots and identity to achieve their goal of a vibrant, healthy community.

Elections Division: This year, the Elections team staffed multiple in-person events in 2024–25, including the Pulling Together community resource fair and the celebration of Billy Frank Jr. Day, both hosted by the Nisqually Tribe; a career fair at Everett Community College focusing on students of color; and an accessible voting unit demonstration at a disability resource fair called Tools 4 Success. Our outreach efforts included online video meetings with multiple Tribal organizations and Tribes, where information was shared about the different resources we can provide. Tribes and organizations included were the Squaxin Island Tribe and Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, as well as Native Vote, Native Action Network, and South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency.

The division added informational updates to various free publications regarding Washington elections. These include a brochure about voting rights restoration after release from prison, an elections curriculum guide for educators, the instructional Guide to Registering Voters, and the webpage for our state college voter engagement program, the Washington Campus Voting Challenge. New materials, including an inclusive pride pin for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, were created.

Washington State Archives: The Washington State Archives digitizes and makes available thousands of government documents and photographs from various Tribal communities. These documents include marriage licenses, land records, historic maps, reservation censuses, oral histories, and court papers from state and local courts. Readers can search and view these items at the Digital Archives website. The State Archives is a member of the Billy Frank Jr. National Statuary Hall Selection Committee and is documenting the work of artist Haiying Wu as he completes the nine-foot-tall bronze statue of Billy Frank Jr. to be installed in National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C., in 2026.

In the past few years, the division completed two publications commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1974 Boldt Decision. The first, “Lightning Boldt,” is a book-length biography of Judge George H. Boldt, illuminating his life journey that culminates with his landmark ruling in favor of upholding treaty promises. The second volume, “Confluence: The Boldt Decision at 50,” includes five oral history profiles of natives and nonnatives whose lives are connected to the aftermath of the Boldt Decision. Both serve as companion pieces to Legacy Washington’s 2012 detailed biography of Billy Frank Jr., “Where the Salmon Run.” All three volumes are available for order through the program website and will soon be available for electronic download at no cost.

Address Confidentiality Program: The Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) serves Tribal survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking by issuing a substitute address to use instead of a survivor’s actual address in the public record. In addition, criminal justice affiliates, election officials, and protected health care workers can enroll in program services. ACP protects two typical public records: voting and marriage. ACP partners with advocates within the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Alternative to Violence of the Palouse, and Mother Nation so survivors may work with trusted Tribal resources to gain access to ACP services.

Washington Talking Book & Braille Library: Washington Talking Book & Braille Library (WTBBL) provides comprehensive statewide library services at the library and by mail for Washington Tribal residents who can't read standard print material due to blindness, visual impairment, Deafblindness, physical disability (cannot hold a book or turn pages), or a reading disability. Services include books and magazines in audio or braille, sent free by mail or downloaded from our website or mobile device for reading convenience. WTBBL produces books with a northwest focus on audio and braille at the library and provides readers with advisory, training and instruction, and youth services. Programming includes a virtual patron book club, memory kits, summer reading, early literacy, accessible gaming lab, and multisensory story times. Visit the [WTBBL](#) page to learn more.

Corporations, Charities, and Nonprofit: The Corporations, Charities, and Nonprofit Division entered into a contract for education and engagement of Native-led nonprofits and charities in Washington. The contractor, Native Action Network (NAN), is led and staffed by Native women in Washington. The contract builds on the successful one-year pilot contract with NAN in the 2022–23 fiscal year and focuses on Native-led organizations to provide education, training, networking, and support to these organizations and their leaders and members.

Staff Contact

Shawn Merchant, Tribal Liaison

360-999-9070 | shawn.merhcant@sos.wa.gov

Department of Social and Health Services

Summary

The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has about 18,000 FTEs serving approximately two million clients annually. DSHS services are inclusive of aging and long-term care, behavioral health and habilitation, supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, vocational rehabilitation, Medicaid pathways based on age and disability, and other public benefits such as supplemental nutrition assistance for families, temporary assistance for needy families, and child support. We work in partnership with Tribes in government-to-government relations to deliver DSHS services.

DSHS remains focused on customer experience; reducing barriers to service access; creating equity, belonging, and justice for our staff and clients; and ensuring a stable and supported workforce. DSHS is committed to doing all facets of our work and implementing new ideas for how we do that work as one agency, with one voice. The highlights that follow reflect our agency's commitment.

Highlights

- Work continues on the governor's 10-Year Plan to Dismantle Poverty in the state of Washington, designed by the Washington Economic Justice Alliance. Hosted by DSHS, the Alliance includes Gov. Ferguson's Subcabinet on Intergenerational Poverty Reduction, which calls on all state agencies to understand structural racism, address holistic family needs, and center the needs of people experiencing homelessness, violence, mental illness, and addiction in all communities.
- All major indicators of poverty are improving, but much work remains to achieve equity and economic justice. State agencies are continuing to use the 10-Year Plan to build their budget and policy priorities and the DSHS Economic Justice Team is working to better align efforts to achieve a vision of joy, belonging, and well-being for all Washingtonians; build a sustainable collaboration with Tribes, community partners, and people with lived experience to ensure the work continues; and make measurable progress toward poverty reduction and economic justice in the near-term.
- Several workgroups including Tribal representation were formed under the governor and Tribal Leaders Social Services Council in partnership with the governor's Indian Health Advisory Council, the Washington Tribal Opioid/Fentanyl Task Force, and the American Indian Health Commission as a result of concerns brought forth from the Centennial Accord, Tribal Opioid/Fentanyl Awareness Summits, such as the Tribal Opioid/Fentanyl Education Campaign, and Tribal Housing and Wraparound Services. The workgroups continue to meet and present recommendations to the Washington Tribal Opioid/Fentanyl Task Force and the GTLSSC Social Services Subcommittee.
- On September 20, 2024, DSHS, in partnership with Tribes, HCA, DOH, local governments, and community partners, hosted ***Facing Fentanyl Together***, 26 simultaneous resource fairs throughout the state, and provided education and connection to people and families impacted by fentanyl.

Staff Contact

Tim Collins, Senior Director, Office of Indian Policy

425-327-5614 | tim.collins@dshs.wa.gov

Behavioral Health and Habilitation Administration

Summary

In May 2025, Developmental Disabilities Administration's 24/7 facilities joined the Behavioral Health Administration, creating the new Behavioral Health and Habilitation Administration (BHHA). BHHA provides long-term psychiatric care, forensic behavioral health services, and a residential treatment facility for people who are civilly committed after completing a prison sentence for sexual offenses. BHHA also provides long- and short-term state operated residential habilitation, respite, and crisis stabilization services for people with developmental disabilities.

Highlights

- Construction started on a new 350-bed forensic hospital on the campus of Western State Hospital. Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2028.
- Construction on Brockmann Campus was completed in June 2025.
- Maple Lane is in the process of opening a new 32-bed civil commitment unit.
- Construction has begun at the Fircrest Residential Habilitation Center for a new nursing facility. Construction is expected to be completed in the fall of 2027.
- Lake Burien Transitional Care Facility opened in July 2024. It is a 12-bed facility that provides services to youth aged 13 to 17 with intellectual and developmental disabilities and co-occurring behavioral health needs or substance use disorder.
- A six-bed Stabilization, Assessment, and Intervention Facility opened in Gig Harbor.
- BHHA hired a Tribal Affairs Administrator in September 2024.
- Trueblood Settlement phase four has started and has significant program enhancements in the current regions without geographic expansion.

Staff Contact

Michelle Johnson, Tribal Affairs Administrator

360-790-1947 | michelle.johnson2@dshs.wa.gov

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Summary

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) helps people living with disabilities to participate fully in their communities and become employed. DVR continues its cooperative working relationships and service delivery commitments with all federally recognized Tribes in Washington — including those which do not operate federally funded Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) programs — and with Urban Indian Organizations. DVR actively maintains a strong partnership at the state and local levels with all TVR programs in the state to ensure American Indians and Alaska Natives with disabilities receive the services they need to ensure their independence and inclusion in the workforce.

Highlights

- Tribal consultation between Tribal leadership was completed in 2024, with successful resolutions to incorporate Tribal recommendations into the 2024–27 DVR State Plan.
- All regions developed and maintained 7.01 Plans with Tribes, which outlined shared goals, activities, and outcomes for improving vocational rehabilitation services.
- DVR supports Tribal programs applying for federal grants and provides technical assistance to strengthen service delivery.
- DVR developed government-to-government agreements for Tribes interested in establishing a School-to-Work (STW) transition program and services for Tribal students living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. A STW program provides support to disabled students for a seamless transition from high school to adulthood in their last year of transition planning. Funding is made available using money designated through [SB5790](#).
- Bremerton DVR provided support to the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe in pursuit of a grant to start their own VR, the 477 Yusawiac Program.
- With the help of DSHS’ Office of Indian Policy, DVR developed a 7.01 plan with the Coeur d’Alene Tribe’s Career Renewal Program (TVR) to collaborate on serving their Tribal members who live in Whitman and Spokane counties.
- In March 2025, DVR requested participation from Tribes and Tribal partners in an assessment of the service needs of AI/AN individuals with disabilities. This assessment is part of DVR’s Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment for vocational rehabilitation services. The assessment will take place between July and September 2025 and will invite participation in surveys or interviews during that period.

Staff Contact

Sonya Sanders, Deputy Director

564-669-9855 | sonya.sanders1@dshs.wa.gov

Economic Services Administration

Summary

The Economic Services Administration (ESA) partners with all 29 federally recognized Tribes and seven Urban Indian Organizations across Washington. Through strong government-to-government relationships, ESA supports Tribal self-determination by collaborating on services that impact the everyday lives of Native individuals and families, such as food, cash, medical, child support, and employment programs.

The Community Services Division (CSD) and the Division of Child Support (DCS) are housed within ESA. They maintain 12 Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and eight Tribal Child Support intergovernmental agreements. ESA employees also participate in ongoing joint planning and policy development with Tribes under DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01. Those efforts helped improve services in Tribal communities and child support collections last year of over \$600 million.

Highlights

- In May 2025, Gov. Bob Ferguson signed into law House Bill 2039, which passes child support payments directly to families receiving TANF, effective Jan. 1, 2029.
- DCS is implementing the Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act, which allows contracted DCS employees to access federal tax information needed to manage child support cases and gives Tribal child support programs the option to use the federal Treasury Offset Program to help collect unpaid support, including through federal tax refund intercepts.
- DCS is adopting changes to child support rules following the passage of House Bill 1014, which will factor in higher living costs and wages, and allow temporary pauses in child support payments when a parent is in court-ordered behavioral health treatment.
- CSD finalized an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Suquamish Indian Tribe to establish its new Tribal TANF program. This is the division's 12th Tribal TANF program and involves 17 federally recognized Tribes. CSD is also engaging with two additional Tribes which are pursuing federal approval to operate Tribal TANF programs.
- CSD advanced the federally approved Tribal SNAP Eligibility Determination Project. This project supports Tribal self-determination by allowing participating Tribal TANF programs to determine SNAP eligibility for their members and issue benefits directly. This year, CSD completed key technology upgrades, secured cross-agency permissions for Tribal access to state eligibility systems and began onboarding additional Tribes for phased EBT card issuance.
- CSD continued engaging and planning with Tribes to expand participation in Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET). The program uses SNAP Employment and Training dollars to match Tribal funding under a 75/25 reimbursement model. These funds support culturally grounded employment and training programs that promote economic mobility and food security. CSD also partners with Northwest Indian College, which provides BFET services to eligible Tribal students across its campuses.
- CSD continues to engage with Tribes as Tribal General Welfare programs expand across the state. This work includes collaboration to ensure accurate and consistent eligibility determinations for state-administered benefits, while supporting Tribal self-determination and respecting program intent. CSD has also provided clarification for employees and worked with Tribal partners to improve communication and reduce potential impacts on client benefits.

Staff Contact

Freda Cogger, CSD Tribal Relations Program Administrator

360-522-2155 | freda.cogger@dshs.wa.gov

Chris Franks, DCS Senior Manager of Tribal Relations

360-338-2917 | chris.franks@dshs.wa.gov

Finance, Technology and Analytics Administration

Summary

The Finance, Technology and Analytics Administration helps manage Tribal-consolidated contracts through Intergovernmental Agreements. This management includes preparing, negotiating, and maintaining the agreements with General Terms and Conditions that are developed specific to DSHS. These agreements are in effect from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2029.

Staff Contact

Tim Collins, Senior Director, Office of Indian Policy

425-327-5614 | tim.collins@dshs.wa.gov

Home and Community Living Administration

Summary

The Home and Community Living Administration serves all clients who receive home and community-based services through the state's contracted network of providers. This restructuring is part of the Reimagine DSHS project. It brings together the community side of the former Developmental Disabilities Administration (now known as Developmental Disabilities Community Services or DDCS) with the former Aging and Long-Term Support Administration. Within this new structure, we continue to focus on the people we serve and maintain our commitment to partnering with them, their families, and our communities.

Highlights

- Partnered with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to create a High School Home Care Aide Course for delivery to Tribal youth in high schools, skills centers, and compact schools.
- Focused on expanding evidence-based training and workforce development programs to Tribes.
- Expanded access for Tribal representatives to attend the Adult Protective Services Academy.
- Continued to work with Tribes and Tribal Area Agencies on aging to provide and manage elder services.
- Provided local, community-based, state and Medicaid-related services to Tribes who have engaged in contracts.
- Partnered with the Department of Commerce to deploy \$44 million in funding from the state's Housing Trust Fund, specifically designated for housing people with developmental disabilities. This funding is available to Tribes.
- Continued to manage the Dan Thompson Developmental Disabilities Community Services Account. We are committed to providing technical assistance for Tribes and Tribal organizations to apply for the grants.
- Hosted a gathering to honor those with unique gifts (our nearly 1,000 Tribal DDCS clients) for Native American Heritage Month on November 1, 2024. The event featured lunch, a community resource fair, dancing and drumming, a screening of the film *Fish War*, and a panel discussion with Tribal leaders from the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe.

- Facilitated numerous virtual screenings of *Fish War* throughout DSHS. About 1,500 people viewed the film between November 1, 2024, and April 15, 2025.
- Collaborated with Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families and Tribal partners to expand Home and Community-Based Services waiver programs to dependent children and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities by December 2024. We have served 77 children since September 1, 2024, and another 135 children have been approved for waiver services as of July 1, 2025.
- Continued to administer Fostering Well-Being, a care coordination program that provides care coordination support for Tribal infants/children/youth on Apple Health (fee-for-service Medicaid) and who are in foster or relative placement.
- Supported the Lifespan Respite Grant to increase respite service options tailored to the needs of Tribal communities, family caregivers, and providers.
- Provided the Tribal Kinship Navigator Program, which serves Tribes in supporting services related to kinship care, community resources, and state programs.
- Continued Health Home Program, which promotes Tribal wraparound, person-centered services, enabling clients to take charge of their own health care.
- Expanded existing home-delivered meal programs and provided meals to Tribal elders who may be homebound.
- Administered the Medicaid Alternative Care and Tailored Supports for Older Adults, a presumptive eligibility program to access Medicaid-funded home and community-based services under the 1115 waiver, which is available to interested Tribes.
- Collaborated with Health Care Authority and Employment Security Department to administer the WA Cares Fund. The benefit package starts in July 2026, and Tribes can opt in to the program.

Staff Contact

Lisa Pemberton, Tribal Affairs Administrator

360-890-2055 | lisa.pemberton1@dshs.wa.gov

Office of the State Treasurer

Summary

State Treasurer Mike Pellicciotti is Washington's chief financial officer, who manages the Office of the State Treasurer (OST). OST is the state agency that serves as the bank for Washington state government. OST divisions manage public investments, debt, and cash for the state of Washington while leading policy initiatives affecting the State Treasury and long-term fiscal health.

Highlights

- **Investments:** In fiscal year 2025 (FY 25), OST managed approximately \$42 billion of state government operating cash and local government surpluses through OST's Local Government Investment Pool and Separately Managed Accounts programs. Both programs are available for Tribal participation.
- **Debt:** In FY 25, OST managed approximately \$22.8 billion of state debt from legislatively approved bond sales that finance local infrastructure, major state capital, and transportation projects. Throughout, Washington maintained its Aaa credit rating from Moody's Investors Service, and S&P improved their outlook from "stable" to "positive."
- **Cash:** In FY 25, OST handled \$313 billion in annual cash flow for state government, including most state deposits, withdrawals, and transfers.
- **Policy:** Treasurer Pellicciotti leads state and national policy initiatives affecting the State Treasury and the state's long-term fiscal health through legislation and representation on the following state boards and commissions: the State Finance Committee, the Public Deposit Protection Commission, the Economic and Transportation Revenue Forecast Councils, the Washington Economic Development Finance Authority Board, the Washington State Investment Board, the WA529 Committee, the Washington Saves Board, the Washington State Housing Finance Commission, and the ABLE Governing Board.
 - In the 2025 legislative session, Treasurer Pellicciotti worked closely with the Legislature and the Governor's Office to ensure the budgets reflected strong financial principles to preserve our state's credit rating and create resiliency in the face of economic uncertainty and fluctuating federal funding.
 - Treasurer Pellicciotti partnered with Tribes to introduce legislation mandating financial education be included as a graduation requirement in our schools.
 - The Treasurer continues to advocate for the *Washington Future Fund* which would invest in future generations and disrupt the cycle of generational poverty. Investing now puts time on our side to help ensure all children born in the state of Washington have a chance to own a home, start a business, or pursue the educational opportunities they hope to achieve. While approximately half of the babies born in the state would benefit under the current proposal, that number is higher for babies born to Tribal mothers—historically greater than 75%.

Staff Contact

Anna Borris, Chief of Staff and Tribal Liaison

360-902-0256 | anna.borris@tre.wa.gov

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Office of Native Education

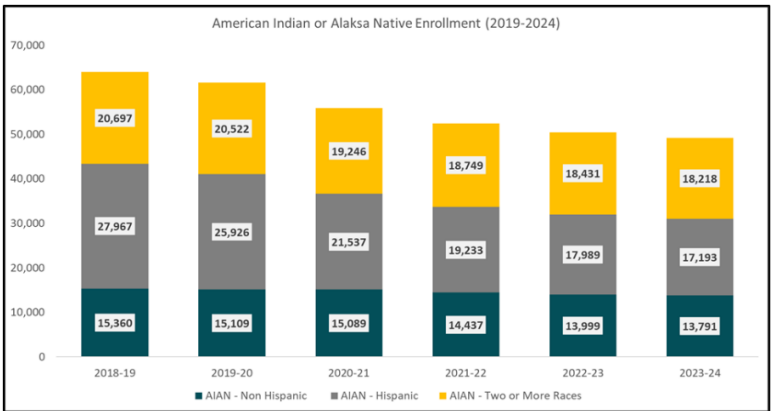
Summary

The Office of Native Education (ONE) serves under the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) as a liaison among school districts, Tribal governments, State-Tribal Education Compact schools (STECs), Tribal schools, regional educational service districts, Native communities, parents and guardians of Native children, and other groups and individuals. The primary goal is to help schools meet the educational needs of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) students. To meet this goal, we:

- Administer grants supporting Tribal curriculum development and language revitalization.
- Facilitate government-to-government relationships between education agencies and Tribes.
- Provide professional development and training on Tribal sovereignty, historical, and cultural pedagogies.
- Support implementation of state legislation [House Bill 1426](#) requiring training on government-to-government relationships and [Substitute Senate Bill 5252](#) for Strengthening Tribal Consultation.
- Develop culturally grounded literacy frameworks and prevention programs.

Highlights

Grant Distribution and Key Achievements: John McCoy (Iulilaš) Since Time Immemorial (JMLSTI) funding supported Tribal curriculum development and educator professional development across nine recipients. Tribal language grants enabled instruction in 16 distinct languages across 25 recipients. The Fentanyl/Opioid Prevention Pilot supported five STEC schools including Chief Leschi School, Chief Kitsap Academy, Muckleshoot Tribal School, Pascal Sherman Indian School, and Quileute Tribal School.



Enrollment derived from CEDARS on 7/10/2025 and includes students who were enrolled at any point during the school year

GRANTS DISPERSED BY ONE IN FISCAL YEAR 2024-25

Grant Program	Total Allocated	Recipients	Range
John McCoy (Iulilaš) Since Time Immemorial	\$400,000	9	\$28,500–\$33,333
Tribal Language	\$934,999	25	\$20,000–\$65,000
Tribal School Opioid Prevention Pilot	\$860,000	5	\$90,000–\$107,500
Total Grants Administered	\$2,194,999	39	—

Grant allocation data from EGMS

Tribal Education Leaders Summit (TELS)

The Washington State TELS was held April 17–18, 2025, at Washington State University (WSU), hosted by ONE and WSU. Planning and support for the TELS event included a TELS advisory committee consisting of Washington and Idaho state Tribal leaders and Tribal education directors alongside ONE and WSU staff. Prior to the summit, the planning committee provided Tribes with a survey to elevate Tribally relevant topics. The summit focused on subject matter expert presentations and government-to-government discussions between Tribally elected leaders and State Superintendent Chris Reykdal. Tribes represented during the summit included the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Makah Tribe, Nez Perce Tribe, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, The Spokane Tribe of Indians, Suquamish Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, and Tulalip Tribes.

Key Discussion Priorities: Examining impacts of the Trump Administration on Native Education, exploring student data and accountability through Tribal partnerships, and advancing Tribal language revitalization efforts.

OSPI Commitments: Continue building internal capacity while ensuring relationships guide structure in collaboration with Tribes; commit to annual TELS (2026 Summit at the University of Washington); pursue legislative engagement on opioid recovery funding, JMLSTI, and data-sharing agreements; promote ED506 form inclusion in registration packets; collaborate with Professional Educator Standards Board and First Peoples’ Language, Culture, and Oral Tradition to expand educator certification pathways; and develop AI/AN-specific data dashboard advancing Tribal data sovereignty.

Fentanyl/Opioid Prevention and Grant Program

Under [HB 1956](#), OSPI collaborated with the Department of Health and Health Care Authority to develop age-appropriate substance use prevention materials. ONE implemented a pilot with five STEC schools emphasizing that culturally specific prevention strategies rooted in Indigenous identity and ancestral knowledge are most effective for Native communities.

This pilot grant confirmed that prevention efforts must be grounded in cultural strengths and sovereignty of Native communities. STEC schools demonstrated that culturally grounded education fosters resilience, identity, and wellness among Native youth, providing a foundation for expanding culturally specific prevention programs statewide.

Policy Recommendations: Support Healing of the Canoe and other Washington state Tribal curriculum expansion, recognize culturally grounded curricula as core prevention infrastructure, and support Tribal-led evaluation and knowledge sharing.

Native Literacy Framework

Developed through two years of collaboration with Native literacy leaders, the Native Literacy Framework honors literacy as more than reading and writing. It affirms that Indigenous storytelling, oral tradition, land-based learning, and identity formation are integral to Indigenous literacy.

The framework reflects that Indigenous language, land, identity, and literacy are interwoven and must be taught in relationship.

Core Elements: Braiding knowledge systems that include Indigenous storytelling and land-based learning; Native ways of knowing that root learning in relationship to land, community, and story; and weaving literacy and language that connects heritage language instruction to stronger literacy skills and cultural confidence.

SB 5950 Deliverables: Created Native Literacy Framework with culturally grounded principles and indicators; established statewide professional learning networks for educators serving AI/AN students; and distributed culturally affirming literacy supports to all 295 school districts and STEC schools.

Native Literacy and Tribal Language Convening: From May 6–9, 2025, OSPI and ONE hosted a four-day convening on the lands of the Spokane Tribe. Tribal educators, fluent language speakers, and literacy experts gathered in community to share stories, build relationships, and shape best practices. Together, they contributed to the creation of the Native Literacy Framework, a living, evolving guide rooted in culture, language, and land.

Tribal Consultation

The Tribal Consultation Program ensures meaningful opportunities for Tribal governments to provide input on education policies impacting AI/AN student success, implementing Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA) and state legislation requirements.

Key Activities: Attended major conferences including Affiliation of Northwest Indian Tribes, Western Washington Native American Education Consortium, Washington State Indian Education Conference, and National Indian Education Association Annual Conference.

SB 5252 Implementation (Strengthening Tribal Consultation): SB 5252 requires school board members, superintendents, and any other staff at school districts that are required to perform Tribal consultation under Title VI of the federal ESSA must take and certify completion of a three-hour Strengthening Tribal Consultation training.

- 274 directors and superintendents trained
- 42 districts covered
- 98% completion rate in inaugural mandatory year (2024)
- 13 training options including online modules
- 8 convenings with Washington State School Directors Association

HB 1426 Implementation (Government-to-Government): HB 1426 requires that administrators renewing their certificates on or after July 1, 2023, must attend a five-hour Government-to-Government Relationships Training focusing on Introduction to Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State.

- 902 recertifying administrators trained for certification year 2024–25, which ended January 30, 2025
- Multiple delivery methods (in-person, hybrid, virtual)
- New CTE modules developed and presented

Combined Certification Impact: Total of 1,176 education leaders certified in government-to-government relationships and Tribal consultation practices, representing significant statewide capacity building for culturally responsive education leadership.

John McCoy (lulilaš) Since Time Immemorial (JMLSTI)

The John McCoy (lulilaš) Since Time Immemorial (JMLSTI) program supports integration of Tribal history, culture, and government into K-12 curricula as required by state law. During the 2024–25 year, JMLSTI training series served as a powerful platform for fostering collaboration between Tribal nations and school districts across Washington state. These trainings emphasized the importance of Tribal sovereignty, cultural understanding, and educational partnerships, building stronger, more inclusive learning environments for all students.

Eight Tribal Nations — Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Nez Perce Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, and Tulalip Tribes — partnered with the ONE to present their unique histories, cultures, and perspectives. These sessions were designed to deepen educators' understanding of Tribal communities and to support the implementation of JMLSTI.

The training events were held at various locations across the state, including Tribal lands, school districts, and educational institutions. Highlights include:

- Strong partnership development between Tribes and schools: Multiple districts collaborated directly with Tribal communities to host these events.
- Professional development: Several sessions offered clock hours, supporting educators' ongoing professional growth.
- Cultural immersion: Events held at Tribal venues like the Muckleshoot Tribal College, Port Gamble S'Klallam Longhouse, and Skokomish Community Center provide authentic cultural experiences and direct engagement with Tribal leaders and educators.

This year's JMLSTI training series not only strengthened relationships between Tribes and schools but also laid the groundwork for continued collaboration, mutual respect, and culturally responsive education across the region.

Staff Contacts

Henry Strom, Assistant Superintendent
360-918-3953 | henry.strom@k12.wa.us

Shandy Abrahamson, Director
360-725-6160 | shandy.abrahamson@k12.wa.us

Kari Tally, Administrative Assistant
564-200-3482 | kari.tally@k12.wa.us

Kathrine Lawrence, Administrative Program Specialist
360-725-6160 | kathrine.lawrence@k12.wa.us

Bawaajigekwe Boulley, Native Student Success Program Supervisor
564-669-8834 | bawaajigekwe.boulley@k12.wa.us

Destiney Petty, Tribal Language Program Supervisor
564-200-4313 | destiney.petty@k12.wa.us

Maxine Alex, Tribal Consultation Program Supervisor
564-200-2619 | maxine.alex@k12.wa.us

Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC)

Summary

Over the past five years, American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people have faced a disproportionate risk on Washington's roads. Though making up just 2% of the population, their traffic death rate is over four times higher than other racial groups. While women make up about 30% of traffic deaths statewide, nearly half of AI/AN fatalities were women, showing a more equal gender impact. Common factors include impairment, lack of seat belt use, and pedestrian or bicyclist involvement. AI/AN pedestrians and bicyclists are five times more likely to be killed than other racial groups.

Traffic death data indicates the following (2019–23):

- Seven out of ten (n=114, 71%) AI/AN traffic fatalities involved impairment (either driver or pedestrian).
- One in four (n=37, 23%) AI/AN traffic fatalities involved a speeding driver.
- One in four (n=42, 26%) fatally injured AI/AN people were under the age of 25.
- One in four (n=43, 27%) fatally injured AI/AN people were pedestrians or bicyclists.
- Four out of ten (n=44/110, 40%) fatally injured AI/AN motor vehicle occupants did not wear seatbelts.

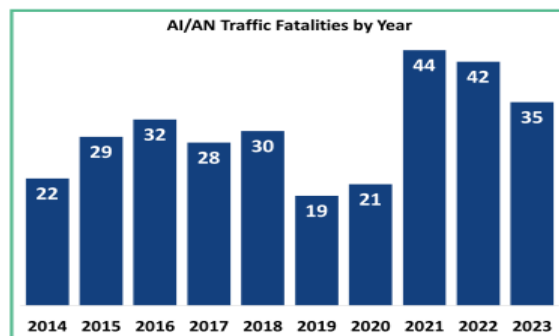


Chart of AI/AN Traffic Deaths and Death Rates per 100,000 Population 2013-2023. Data Source: [Traffic Safety Reports Page > American Indian/Alaska Native Reports > AI/AN Traffic Death. AIAN-Traffic Deaths](#)

Highlights

- WTSC partnered and provided grant funding to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Department of Transportation to launch a Tribal Traffic Safety Program aimed at improving road safety.
- WTSC funded traffic safety efforts with nine Tribes, supporting equipment like speed trailers, AEDs, LIDAR speed guns, bike rodeo supplies, and road safety plan consulting.
- WTSC participated in the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation Tribal Traffic Safety Committee meetings to support community-led traffic safety improvements.
- WTSC joined Indian Country Committee meetings and presented as a keynote speaker on Tribal traffic safety, helping strengthen and maintain relationships with Tribal police chiefs.
- WTSC Child Passenger Safety Instructors mentored techs and supported certification efforts with Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.
- WTSC collaborated with Tribes to integrate Indigenous Knowledge into traffic safety planning, supporting culturally relevant strategies.

The WTSC remains committed to collaborating and working with Washington's American Indian communities on traffic safety program efforts.

Staff Contact

Penny Rarick, Tribal Liaison

360-725-9868 | prarick@wtsc.wa.gov

Washington Department of Transportation

Summary

Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) mission is to provide safe, reliable, and cost-effective transportation options to improve communities and economic vitality for people and businesses throughout the state. Our vision is to provide travelers with a safe, sustainable, and integrated multimodal transportation system that collaborates with Tribes on project development and administration, safety, planning, workforce development, and more to achieve our mission and vision. A key element of this is early engagement with Tribes regarding the effects of WSDOT projects on natural and cultural resources and economic development. Below is a small sample of the accomplishments and day-to-day coordination and collaboration between Tribes and WSDOT.

Highlights

- WSDOT corrected 30 fish barriers between June 2024 and June 2025, improving access to 85 miles of potential habitat. Since the 2013 injunction was issued, WSDOT has corrected a total of 176 fish barriers improving access to 655 miles of habitat, which has opened 55% of the potential habitat of the 2013 list of significant gain injunction barriers. WSDOT currently has about 115 fish barriers under construction contracts. Once these fish barrier corrections are complete, we will have restored access to 70% of potential blocked habitat.
- WSDOT installed four basalt columns on the habitat beach along the Seattle waterfront. These columns represent a family and honor the Native communities and their enduring connections to this shoreline across generations, while also recognizing the disturbances brought about by early Euro-American settlement in the 1850s. This installation was developed as Section 106 mitigation for the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program to address disturbance to Ballast Island, a Tribal Traditional Cultural Property, in partnership with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, and the Tulalip Tribes.
- WSDOT is administering projects in partnership with seven Tribal nations to include the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Lummi Nation, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, and Upper Skagit Indian Tribe.
- WSDOT co-developed the Transportation Justice Leadership Program with Front and Centered to expand K-12 educational content on Indigenous Climate teachings to host two teacher workshops with the assistance of the Suquamish Tribe and Quinault Indian Nation, funded through the Climate Commitment Act.
- WSDOT's Active Transportation Division awarded funds to three Tribal compact schools to support bicycle education — a program assisting students with a free bike, helmet, and safety kit. 199 applicants of Washington's E-Bike Rebate program who identified as American Indian/Alaska Native received a rebate to purchase an electric bicycle. Over \$1.2 million was awarded to the Lummi Nation, Skokomish Indian Tribe, and Upper Skagit Indian Tribe for the Safe Routes to School and Pedestrian Bicyclist programs.

- WSDOT Rail, Freight, and Ports Division awarded \$20 million to the Puyallup Tribe for electrification projects at their port properties. This funding will allow the Tribe to construct electrical shore power for ship operations while docked and for the purchase and use of electric-powered vehicles to move cargo to and from ships. This grant will be used to support operations at the Tribe's planned \$200 million new marine freight terminal.

Staff Contact

Lorraine Basch, Acting Tribal and Federal Relations Director

360-706-3810 | lorraine.basch@wsdot.wa.gov

Utilities and Transportation Commission

Summary

The UTC is a three-member commission appointed by the governor and confirmed by the state Senate. We regulate investor-owned utilities that directly impact and serve Tribal communities, including electric, natural gas, water, and solid waste services. We also inspect the safety of pipelines and railroad crossings on Tribal lands. The mission of the UTC is to ensure investor-owned utility and transportation services are safe, equitable, available, reliable, and fairly priced.

The UTC supports the Centennial Accord through collaboration and information sharing. We are committed to better understand unique Tribal needs and interests when collaborating with American Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, conducting outreach, drafting communications, and analyzing filings submitted by UTC-regulated industries that directly affect Tribes and Tribal people.

Highlights

The UTC acted to support the passage of legislation directing investor-owned electrical utilities to submit a wildfire mitigation plan to the UTC for approval. On April 24, 2025, ESBH 1522 (Ch. 156, L 25) was signed into law and requires the UTC to hold at least one workshop on the investor-owned utilities wildfire mitigation plan with the utility, affected landowners, and customers. Prior to approving any wildfire mitigation plan, the UTC may consult with groups representing federal, Tribal, state, or local governmental entities, utilities, industry organizations, and utility customers to assess whether additional elements or practices should be included in the utilities plan that would result in further reduction of wildfire risk while balancing mitigation costs.

The UTC conducted workshops and issued policy statements on performance-based regulation to more precisely align utilities' financial interests with customer and societal interests. On August 2, 2024, the UTC issued a policy statement to determine a set of performance measures used to assess a gas or electrical company operating under a multiyear rate plan. In the policy statement, the UTC determined that operational efficiency, company earnings, affordability, and energy burden are foundational to the evaluation of utility performance. To better serve highly impacted communities (including Tribal communities) and vulnerable populations, the metrics of affordability and energy burden include average annual bill impacts.

The UTC began reviewing the Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) Public Participation Plan from PacifiCorp and Avista as required by the Clean Energy Transformation Act. On April 25, 2025, and on May 1, 2025, the UTC received PacifiCorp's and Avista's Public Participation Plan respectively. The Public Participation Plan outlines the utilities schedule, methods and goals for public participation and education during the development of the CEIP and throughout its implementation. UTC staff will be reviewing the two plans to ensure they include an appropriate Tribal engagement process and include Tribal communities when defining issues of high interest to customers.

The UTC has been meeting regularly with Tribal representatives, utilities, and Congressional committee staff regarding utility pole attachments for Tribal telecommunications. Throughout 2025, the UTC met with Tribal representatives to better understand the needs and impacts of concerns expressed by Tribal representatives related to costs associated with telecommunications infrastructure attached to utility poles. The UTC has

committed to working with the Tribes to ensure consistency, certainty, and affordability for Tribes when working with utilities to determine how to reduce pole attachment costs.

The UTC worked with the Legislature to ensure budget approval of CenturyLink, Qwest's Performance Assurance Plan (QPAP) funds for telecommunications upgrades. In January 2025, the UTC worked with the Legislature to obtain budget approval of QPAP funds held in escrow for the Quileute Tribe for telecommunications upgrades on the Quileute reservation.

Staff Contact

Brian Rybarik, Chair

360-664-1169 | brian.rybarik@utc.wa.gov

Department of Veterans Affairs

Summary

We are committed to serving all veterans and their families in a culturally appropriate manner. This includes approximately 5,000 American Indians and Alaska Native veterans in the state. This group serves in the United States armed forces at a higher rate than any other ethnic group. They also have access to unique federal veterans' programs to better meet their needs. Our goal is to better serve Native American veterans by supporting program expansions and making sure they can access their earned benefits.

Highlights

- We signed memorandums of agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe to provide support to their Tribal veteran service officers by allowing us to providing training, accreditation, web-based systems access, veterans' disability claims appeals representation, and technical assistance.
- We presented to the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians veterans committee on our ability to collaborate with American Indian Tribes to support their Tribal veteran service officers.
- We presented to the Joint American Indian Veterans Advisory Council to discuss Tribal veteran service officer memorandums of agreement, veterans' disability and survivors' benefits, long-term care benefits, suicide prevention education and license plate emblems, the Purple Heart state highway sign campaign, and veterans outreach services.
- We provided training on federal and state veterans' benefits and programs at the 2025 Tribal veterans representatives and Tribal veteran service officer training conference, hosted by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.
- We had Tribal veterans representatives and Tribal veteran service officers attend our three-day 2025 veteran service officer professional development conference in which we partnered with the National Veterans Legal Services Program to provide professional development training on federal veterans' benefits to veteran service officers from Tribal, state, county, and nonprofit veteran service organizations. This conference also worked to improve systems integration and local collaboration between veteran service officers from these organizations.
- We participated in the 2025 Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation Treaty Day Commemoration and Cultural Center anniversary.
- We participated in the 2025 Makah Tribe veterans' appreciation luncheon.
- We participated in the 2025 Muckleshoot Veterans Summit & Powwow to provide direct services to veterans and their families with veterans' disability benefits, survivors' benefits, health care benefits, and other veterans' programs.
- We participated in the 79th Annual Lummi Stommish Water Festival hosted by Lummi Nation.

Staff Contact

Steven J. Gill, Veteran Services Administrator and Tribal Liaison

360-789-5886 | steveng@dva.wa.gov

Washington State Patrol

Summary

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) is committed to earning the trust of the communities we serve through integrity, accountability, and public service rooted in partnership. Our motto, *Service with Humility*, continues to guide our work across Washington. This includes deepening relationships with Tribal Nations and supporting public safety in Tribal communities. We pursue these goals while advancing our *Target Zero* mission in collaboration with Tribal governments and public safety partners.

The WSP Tribal Liaison Program resumed in late 2024 after a brief transition period and continues to strengthen the agency's connection to Tribal Nations, address the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP) crisis, and support Tribal sovereignty through respectful engagement and cross-agency coordination.

Highlights

- WSP Tribal Liaisons re-established and expanded working relationships with Tribal Nations, including the Colville Confederated Tribes, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Lummi Nation, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Samish Indian Nation, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Suquamish Tribe, Tulalip Tribes, and Yakama Nation.
- Partnered with Yakama Nation leadership on renewal of the WSP/Yakama Retrocession Agreement.
- Presented at MMIWP events across the state hosted by the Samish Indian Nation, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Yakama Nation, and Yakima Valley Community College.
- Team members participated in regional and national MMIWP coordination efforts, including a two-day conference at Lummi Nation and the 3rd Annual MMIP Symposium hosted by Yakama Nation. WSP leadership also attended the first national gathering of MMIWP coordinators in Phoenix and will co-host a similar event in November 2025.
- Maintained partnerships with federal and state agencies including the FBI Victim Services Division, the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Missing and Murdered Unit, Indian Country AMBER Alert Liaison, and the Attorney General's Cold Case Unit.
- Regularly participate in the Washington State Attorney General's MMIWP Task Force and its associated subcommittees.
- Began publishing the WSP Missing Indigenous Persons List weekly (previously bi-weekly), ensuring the most current information is available to the public and law enforcement. The list now includes color-coded highlights for recent cases and a separate version tailored for law enforcement use.
- Provide MIPA (Missing Indigenous Person Alert) training and technical assistance to Tribal and non-Tribal law enforcement agencies statewide.
- Integrated Tribal sovereignty and MMIWP education into the WSP Academy curriculum, including the first guest presentation by a Skokomish Tribal member.

- Built connections with community-based advocacy centers in Yakima and Spokane to support culturally appropriate victim services and MMIP prevention strategies.
- Joined several regional and statewide workgroups, including the Inland Northwest Human Trafficking Taskforce, Spokane Regional Domestic Violence Coalition, King County Anti-Trafficking (FIFA 2026), and the GOIA Centennial Accord Innovation Workgroup.
- Developing a statewide data template to visualize where Tribal citizens have gone missing across counties and reservations, in partnership with the AGO MMIWP Data Subgroup.
- WSP Tribal Liaisons remain committed to collaboration with Tribal Nations and community partners across jurisdictions. Our shared efforts strengthen safety, justice, and trust across Indian Country and the state of Washington.

Staff Contacts

Emily Main, Tribal Liaison Lead, Western WA

360-890-0150 | emily.main@wsp.wa.gov

Anna Olson, Tribal Liaison, Eastern WA

360-972-0985 | anna.olson@wsp.wa.gov

Washington Technology Solutions (WaTech)

Summary

Washington Technology Solutions (WaTech) supplies quality technology services to state, local, and Tribal governments. WaTech operates the state's core technology services — the central network and data center — and provides strategic and comprehensive information security to protect state networks from growing cyber threats. The agency is committed to the principles of the Centennial Accord and making sure our services are accessible and beneficial to Tribes.

In 2024, WaTech sent a letter to Tribes in Washington state to establish a more direct governmental partnership. The sovereign nature of Tribal governments makes them both a unique partner and, at times, customer of state services. The agency sought Tribal feedback on our Tribal relations approach. After analyzing this feedback and current engagement efforts with Tribal governments, WaTech identified the need for increased communication and understanding to address and support Tribal information technology needs.

Highlights

Provide Connectivity to the Intergovernmental Network

WaTech maintains the technology network that connects state government. Local and Tribal governments can securely connect to state systems through the Intergovernmental Network (IGN). WaTech works with Tribes at their request to provide access to the IGN so that Tribal governments can use technology services maintained by state government agencies. This includes law enforcement systems and emergency services. For example, the IGN allows the Stillaguamish, Suquamish, and Swinomish Tribal police to use the Washington State Patrol (WSP) SECTOR application to write citations. WSP sends those citations to the Justice Information Network Data Exchange (JINDEX). JINDEX then sends the electronic ticket message containing the citations back to the Tribes Records Management System.

WaTech continues to provide IGN access to the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, and Tulalip Tribes. The IGN service is available to any Tribe based on need.

Geospatial Program

WaTech's geospatial program supports statewide geographic information system (GIS) services such as land imaging and electronic mapping of the state. The geospatial program leads the Statewide Imagery Consortium, which houses these images. The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission participates as a member of the consortium on behalf of its member Tribes. The consortium pools resources to buy statewide imaging at a significant discount. This imaging is utilized in very impactful ways such as supporting wetland evaluations and updates and Tribal forestry management.

In addition, the geospatial program also co-chairs a workgroup for Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) technology use in the state. LIDAR technology can be used to make high-quality maps and three-dimensional representations of the earth's surface. This is especially useful for hard-to-reach or remote places. The Quinault Indian Nation, Spokane Tribe of Indians, and Tulalip Tribes participate in two meetings each year to provide their input on coordinating statewide activities regarding LIDAR collection, use, and planning. The

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission also participates in these planning discussions. This program provides consultative and informational services to Tribes on request.

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)

The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act established a dedicated state and local cybersecurity grant program for government entities. While there is a specific Tribal Cybersecurity grant program available under federal law, Tribes are also eligible to apply for funds from the SLCGP.

Working in partnership with the Military Department, WaTech informs Tribal governments about the grant program through planned communications and meetings. In 2023 (FY22), SLCGP funding was awarded to the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Lummi Nation, Puyallup Tribe, and Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe to assist with increasing cybersecurity resilience and reducing cyber risk. In 2024 (FY23), The Puyallup Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe were awarded grants. Grants awarded in the first two rounds totaled \$766,223 to the five Tribal Nations. The third round of funding is currently underway for 2025 (FY24), and the number of Tribal applicants is currently unknown. In 2025, representatives of the Puyallup Tribe presented to the Planning Committee about their experience implementing the grant.

Cybersecurity Outreach

RCW 13.105.450 empowers the Office of Cybersecurity (OCS) to “serve as a resource for local and municipal governments in Washington in the area of cybersecurity.” This includes Tribal entities. OCS is reaching out to municipal governments, including Tribes, to obtain accurate contact information in the event of a cyber event within the local/Tribal entity. This information will allow OCS rapid contact in an emergent cyber issue. Additionally, the information can be used for other outreach activities such as training opportunities, inclusion in Cybersecurity Awareness Month and other collaborative activities.

Equity Analysis Guidelines for Deployment of Generative AI

This guidance was created by WaTech in collaboration with the Washington State Office of Equity, Tribal governments, and other partners pursuant to the Governor's [Executive Order 24-01](#). The purpose is to provide guidance that state agencies can use to analyze the impact of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) technology on vulnerable communities, including criteria to evaluate equitable outcomes in deployment and implementation of high-risk use cases. As there becomes more reliance on technology (e.g., artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies), the state must be prepared to interact with Tribal governments in a manner that promotes understanding of need and cultural considerations in filling those needs while strengthening the relationship between the state and Tribal governments.

Digital Equity and Broadband Equity and Access Deployment (BEAD)

The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program; the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program; and the Digital Equity Act require state and local governments to partner with Tribes to provide resources for establishing and maintaining broadband networks. These initiatives aim to connect Tribal communities to economic, health, education, and civic engagement opportunities, while honoring their digital sovereignty.

WaTech operates the state’s core technology services — the central network and data center — and provides strategic and comprehensive information security to protect state networks from growing cyber threats. In this capacity, the agency has engaged in multiple digital equity efforts with state and local governments, Tribal

representatives, nonprofit agencies, legislative members, and technology industry partners to bridge the digital divide, develop the workforce, increase digital literacy, and make devices more accessible.

A combination of the efforts outlined in this report and a strong partnership with each of the Tribal governments in the state will help coordinate a comprehensive and collaborative approach to achieving digital equity and technological advancement.

Staff Contacts

Tavares J. Terry, Director of Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion

360-407-7981 | tavares.terry@watech.wa.gov

Amy Pearson, Chief of Staff to the State CIO | Director of Policy and External Affairs

360-407-8668 | amy.pearson@watech.wa.gov

Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
1110 Capitol Way S., Suite 225 • P.O. Box 40909
Olympia, WA 98501-0909 • 360-902-8825