

The background of the cover is a piece of Native American artwork, possibly a basket or a piece of wood, featuring intricate designs in dark blue, brown, and red. The designs include large, stylized circular and curved shapes.

# **Legislative Commission on Indian Services 2015 Government to Government Report**

*Prepared By*

**DHS Tribal Affairs**

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## INTRODUCTION

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The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) is pleased to share this 2015 Government-to-Government Report with the Legislative Commission on Indian Services, as required by Senate Bill 770. SB 770 institutionalized the May 22, 1996 Executive Order EO-96-30. The executive order established a process to “assist in resolving potential conflicts, maximize key inter-governmental relations, and enhance an exchange of ideas and resources for the greater good of all of Oregon’s citizens.”

The description and inclusion of all 5 program areas of DHS.

- How a program area in service delivery is driven by key concerns of tribes and how the remedy of potential conflicts in the fields of health and child welfare can be resolved with active consultation and formal agreements with tribal governments.
- How the program area works in a collaborative framework to share information that effect tribal citizens in the health and child welfare fields.
- How DHS leadership creates and supports a process that leverages strong relationships to engage stakeholders.
- How DHS strives to identify resources and partnerships that could benefit the tribal citizens of Oregon.

All Native Americans residing in Oregon, regardless of tribal enrollment also are Oregon citizens and are entitled to receive the services provided by DHS to Oregonians. The relationship with tribes and their governments is of key importance at the level of state leadership, management and administrative practices, and in the providing of direct services and resources.

Key Program Areas described in this report include:

- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- Aging and People with Disabilities
- Child welfare
- Self Sufficiency
- Vocational Rehabilitation

Oregon’s Native American population is estimated at between 45,000 and 50,000 individuals. Tribes in Oregon are located in each corner of the state with a diverse and rich heritage. The purposefulness of this report is to describe with clarity and detail how tribes are consulted; what resources are dedicated to tribal communities, and how strategy evolves to consistently include stakeholder input.



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## BURNS PAIUTE TRIBE

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The Burns Paiute Reservation is located north of Burns, Oregon in Harney County. The current tribal members are primarily the descendants of the "Wadatika" band of Paiute Indians that roamed in central and southern Oregon.

The Burns Paiute Tribe descended from the Wadatika band, named after the wada seeds they collected near the shores of Malheur Lake to use as food. Bands were usually named after an important food source in their area. The Wadatika's territory included approximately 52,500 square miles between the Cascade Mountain Range in central Oregon and the Payette Valley north of Boise, Idaho, and from southern parts of the Blue Mountains near the headwaters of the Powder River north of John Day, to the desert south of Steens Mountain.



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## CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF COOS, LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW INDIANS

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The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians are made up of 3 tribes (4 Bands): 2 bands of Coos Tribes: Hanis Coos (Coos Proper), Miluk Coos, Lower Umpqua Tribe; and Siuslaw Tribe.

The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians trace their ancestry back to the aboriginal inhabitants of the South-Central coast of Oregon. Their historic homelands extended from the richly forested slopes of the Coastal Range in the East to the rocky shoreline of the Pacific Ocean in the West, a vast region of some 1.6 million acres. They lived peacefully in an area characterized by moderate temperatures and abundant natural resources, including fish, shellfish, wildlife, and a rich variety of edible plants.

Today we strive to perpetuate our unique identity as Indians and as members of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, and to promote and protect that identity. It is our goal to preserve and promote our cultural, religious and historical beliefs while continuing to learn and grow as a part of the community we live in. We also work to promote the social and economic welfare of our members both inside and outside of our five-county service area here in Oregon. Our five-county service area is made up of Coos, Curry, Lincoln, Douglas and Lane counties



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## CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE

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The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde were restored to federal recognition on November 22, 1983, having been terminated in 1954. Ancestors of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde lived in the Willamette Valley, the surrounding mountains, and the northern portion of the Oregon Coast. They maintained a culture similar to the coastal cultures of whom they are a part. Beginning in 1856, the US government removed over 20 Indian bands from their homelands and relocated them on

the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation. This reservation was established pursuant to treaty arrangements in 1855 and an Executive Order of June 30, 1857. The reservation contained approximately 60,000 acres and was located on the eastern side of the Coast Range of Mountains on the headwaters of the Yamhill River in the Willamette Valley, about 60 miles southwest of Portland and about 25 miles from the ocean. In early 1989 the Tribes successfully acquired a 10,300 acre reservation, mostly timber lands, near the town of Grand Ronde in Polk County. The Tribe's territories include Washington, Marion, Yamhill, Polk, Tillamook, and Multnomah counties.



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## CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF SILETZ

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The Confederated Tribes of Siletz is a federally recognized confederation of 27 bands, originating from Northern California to Southern Washington. Termination was imposed upon the Siletz by the United States government in 1955. In November of 1977, we were the first tribe in the state of Oregon and second in the United States to be fully restored to federal recognition. In 1992, our tribe achieved self governance, which allows us to compact directly with the US Government. This gives us control and accountability over our tribal programs and funding. We occupy and manage a 3,666 acre reservation located in Lincoln County, Oregon. We manage several resources, including water, timber and fish.



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## CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION

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Three Tribes make up the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation: Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla. The people of the three Tribes once had a homeland of 6.4 million acres in northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. In 1855, the Tribes and the United States Government negotiated a Treaty in which the Tribes “ceded,” or surrendered possession of, much of the 6.4 million acres in exchange for a Reservation homeland of 250,000 acres.

The three Tribes also reserved rights in the Treaty, which include the right to fish at “usual and accustomed” sites, and to hunt and gather traditional foods and medicines on public lands within the ceded areas. These rights are generally referred to as “Treaty reserved rights.”

The day-to-day work of the tribal government is carried out by a staff of roughly 520 employees and includes departments such as administration, health and human services, natural resources, economic and community development, tribal services, education, fire protection, and police. An additional 800 employees are employed at the Wildhorse Casino and Resort and another 300 at Cayuse Technologies. The CTUIR is one of the largest employers in northeastern Oregon.



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## COQUILLE INDIAN TRIBE

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The Coquille Indian Tribe was terminated in 1954. On June 28, 1989, the Coquilles regained their status as a federally recognized Indian tribe. After 35 years of "termination" and federal policy that denied their status as Indian people, Public Law 101-42 restored the Coquilles eligibility to participate in federal Indian programs and to receive federal funds for tribal education, health, and law enforcement programs. The Coquille Restoration Act recognizes the sovereignty of the tribe and its authority as tribal government to manage and administer political and legal jurisdiction over its lands, businesses, and community members. Its members are descended from people who inhabited the watersheds of the Coquille River system, a small portion of Coos Bay at the South Slough, and areas north and south of the Coquille River mouth where it enters the ocean at present day Bandon. Coquille ancestral territory encompassed more than 700,000 acres, ceded to the US Government. Coquille headmen signed the treaties in 1851 and 1855. Because neither treaty was ever ratified by Congress, those Coquille people and their descendants were denied a permanent homeland until the modern Coquille Tribe negotiated several land purchases, which constitute today's 6,400 acre tribal land base.

The tribe is the second largest employer in Coos County, Oregon with successful business ventures in forestry, arts and exhibits, gaming and hospitality, assisted living and memory care, high speed telecommunications and renewable energy.



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## COW CREEK BAND OF UMPQUA INDIANS

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The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians is one of nine federally recognized Indian Tribal Governments in the State of Oregon. The Cow Creek Tribal Nation, located in Southwestern Oregon, has nearly 1,594 members who are governed by an elected eleven member council known as the Tribal Board of Directors. The Cow Creek Tribe has a rich history in southern Oregon that reflects hard work, perseverance and the desire to be self-reliant.

The Cow Creek Tribe lived between the Cascade and Coast Ranges in Southwestern Oregon, along the South Umpqua River and its primary feeder stream, Cow Creek. This territory included the entire Umpqua watershed; however, the Tribe was very mobile. A vast area surrounding this watershed was known as their trade, hunting and gathering area. This area extended north into the Willamette Valley and to the east to Crater Lake and the Klamath Marsh area, as well as reaching as far west as the Coast Range and south through the Rogue River Watershed into the Siskiyou.

The Tribal leadership maintains a long standing commitment to doing what is right for the tribe and the community. Considerable efforts have been made to balance and provide economic development for the tribe as well as with partners throughout the area.



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## **KLAMATH TRIBES**

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We are the Klamath Tribes, the Klamaths, the Modocs and the Yahooskin. We have lived in the Klamath Basin of Oregon, from time beyond memory. Our legends and oral history tell about when the world and the animals were created, when the animals and gmok'am'c - the Creator – sat together and discussed the creation of man. If stability defines success, our presence here has been, and always will be, essential to the economic well-being of our homeland and those who abide here.

In 1974 the Federal Court ruled that we had retained our Treaty Rights to hunt, fish and gather, and to be consulted in land management decisions when those decisions affected our Treaty Rights. In 1986, we were successful in regaining Restoration of Federal Recognition for our Tribes. Although our land base was not returned to us, we were directed to compose a plan to regain economic self-sufficiency. Our Economic Self-sufficiency Plan reflects the Klamath Tribes' continued commitment to playing a pivotal role in the local economy.

During the Economic Self-sufficiency Plan (ESSP) development process, the Planning Department and other committees reviewed hundreds of ideas and concept combinations that would help attain our much-desired goal of long term economic self-sufficiency. After a lengthy analysis process the recommendation was made and accepted by the Tribal Council and the General Council, that the Tribes construct a casino. With our usual energy and determination the Tribes efforts became reality. In 1997, we opened the doors to our first enterprise in 45 years since termination... Kla-Mo-Ya Casino.



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## **CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF WARM SPRINGS**

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Home of the Warm Springs, Wasco, and Paiute tribes, the Warm Springs Reservation is inhabited by nearly 4,000 tribal members, most of whom live in or around the town of Warm Springs. Within the community, the Tribal government provides a variety of services, including education, public safety, utilities, health, resource management, business development and recreation. Many services not offered by the Tribal government are provided by locally-owned private businesses. The tribal economy is based primarily on natural resources, including hydropower, forest products and ranching. Tourism and recreation also make important contributions.

Since 1938, tribal members have conducted their affairs through their constituted government the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon. The Confederated Tribes is governed by a Tribal Council which has a combination of legislative, executive and judicial responsibilities which include setting policy and appointing key personnel in the Tribal government and Tribal enterprises.

Regardless of our success in the present, the people of Warm Springs realize that we must hold on to our past and bring it into the future lest the spiritual and cultural values that sustained our people for centuries be lost.

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM AREAS

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### INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities program strives to support choices of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families within communities by promoting and providing services that are person-centered, self-directed, flexible, community inclusive, and supportive of the discovery and development of each individual's unique gifts, talents and abilities.

We are committed to work toward service options to assure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the opportunity to have fulfilling and meaningful lives, allowing them to contribute to and enjoy their communities.

We currently help over 21,650 children, adults and their families have the best quality of life possible at all stages of their lifespan. Many individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are eligible for a Medicaid waiver which allows them to obtain community-based services instead of residing in an institutional setting.

We seek to achieve the following outcomes and goals:

- Provide an array of options that are properly distributed to assure access through equitable and culturally competent services.
- Be responsive to emerging consumer demands for individualized, self-directed services and provide sufficient service choices.
- Assure the health and safety of individuals served.
- Promote maximum consumer independence and engagement in homes and communities.
- Leverage use of available federal funding options.

*Key Contact for I/DD (General): Lilia Teninty (503) 945-6918*

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### AGING AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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The Department of Human Services Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) program assists seniors and people with disabilities of all ages to achieve well-being through opportunities for community living, employment, family support and services that promote independence, choice and dignity. APD and Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) employees throughout Oregon are responsible for providing direct client services through a network of local offices. Employees also determine eligibility of aging and people with disabilities for medical programs provided through the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Programs administered include:

- Older Americans Act:

- Direct financial support (Medicare Premium assistance, Oregon Health Plan, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs)
- Disability Determination Services
- Long term services and supports, including in-home services, community-based facilities and nursing facilities.

*Key Contact for APD (General): Mike McCormick (503) 945-6229*

### **Older Americans Act**

This is a federal program administered through APD. It provides federal funding for locally developed support programs for individuals ages 60 and older. APD distributes funds to local Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's) for service delivery through subcontractors. Nearly 400,000 Oregonians accessed these services in 2013. AAA's develop services that meet the needs and preferences unique to individuals in their local area. Program mandates require services target those with the most significant economic and social need, to minorities and those residing in rural areas. There are no income or asset requirements to receive services except those related to the Older Worker Employment Program.

APD distributes federal funds to the AAA's using a federally approved intra-state funding formula based on the demographics and square mileage of each area. Programs might include; family caregiver supports, medication management, nutrition via congregate and home-delivered meal programs, senior employment, legal services or elder abuse prevention services. They may also provide assistance to senior centers and sponsor and promote evidence-based wellness and chronic health condition management activities.

*Key Contact for Older Americans Act: Sarah Hout (503) 947-5104*

### **Direct financial support**

Programs are designed to meet a variety of special circumstances for certain low-income populations.

*Cash payments – special needs* APD is required to meet maintenance of effort (MOE) payment for low-income aged and disabled Oregonians who receive federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. These benefits are focused on payments that allow clients to retain independence and mobility in a safe environment. Examples of Special Needs Payments include; help for non-medical transportation, repairs of broken appliances such as a furnace, or for such things as adapting a home's stairs into a ramp.

### ***Employed Persons with Disabilities Program (EPD)***

This program allows people with a disability to work to their full extent and not lose Medicaid coverage. To be eligible, a person must be deemed disabled by Social Security Administration (SSA) criteria, be employed and have adjusted income of less than 250% Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Eligible individuals pay a monthly participation fee and are eligible for the full range of Medicaid benefits and services.

### ***Other benefits***

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires DHS to coordinate with Medicare in many areas and clients need help accessing other programs for which they are

eligible. The federal Medicare program is the most common program clients need assistance with. APD determines client eligibility and submits client data to CMS for two Medicare-related programs: Medicare buy-in and Medicare Part D low-income subsidy. APD served nearly 120,000 clients in these two programs over one year. These programs help low-income beneficiaries with their cost sharing requirements. Securing this coverage also Medicare remains in a "first payor" status, ultimately saving the State's Medicaid program significant money.

*Key Contact for Direct Financial Support: Trevor Waskins (503) 945-6476*

### **Disability Determination Services**

People with disabilities may be able to qualify for one of two federal disability programs: Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). These programs are governed by the federal Social Security Administration (SSA) and are administered by the Department of Human Services under contract. While these two programs are different in many ways, both are administered by the Social Security Administration and only individuals who have a disability and meet medical criteria may qualify for benefits under either program.

Social Security Disability Insurance pays benefits to you and certain members of your family if you are "insured," meaning that you worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes. Supplemental Security Income pays benefits based on financial need.

*Key Contact for Disability Determination Services: Mary Gabriel (503)986-4809*

### **Long Term Services and Supports**

Oregon assists low-income seniors and people with disabilities who qualify for assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs) and instrumental activities of daily living.

ADLs are those personal functional activities required by all of us for continued well-being, which are essential for health and safety. Activities include tasks such as:

- Bathing
- Personal Hygiene
- Cognition
- Behavior
- Dressing
- Grooming
- Eating
- Elimination (Toileting including bowel and bladder)
- Mobility
- Transfers

IADLs include tasks such as:

- Housekeeping
- Laundry
- Meal Preparation
- Medication Management
- Shopping
- Transportation

### **In-home services**

In-home services are the cornerstone of Oregon's community-based care system. For seniors and people with physical disabilities, the ability to live in their own homes is compromised by the need for support in regular daily living activities. For more than 25 years, Oregon has created options to meet people's needs in their own homes. All options are funded with support of the Medicaid program through home and community-based waivers. Oregon has been able to create cost-effective programs that meet people's needs in their homes and other community settings using these waivers and spared Oregonians from the unnecessary use of higher cost services, primarily offered in nursing facilities. Services include in-home support through individual Home Care Workers, In-Home Agencies and Home Delivered Meal providers.

### **Community-based care**

These include a variety of 24-hour care settings and services to provide an alternative to nursing facilities. Services include assistance with activities of daily living, medication oversight and social activities. Services can include nursing and behavioral supports to meet complex needs. State and federal guidelines related to health and safety of these facilities have to be met. Services include adult foster homes, assisted living facilities, residential care facilities and memory care facilities.

### **Nursing facilities**

Institutional services for seniors and people with physical disabilities are provided in nursing facilities licensed and regulated by DHS. Nursing facilities provide individuals with skilled nursing services, housing, related services and ongoing assistance with activities of daily living.

*Key Contact for Long Term Services and Supports: Jane-Ellen Weidanz (503) 945-5977*

### **Oregon Tribes**

The Aging and People with Disabilities Program does not have formal contracts with Oregon's tribes to administer these services. However, many local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) are recipients of federal funding and have sub-contracts with Tribes for services.

Oregon consults with Oregon's tribes on contemplated changes to its Medicaid-funded long term services and supports system.

### **2015 Challenges**

Recently, deficits in the operating processes between the local APD office and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla tribe's Yellowhawk Clinic were identified. Local management engaged with Administration Leadership on opportunities to:

- Increase access to publicly funded services.
- Streamline eligibility determinations.
- Improving relationships and trust between members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the local APD Office.

- Creating a single point of contact at the local APD Office.

This work is underway with demonstrable improvements anticipated in 2016.

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## **CHILD WELFARE**

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*Key Contacts: Lois Day, Director of Child Welfare Programs 503-945-6627  
Jason Walling, Deputy Director of Child Welfare 503-945-6285*

## **FUNDING**

### **SSBG, Title XX Agreements**

Through the Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) Agreement, funds are authorized to the tribes to support their work to provide effective, culturally relevant child welfare services to Indian children and their families.

The objective of this Agreement is to provide SSBG funding to the tribe directly so that children under the jurisdiction of the Tribal Court and their families can receive effective child welfare services that reduce the risk of abuse and neglect and that serve tribal families in need of preventive and/or intervention services.

The source of these funds is Title XX of the Social Security Act and must therefore meet program requirements for Title XX and stay within the parameters outlined in Oregon's Title XX state plan.

All nine federally recognized tribes of Oregon receive Social Service Block Grant funds.

### **System of Care**

Oregon's System of Care (SOC) child welfare model is the result of a collaborative agreement between the Department of Human Services, the Juvenile Rights Project (JRP), and the National Center for Youth Law. That agreement was in response to the concern that child welfare agencies were failing to address individual needs of children in the foster care system. The agreement included provisions for the use of flexible funds to meet the individual needs of children and their families in order to promote safety, permanency and well-being, and to employ a strength/needs-based philosophy and practice relative to child welfare.

All nine of the federally recognized tribes of Oregon receive SOC funds. These funds are state General Fund dollars, with no federal requirements. There is an agreement between the state and the tribes that outlines the requirements of how SOC funds are to be used and how the expenditures are to be reported.

### **Title IV-E Agreements**

Title IV-E provides federal reimbursement for the costs of eligible children in foster care. It covers food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, reasonable travel for visitation, and related administrative costs, but does not cover the costs of treatment services. All Title IV-E eligible children are to receive medical coverage under Title XIX (Medicaid). DHS

pays the non-federal share of the Title IV-E payment, e.g., the match payment from the state's General Fund at approximately 37% of the child's monthly cost of care.

DHS currently has agreements with six Oregon tribes for Title IV-E funding:

- The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde;
- The Confederated Tribes of Siletz;
- The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla;
- The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs;
- The Coquille Indian Tribe; and
- The Klamath Tribes.

DHS is currently in the process of updating the existing Title IV-E agreements to ensure compliance with the Sex Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, reasonable and prudent parenting standards, and all required background and safety check requirements.

DHS is also establishing a standard procedure for obtaining and maintaining documentation of each Tribe's certification procedure, including safety check requirements.

Effective October 1, 2009, tribes have the option to directly access and administer IV-E funds by submitting a plan to the federal government after the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, (P.L. 110-351, Foster Connections Act) was signed into law.

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz is the only Oregon Tribe moving forward with developing a Title IV-E Plan and Child Welfare practice that will allow them to have direct access to Title IV-E funds. DHS continues to provide support as they are completing all the federal requirements.

### **Title IV-E Training**

The Department provides ongoing Title IV-E training either on-site with individual tribes, or group training for tribes (the non-Title IV-E tribes are also encouraged to participate, if they choose). The trainings are primarily focused on providing technical assistance to tribes with Title IV-E agreements, but they can be expanded to all Oregon Tribes, depending on the topic. The trainings are intended to shorten the response time for questions from the tribes and allow more frequent discussion between the State and the tribes, while providing an opportunity to follow-up on training related to federal funds.

In 2015, 11 individual trainings and technical assistance visits were conducted with the tribes by the Office of Child Welfare Program, Federal Compliance Unit. These included trainings for new staff, assistance for reporting and documentation focusing on administrative claiming, safety requirements, certification standards and coordination of Title IV-E eligibility needs.

### **State/Federal Funding to Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes**

Following is an outline for each Oregon tribe and the federal funding they received, the number of clients served with that funding:

<b>Burns Paiute Tribe</b>	Funding Received
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Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)	\$2,981
System of Care (SOC) (13-15 Biennium)	\$8,920
Clients Served	6
<i>Note: SSBG and SOC number of clients served are not unduplicated</i>	

<b>Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua &amp; Siuslaw Indians</b>	Funding Received
Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)	\$7,943
System of Care (SOC) (13-15 Biennium)	\$15,774
Clients Served	8
<i>Note: SSBG and SOC number of clients served are not unduplicated</i>	

<b>Coquille Indian Tribe</b>	Funding Received
Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)	\$7,683
System of Care (SOC) (13-15 Biennium)	\$15,418
Clients Served	6
<i>Note: SSBG and SOC number of clients served are not unduplicated.</i>	
<i>Note: Coquille Indian Tribe has a Title IV-E Agreement however they do not receive any IV-E reimbursement because they don't have children in Tribal custody.</i>	

<b>Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians</b>	Funding Received
Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)	\$14,164
System of Care (SOC) (13-15 Biennium)	\$24,575
Clients Served	348
<i>Note: SSBG and SOC number of clients served are not unduplicated</i>	

<b>Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde</b>	Funding Received
Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)	\$31,690
System of Care (SOC) (13-15 Biennium)	\$53,883

Title IV-E Administrative Payments	\$125,039
Clients Served	113

*Note: SSBB, SOC and Title IV-E number of clients served are not unduplicated*

<b>The Klamath Tribes</b>	Funding Received
Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)	\$22,273
System of Care (SOC) (13-15 Biennium)	\$23,615
Title IV-E Administrative Payments	\$141,288
Clients Served	90

*Note: SSBB, SOC and Title IV-E number of clients served are not unduplicated*

<b>Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians</b>	Funding Received
Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)	\$30,345
System of Care (SOC) (13-15 Biennium)	\$54,129
Title IV-E Administrative Payments	\$0
Clients Served	10

*Note: SSBG and SOC number of clients served are not unduplicated*

*Note: No Title IV-E administrative claims were submitted by Siletz in 2015.*

<b>Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation</b>	Funding Received
Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)	\$18,977
System of Care (SOC) (13-15 Biennium)	\$31,868
Title IV-E Administrative Payments	\$417,424
Clients Served	60

*Note: SSBG, SOC and Title IV-E Waiver number of clients served are not unduplicated*

<b>Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation</b>	Funding Received
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Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)	\$38,306
System of Care (SOC) (13-15 Biennium)	\$63,999
Title IV-E Administrative Payments	\$553,619
Clients Served	518
<i>Note: SSBG, SOC and Title IV-E number of clients served are not unduplicated</i>	

### **Independent Living Services Program (ILP)**

Oregon's ILP provided services for current foster youth between the ages of 14 to 20. Former foster youth may be eligible to receive services between the ages of 16 to 20; or up to age 23 for Chafee Education and Training Vouchers. Services are available statewide. ILP services are available to Native American youth on the same basis as all other youth in the state. For details regarding Oregon's Independent Living Program (ILP) services and eligibility criteria, please see the DHS Procedure Manual, Chapter 4, Sections 29 and 33 at the website listed below. [http://www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/safety\\_model/procedure\\_manual/index.html](http://www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/safety_model/procedure_manual/index.html)

Race	Total served	% of ILP Population Served	All Foster Care
Native American Youth	95	6.3%	5.6%
Total Youth Served	1514		

Each Indian tribe in Oregon has been contacted to discuss recent efforts around improving services for older youth in the custody of DHS. Three meetings have been held so far (with Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Klamath Tribes). These meetings have allowed DHS staff to hear concerns of tribal staff working with tribal member youth. It also allowed DHS to learn about services tribes provide to youth who are transitioning out of care into adulthood. It is the hope more meetings will happen with the other tribes in the near future.

During the Youth Transitions Workgroup planning process, a staff and tribal member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde participated in one of the workgroups, although she was not representing the tribe in an official capacity. She was a representative of the Oregon Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Network.

The workgroup process and recommendations were shared (as part of a larger presentation around youth transitioning out of substituted care) at the recent annual National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) conference in Portland. The Young Adult Program Coordinator co-facilitated a workshop with the DHS Tribal Affairs Director. The workshop was attended by about 30 people who represented at least three of Oregon's tribes.

All Native American youth, whether under tribal or state custody, are given the same opportunity and access to Independent Living services, with one exception. The Warm Springs Tribe receives funding directly from the Federal Government and while youth are in the

custody of the tribe, Oregon does not provide access to Independent Living Services. However, if the youth leaves tribal care at age 16 or older, and spent at least 180 days in foster care after age 14, the youth could access ILP services through DHS (life skills training, Discretionary Funds, ETV, Chafee housing if left custody at age 18 or older). Warm Springs youth are welcome to attend the ILP summer events at no cost. The ILP continues to serve Native American youth at a slightly higher rate (6.3%) than the overall percentage of Native American youth in foster care (5.6%).

Current Youth Transition Services available statewide are as follows:

**Transition Planning** – For youth ages 14 and older, the Department is responsible for assisting youth, in DHS care, to create a transition plan addressing the following domains: education, employment, health, housing, community connections, supportive relationships, transportation and miscellaneous life skills. The department provides services to assist youth accomplish their goals and achieve a successful transition to adulthood.

**Life Skills Training** – Youth eligible for contracted ILP services are in DHS or Tribal foster care, age 16 and older, or former foster youth who exited care at age 16 and had at least six months of substitute care after the age of 14. For foster youth ages 14 and 15, and youth who may be on a wait list for contracted ILP services, the Department will work with foster parents, community based organizations, clubs, and schools to provide the necessary life skills training.

**ILP Discretionary Funds** – Each District and Tribe, with the exception of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (which receives direct federal funding), has access to ILP Discretionary Funds. The funds are to be used to assist a youth with achieving their goals as listed on the transition plan and to allow youth to engage in age or developmentally appropriate activities for promoting the youth's successful transition to adulthood. Funds may be accessed for youth age 14 and older in foster care or former foster youth enrolled in contracted ILP services. Each Tribe receives \$1,500 per year.

**Chafee ETV** – Youth age 14 and older in DHS or Tribal foster care or former foster youth eligible for contracted ILP services are eligible to access the ETV awards. Each school will determine a youth's financial need, up to the maximum \$3,000 per academic year.

**Chafee Housing** – Youth must leave DHS or Tribal custody at age 18 or older to qualify for Chafee Housing funds (up to \$600 per month based on need). There are several recommendations for adjustments to the productive time requirements for both ILP housing programs. Additional details will be provided in the Chafee section of this report.

**Independent Living Housing Subsidy** – per Oregon Policy (based on Oregon Revised Statute 418.475), a youth must be in the care and custody of DHS in order to be eligible for Independent Living Housing Subsidy services. This service is primarily funded with State General funds – no Chafee funds are expended on Subsidy housing stipends. At this time, the program provides up to \$600 per month (based on need) to assist a youth with monthly living expenses.

**Summer ILP Events** – The ILP sponsors various summer events: Teen Conference (focus is well-being), DREAM Conference (focus is post-secondary education & career/employment), and the Native Teen Gathering (focus is to provide Native American youth with culturally

appropriate life skills workshops and activities). The ILP also sponsors 20 youth to attend Camp to Belong each summer. These events also allow foster youth to create connections amid youth and siblings with similar backgrounds, experiences and needs; thereby providing normalizing events where youth can be accepted for who they are. This year's Native Teen Gathering included both Chafee ILP funding and a Diversity & Equity Innovation Grant. The grant funds allowed the Native Wellness Institute & the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to contract with John Spence for a Horse Therapy session for the youth. The youth thoroughly enjoy this activity. The Native Wellness Institute also brought a cultural perspective to each workshop. Much healing occurred during the four day event.

Tuition and Fee Waiver – Youth must be in, or had been in, the care and custody of DHS Child Welfare or one of Oregon's Federally recognized Tribes, at age 16 or older and had at least 180 days of substitute care after age 14 to qualify. If the post-secondary institution determines a youth has a need for the Waiver (after accessing the Pell, SEOG, Oregon Opportunity Grant and any institution aid), the institution will waive the tuition and fees. Youth can receive the Waiver for the equivalent of four years of undergraduate studies. Students must complete 30 hours of volunteerism in order to receive the Waiver for the second and all subsequent years. Foster youth have also been prioritized for the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

Credit Reports – DHS holds contracts with each of the three credit bureaus for the purposes of checking credit reports for youth in the care and custody of DHS. Currently, credit reports are requested using a "birthday batch." Reports are obtained for 14 to 17 year olds. The 18 – 20 year-olds must sign an authorization sheet before a report can be requested. Note, the Tribes are responsible for pulling credit reports for youth under Tribal jurisdiction.

One of the concerns raised by the tribes during individual tribal meetings is that youth often go into guardianships and are therefore ineligible for Chafee services. Another concern is the lack of employment opportunities and housing options for youth in the surrounding area. One tribe asked about the availability of resources for youth who move to more urban areas such as Portland. We will work to bring members of Oregon's federally recognized Tribes into the planning process as we move forward. The ILP Coordinator and Young Adult Program Coordinator will take the opportunity to share resources with Tribes as we meet over the next year to discuss services for older teens and young adults in care.

### **Safe and Equitable Foster Care Reduction**

■ OSM Refresh ■ Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families ■ Differential Response

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Oregonians agree children have the best opportunities when they remain safely at home and can be raised with their own families. Children are also safer and families are stronger when communities, families and DHS work in partnership to identify and address issues early. Differential Response (DR) is a family-centered approach which supports protecting children to ensure a successful future. DR is a redesign of the child welfare system's front end that allows more than one path for intervention with families with a screened in report of abuse or neglect.

There are three parts to Oregon's approach to implementation of Differential Response:

- 1) Oregon Safety Model;
- 2) Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families services; and

### 3) Staged implementation of Oregon's DR model.

**1. Oregon Safety Model:** Most families child welfare encounters are or can safely care for their children at home. When a child cannot remain safely at home, the state intervenes to ensure child safety which may include placing a child into foster care. Our Oregon Safety Model guides safety decision making throughout the life of the case. The OSM provides a systematic safety intervention approach and is the responsibility of all staff at every level.

The Oregon Safety Model fidelity work focuses on:

- Improving staff competency by ensuring line supervisors fully understand the OSM concepts and coach their casework staff to practice the model with fidelity;
- Providing consistency in practice and decision making across stages of service beginning at intake;
- Furthering the agency's work to reduce disproportionality in foster care and emphasize family centered practice;
- Distinctly defining safety threats and families with moderate to high needs;
- Clarifying the specific information needed to make safety decisions;
- Clearly outlining factors to consider when making decisions involving safety and risk; and
- Identifying skills and tools to support this practice.

**2. Essential Services:** Another step is to identify and enhance the array of services for families through collaboration between DHS and local community partners. These services as part of the Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families law (aka SB 964) will specifically address needs of children and families who come to the attention of child welfare through a report of abuse or neglect. These services are designed to address gaps in the service array in local communities --specifically, these services aimed at maintaining children safely in the home, reducing the lengths of stay in foster care and addressing re-abuse of children.

**3. Staged Implementation of Oregon's DR model:** Differential Response provides the route for families to connect to their community and needed services. The families involved with child welfare will receive a comprehensive child safety assessment by child welfare staff. However, just as every family is unique, the department's approach is flexible enough to serve the family's needs. Oregon's DR design includes the specific screening criteria to determine the best response to assess families and increase our success in keeping children safely parented at home while the family receives services. Families can more successfully resolve issues when they are viewed as part of the solution and where they partner with child welfare and their community in problem solving and the identification of services and supports needed.

We need all three parts to make the enhanced system work the way we want in order to get the results we want. Here's the vision when all three parts are in place and working together:

- More children will be kept safely at home and in their communities using the Oregon Safety Model and its core concepts and tools to guide decision making;
- The community and Oregon DHS will work in partnership with a shared responsibility for keeping children safely at home and in their communities;
- Families will partner with Oregon DHS to realize their full potential and develop solutions for their challenges;
- Fewer children will re-enter the child welfare system through improved services for families;
- Disproportionality will be reduced among children of color, and;

- Private agencies and community organizations will experience stronger partnerships with Oregon DHS on behalf of children and families.

Here is a list of activities related to tribal involvement in Differential Response; Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families Services; and the Oregon Safety Model work.

#### **DURING EXPLORATION/VISIONING PHASE OF IMPLEMENTATION:**

- September 2011, Tribal focus group held to obtain input on DR. Questions asked were:
  - What are the possible benefits of implementing DR in your area in Oregon?
  - What aspects of program design do you think are critical to the success of DR?
  - What is the preferred way to decide whether a family receives an investigation or assessment?
  - What is the preferred way to ensure additional community input into the DR development process?
  - What are your greatest concerns about implementing DR in your area in Oregon?
  - On a scale from 1-10 with 1 being "much worse" and 10 being "much better" rate the likely impact of DR on services to children and families?
  - The focus group information was utilized in the implementation process of DR.
- In December 2011, DR Design team assembled of community members, stakeholders and DHS staff to include: Oregon Commission on Children and Families Tribal Coordinator; Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Burns Paiute tribe. A Core Team was also assembled with a representative of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. These teams developed the DR Vision Statement, determined OR would have an alternative and traditional track and what kinds of abuse or neglect would be assessed in each track.
- In 2012, Child Safety Manager, visited with each tribe to discuss DR.

#### **DURING INSTALLATION PHASE OF IMPLEMENTATION:**

- From May - October of 2013, the Differential Response manager, visited with each tribe to discuss DR. In both years, we listened to information about the tribe's philosophies and practices, shared information about where OR was heading with DR and where we were, and solicited input. Developed a document called "Notes and Other Considerations", from the tribal visits, staff visits and other community visits that was used to inform the subcommittee, implementation and steering committee work.
- Developed a DR Installation/Early Implementation Team with representatives from Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation participating.
- Continued the Core team, renamed DR Steering Committee, with representative of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.
- Developed 10 subcommittees with representatives on 3 from Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Burns Paiute Tribe, and Nadja Jones (before she obtained her current position, to bring the Minnesota tribal experience).
- In January 2014, had a call with Minnesota titled "DR Implementation with Tribal Communities: Lessons Learned in MN" Invited all 9 federally recognized tribes in Oregon to participate (many did).
- Tribes were invited to attend the Oregon Safety Model Refresh training in 2014.
- 1 of the 3 early implementation counties chosen, Klamath, has a tribe within. Several meetings/presentations have been held with the tribe to include training on Chronic

Neglect that many in the Klamath and Lake county communities were invited to attend. A representative of the Klamath tribes is also on the Local District 11 DR Advisory Team. Klamath Tribal staff are also invited to attend the DR training the Klamath child welfare staff are receiving.

#### **DURING EARLY IMPLEMENTATION PHASE:**

- Many if not all, tribes have been involved in determining community gaps and needs to enhance the service array with Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families funding, which is a vital component of successful DR implementation.
- DR manager attended most ICWA Advisory Team meetings to provide updates on DR and solicit input, training on the Oregon Safety Model, and to report on how we used the tribal focus group findings and how we've used their input thus far.
- DR Manager, Dana Ainam (Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde) and a staff member of the Klamath Tribes presented a workshop at the 2014 ICWA conference titled, *Differential Response – Tribal and State Perspective*.
- Dana Ainam, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, participated in a group presentation at the national DR conference in November, with a team from Oregon to talk about our early DR implementation experiences.
- DHS staff and representatives of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Klamath Tribes presented a workshop at the 2015 ICWA conference about how DHS practice has changed with DR, examples of what that looks like, what's different about it, how it aligns with tribal values and what the response has been from tribal families.
- The DR sites that have counties where tribal offices are located have included tribal representation on their DR Advisory Teams and meetings with the tribes leading up to and after implementation of DR. The tribes and counties included thus far are: Klamath County/Klamath Tribes; Lincoln County/Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; Coos County/Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, and Coquille Indian Tribe; Curry County/Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation.

#### **Adoption and Guardianship Assistance**

Children in the custody of a federally recognized Indian Tribe in Oregon may be eligible for adoption or guardianship assistance if the Tribe has a current Title IV-E agreement with the Department of Human Services which includes participation in the adoption and guardianship assistance program. The Adoption and Guardianship Assistance Program provides assistance on behalf of eligible children to help offset the costs related to meeting the needs of the child and costs associated with establishing the adoption or guardianship. Adoption and Guardianship Assistance may include a monthly financial payment paid on behalf of an eligible child and/or medical assistance for the eligible child.

Adoption and Guardianship assistance for Title IV-E children or young adults is funded by a combination of federal and state funds. Children who are Title IV-E eligible are also categorically eligible for Medicaid benefits.

The Department of Human Services, Adoption and Guardianship Assistance Program works closely with Tribes beginning with the submission of an application for assistance to the

finalization of the adoption or guardianship. The Adoption and Guardianship Assistance program staff have traveled to meet with several Tribes to develop and foster relationships as well as provide information and answers to questions as requested.

### **Permanency Program**

The Child Permanency Program is just finishing two years of permanency roundtables for children in the foster care system who are considered long stayers. PRT's are structured professional case consultations designed to develop aggressive, innovative and realistic plans for achieving permanency. The Department worked with Tribal representation in the development of the PRT's and in coming to a mutual understanding of how permanency may look different for Indian children. Throughout the past two years the department ensured there was a Tribal cultural guide on every PRT team for an Indian child in order to help caseworkers and team members understand how cultural issues affect family engagement, how Tribal laws and customs impact permanency decisions, and to help look at the case through the lens of Indian culture and identity.

### **Indian Child Welfare**

*Key contact: Nadja Jones, Tribal Affairs Director/Senior ICWA Manager 971-301-1668*

DHS collaborates with the Oregon tribes to prevent and reduce the number of Native American children placed into state custody. The Oregon tribes participate with DHS through the Tribal/State Advisory Committee, which meets quarterly and holds an annual conference. Oregon DHS has an established Tribal Affairs unit including a full-time staff person assigned as its Tribal Affairs Director/Senior ICW Manager, two ICWA Consultants and an executive assistant. The Tribal Affairs Unit and the Oregon Tribes work collaboratively on ongoing initiatives that are described in detail below.

### **The Oregon Indian Child Welfare Advisory Council**

The 9 federally recognized tribes in Oregon are consulted with on specific child welfare topics throughout the year. The development of relationships between the state and the tribes is an ongoing process that is derived from the identification of mutual values, respect for the government to government relationship, and the concern for child welfare.

There are 9 federally recognized tribes in Oregon. The formalization and active engagement of the Indian Child Welfare Advisory committee is key to promoting a collaborative and coordinated approach to addressing child welfare along the service continuum of policy to practice improvement. The ICWA advisory membership is comprised of tribal child welfare directors, and DHS program management.

The Oregon tribal representatives of the ICWA advisory recommend goals and objectives for Oregon's five-year plan; which are actively worked on throughout the year. This work is done through specific quarterly meetings scheduled in addition to monthly consultation conference calls and onsite tribal visits. The purpose of the Indian Child Welfare Advisory Committee (ICWA) is to advise, consult with, and make recommendations to the leadership of the Oregon Department of Human Services on policy, programs, practice, and data that impact Indian children who are members of eligible for membership in one or more of the nine federally

recognized tribes in Oregon and Indian children who are placed in Oregon who are members of or eligible for membership in tribes outside of Oregon and who are involved or at risk of involvement in the child welfare system in the State.

Projects and goals submitted as part of the work of the committee include the Title IV-B Plan, Title IV-E agreements, tribal engagement in policy and procedure for ICWA compliance. The charter sets the progress and key considerations for the implementation and assessment of the CSFP and the monitoring of compliance with ICWA. The Oregon Tribal/State ICWA Advisory Committee meets quarterly and serves two main functions:

1. To identify barriers in department policy and rules in providing services to Indian children in both state and tribal custody, and
2. To work on direct communications between DHS and the Tribes.

The Child Welfare Programs (CWP) and ICWA Advisory Committee continue to work on outstanding issues and develop stronger consultation and collaboration between the State and the Oregon tribes.

*Key Contact for the ICWA advisory – Nadja Jones (971) 301-1668*

### **Tribal/State ICWA Conference**

Every year, one of the nine Oregon Tribes co-hosts the Tribal/State ICWA Conference with DHS. The ICWA conferences provide essential on-going training on the importance of the Indian Child Welfare Act, the best interests of Indian children, the stability and security of those children, their tribes, families and communities. The ICWA conferences focus on the importance of traditions and the continued collaboration between DHS and the Tribes.

In 2015, The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Indians co-hosted the ICWA Conference held on October 20, 21, and 22 at Kah-Nee-Ta. The theme of the conference was “Honoring our Roots; Cultivating Healthy Families” with a focus of ongoing collaboration between the Oregon Tribes and DHS. This year’s highlight was honoring individuals for their unwavering dedication to ICWA: This year’s honorees were nominated by The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Indians, The Burns Paiute Tribe, The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and DHS.

### **Indian Child Welfare Active Efforts Positions**

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) requires attainment of active efforts for children receiving services from Child Welfare. Currently all cases are required by the federal government to receive reasonable efforts to qualify for federal funds, however both state and federal law requires active efforts of Native American children due to historical experience of Native American children in Child Welfare systems across the Country. Active efforts are distinguished from reasonable efforts by additional efforts necessary to ensure compliance, understanding and culturally specific experiences through increased:

- Face to face contact

- Coordination of services so it doesn't fall solely on the parent
- Hands on service provision; efforts to provide services which are culturally specific
- Efforts to ensure children in care receive cultural experience opportunities to remain connected with their culture
- Efforts to remove barriers for parents to fully access services

During the hiring process for these positions Tribal involvement and participation occurred. These positions currently work extremely close with the social service departments of all the tribes. These positions serve as a bridge to the local branches and they have developed positive working relationships with the nine Oregon Tribes.

All 9 positions have been hired The Tribal Affairs Unit provides ongoing support and guidance to these positions and continues to facilitate the Active Efforts meetings. Meetings have moved from a monthly meeting to a quarterly meeting The AE's are a standing agenda item at the ICWA Advisory Committee to provide ongoing updates and foster ongoing communication with our 9 Tribes The AE's are working collaboratively with the Tribal Affairs Unit to provide ongoing training to our child welfare staff.

### **1270 Trainings to Protective Service Workers**

Training has been developed around the Departments 1270 form "Verification of ICWA Eligibility". A need has been identified from the practice field that the form needs to be completed at the time of assessment for both parents.

This training is in coordination with a Tribal representative. The representative talks about the tribal perspective and why the 1270 forms are important and what work gets prompted on the tribal side to determine ICWA eligibility. A major goal of this training is to provide information to supervisors and case workers on how the 1270 can be used as a tool of engagement when working with our families.

*Key Contact for Active Efforts and 1270 Trainings – Christine Kamps, (503) 508-1351*

### **ICWA Regional Quarterlies**

Over the past year DHS reinstated the ICWA regional quarterlies. The reasoning and rationale was to collaboratively continue our partnerships with the nine Oregon Tribes. These gatherings are an opportunity for joint education and training for both the DHS branches and Oregon Tribes.

The trainings include practice related trainings as well as specific case staffing to support ICWA policy when applicable and requested. DHS is also currently developing a training around "Active Efforts Supervision" which will be provided in coordination at the ICWA regional quarterlies.

### **Services to Celilo Village**

In coordination with District 9 (Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam & Wheeler) the four Tribes (Umatilla, Warm Springs, Nez Perce & Yakama) of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal

Fisheries Commission (CRITFC) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) have been working on a process to provide services to the residents of Celilo Village. Currently the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) maintains a building within the village which is not being utilized. The goal of this process is to gain access to the BIA building in order to provide Self Sufficiency Services, child welfare and other social services to village clients that have no means of transportation to the Dalles offices.

*Key Contact for ICWA Regional Quarterlies and Services to Celilo Village – Michael Stickler, (503) 947-5413,*

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## **SELF SUFFICIENCY**

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*Key Contact: Dr. Reginald Richardson, Director of Self Sufficiency Programs 503-947-5589*

Self Sufficiency - The Department of Human Services Self Sufficiency program provides assistance for low-income families to promote family stability and help them become self-supporting.

The major program areas within Self Sufficiency are:

- Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Family Support and Connections (FS&C)
- Employment Related Day Care (ERDC)
- Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS)
- Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS)
- Refugee Program
- Youth Services Program
- Program Delivery and Design

Self Sufficiency employees provide direct services through a network of local offices in every county across Oregon. A list of offices can be found at this site

<http://oregon.gov/dhs/Pages/localoffices/index.aspx>

### **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**

TANF is a federally funded cash assistance and employment program. Its purpose is to help families with children living in extreme poverty pay for basic needs such as shelter, utilities and daily necessities. TANF also provides services to help participants find jobs and stay employed through the Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) program. The JOBS program also includes support services such as help paying for child care and transportation while individuals participate in job preparation programs or search for employment. TANF offers a variety of other services such as help to apply for Supplemental Security Income or grants to escape domestic violence in an effort to help families stabilize their lives so they can find and sustain employment, and end their need for assistance.

Eligibility and income requirements must be met to receive TANF services. Applicants must generally have incomes below 37 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to qualify. A

family of three qualifies for up to \$506 per month in cash assistance which equates to 30 percent of the FPL.

The Confederated Tribe of Siletz and the Klamath Tribe are the two Oregon tribes that operate their own Tribal TANF program. The funds for the Tribal TANF program do not pass through DHS, but are sent directly from the federal U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The tribes administer the program and use their own system and methodology for tracking data on families receiving services.

Oregon's DHS has an agreement with each of the two tribes to provide additional services to members who are receiving Tribal TANF assistance. These services include employment and training, work experience, and additional family supports. The tribe submits invoices on a quarterly basis to the State and they are paid with state funds and counted toward the TANF maintenance of effort requirement. The agreement requires tribal submission of data related to the number of clients served through this agreement.

Klamath Tribe – support services, access up to \$205,256.00 annually.

Siletz Tribe – support services, access up to \$244,752.00 annually.

The TANF program and the Tribal Affairs Director (with help from the Department of Justice) continued to work with the Oregon Tribes, through the Government-to-Government consultation process on resolution of the Secretary of State audit finding which challenged Oregon's interpretation of Indian Country for the purposes of TANF time limits. The goal continues to be that the outcome is relevant to Oregon's historical context and is inclusive of the issues brought forth by the Oregon Tribes.

The program, in partnership with the Tribal Affairs Director has also worked to keep the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, the Coquille Indian Tribe, and the Confederated Tribe of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians informed of any developments with respect to the Smith River Rancheria's request to set-up a Tribal TANF program in Southern Oregon.

Consulting with Oregon Tribes on the above matters helps DHS make informed decisions and it also helps DHS provide the best information it can to its federal funders.

*Contact information: Self-Sufficiency Programs: Kim Fredlund (503) 945-6071*

*TANF and Employment Training: Xochitl Esparza (503) 945-6122*

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## **VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

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The Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program is working in conjunction with the federally funded Tribal VR Programs to deliver vocational rehabilitation services to tribal members with disabilities who reside on reservation or within the tribal service area boundaries. These services are delivered consistent with tribal members' interests, strengths, abilities, concerns, and informed choice, so that tribal members may prepare for and engage in gainful employment, including self-employment or business ownership.

Funding:

Federal funding is made available to the governing bodies of tribes located on reservations or in federally recognized service areas to pay 90 percent of the costs of vocational rehabilitation services for American Indians who are individuals with disabilities residing on or near such reservations (referred to as "eligible individuals"). The non-federal share of 10% may be an in-kind or cash contribution written into the grant submission. Federal funding is provided as a 5-year block grant.

#### Cooperative Agreements:

State VR has cooperative agreements with each of the Tribal VR programs of which there are five in Oregon: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, and the Klamath Tribe.

#### **Collaborative Activities:**

The PASSAGES Curriculum was developed to enhance culturally-relevant youth school-to-work transition activities for tribal members between the 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades. PASSAGES emphasizes the importance of family and the tribal community. On October 14-17<sup>th</sup>, Oregon VR and Tribal VR Programs collaborated to showcase PASSAGES at the National Indian Education Association conference held in Portland. Over 100 CDs were distributed to national attendees.

Oregon VR also worked with Chemawa Indian School to provide training on an updated version of the Passages Curriculum.

A strong partnership between the Confederated Tribe of Warm Springs and Oregon VR has resulted in the establishment of a new tribal rehabilitation program dedicated to providing services to any federally-recognized tribal member in conjunction with Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest (NARA) in Portland.

Oregon VR has been participating in various tribally-sponsored events, providing customized letters to the Rehabilitation Service Administration (RSA) to endorse future funding of Oregon tribal proposals, soliciting tribal input as a policy partner during the development of our annual VR State Plan, as well as engaging in direct client services. Each of the Tribal VR Programs has also enrolled their newly hired tribal counselors in our statewide "New Counselor Training Program" (a five-day in-depth course) to learn the federal regulations and the technical skills required to be a competent VR counselor. Additionally, Tribal VR directors and counselors attended our Statewide VR In-service held in August to participate in a wide-range of medical, disability, and employment-related technical sessions.

The tribal representative on the State Rehabilitation Council is Ms. Susie Calhoun, Tribal Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla. This council meets quarterly to provide overarching program guidance to the state VR program.

The tribal representative on the State Independent Living Council is Angie Butler, Tribal Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz. This council meets quarterly to provide guidance on the State Plan for the Independent Living Programs.

**Partnership:**

Tribal VR and State VR programs can concurrently provide vocational rehabilitation services necessary to achieve a successful employment outcome. The Tribal VR program provides culturally relevant services and State VR program typically provides additional rehabilitation and job development services. Additionally, the Tribal VR Programs add cultural awareness to improve the professional skills among state VR staff.

*Key contact for VR Joseph Miller, 503-508-0533*

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**DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE**

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The Department of Human Services is committed to meaningful and active partnership with Oregon’s federally recognized tribes. We maintain a high value for the government to government relationship in serving tribal communities and their families. The inclusion of all nine tribes in critical policy and practice improvements is an ongoing activity throughout the year.

The department works to provide programs and services in the following areas: Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities; Aging and People with Disabilities; Child Welfare; Self Sufficiency; and Vocational Rehabilitation. We have experienced some successes in our work, and we recognize more work is to be done now and in the future to ensure that the delivery of DHS services is driven by the concerns of tribes, in active consultation and partnership, to get the results we all want. The goals of the department are reflected in the work we do with tribes: meaningful collaboration to assure equity of services for all of Oregon’s citizens.

Respectfully,

Clyde Saiki, Interim Director  
Oregon Department of Human Services

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**PARTICIPATING DHS STAFF**

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Tribal Affairs Director/Senior ICWA Manager .....Nadja P. Jones  
Aging and People with Disabilities ..... Mike McCormick  
Safe & Equitable Foster Care Reduction .....Melissa Sampson-Grier  
Child Welfare Programs.....Jason Walling, Kathy Prouty, Sherril Kuhns  
Self-Sufficiency .....Kim Fredlund  
TANF & Employment Training ..... Xochitl Esparza  
Vocational Rehabilitation .....Joe Miller  
ICWA .....Christine Kamps and Michael Stickler  
Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities..... Lilia Teninty  
Tribal Affairs Unit Support.....Kristen Potts