

# Oregon Department of Human Services Legislative Commission on Indian Services Report

January 2020

Prepared by the  
Tribal Affairs Unit



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In 2019, The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) experienced multiple shifts from staff transitions to program developments, to the realignment of priorities. What didn't change is the commitment and passion to improving the lives and well-being of Oregon children and families. Through the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) Report, DHS specifically shares how each program has partnered with Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes in delivering services, sharing resources, and helping tribal families thrive. What you'll find in the report is a story about partnership, challenges, ideas, and actions the State of Oregon has taken to support Oregon tribal communities. DHS is proud to continue honoring the intent of Senate Bill 770 (2001) government to government state statute that aims to improve the working relationship between state agencies and Oregon tribes. We hope you enjoy our story!

## About DHS

DHS is Oregon's principal agency for helping Oregonians achieve well-being and independence through opportunities that protect, empower, respect choice and preserve dignity especially for those who are least able to help themselves.



- Safety, health and independence for all Oregonians
- To help Oregonians in their own communities achieve well-being and independence through opportunities that protect, empower, respect choice and preserve dignity.
- People support themselves and their families through stable living wage employment.
- Children and youth are safe, well and connected to their families, communities, and cultural identities.
- Choices made by seniors and people with disabilities about their own lives are honored
- Partners, clients and stakeholders are actively engaged in a variety of collaborative and meaningful ways.
- Culturally specific and responsive services are provided by highly qualified and diverse staff.
- A commitment to equal access, service excellence and equity for all Oregonians.

The DHS executive leadership team is responsible for communicating and implementing the agency's policy and programming that serve the goals of DHS. Each leader is committed to engaging and partnering with tribes to foster mutual respect, understanding, and collaboration while promoting and improving government to government relations between DHS and tribal nations. DHS leaders who work most frequently with tribal nations include:

## **Department of Human Services Director**

Fariborz Pakseresht

## **Child Welfare Director**

Rebecca Jones Gaston

## **Aging and People with Disabilities Director**

Mike McCormick (Interim)

## **Office of Developmental Disabilities Services Director**

Lilia Teninty

## **Office of Equity and Multicultural Services Director**

Alberto Moreno

## **Self-Sufficiency Programs Director**

Dan Haun

## **Chief Administrative Officer**

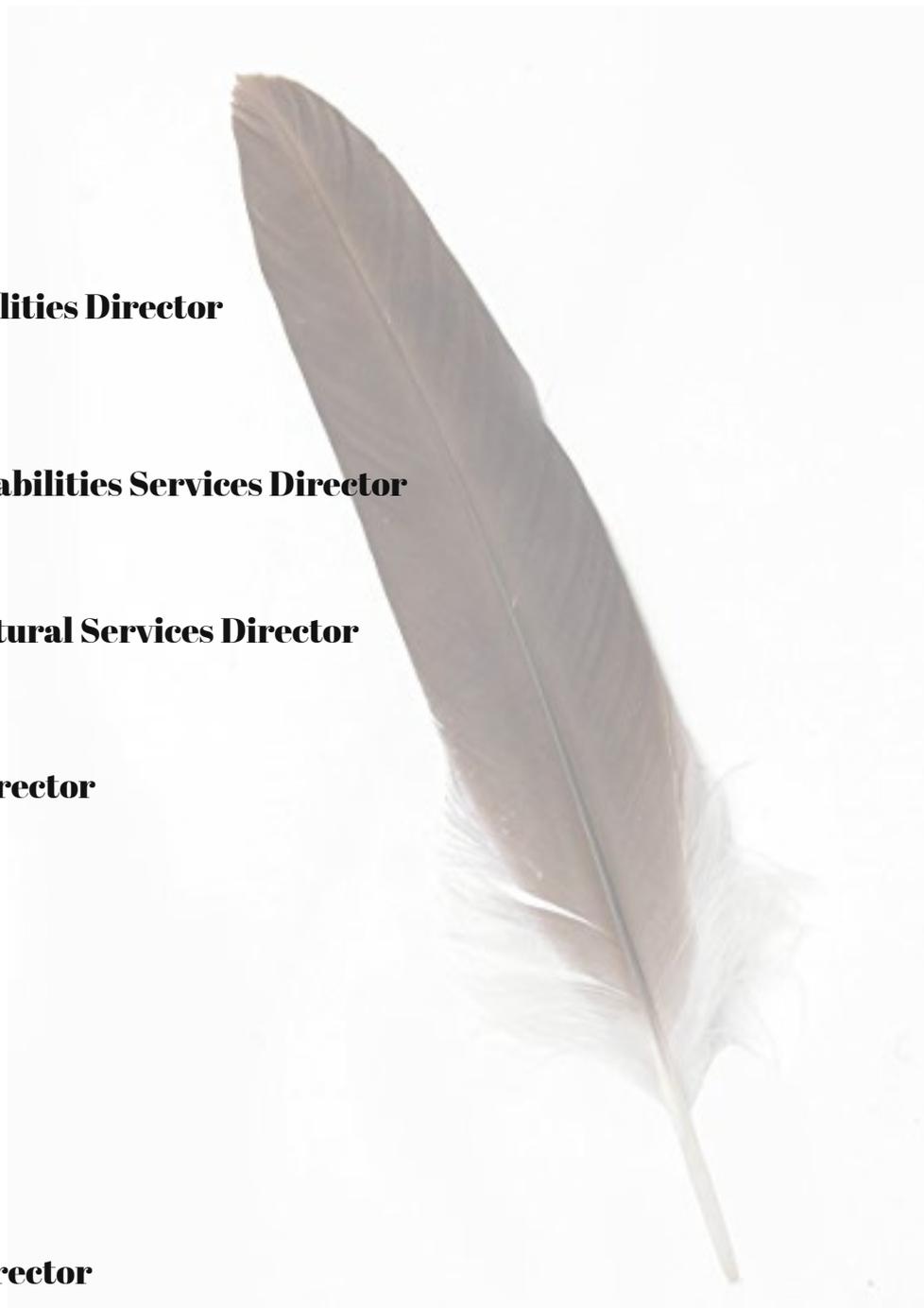
Don Erickson

## **Tribal Affairs Director**

Adam Becenti

## **Vocational Rehabilitation Director**

Keith Ozols



The Tribal Affairs Unit within the DHS Director's Office is a team committed to all Oregon tribal communities thriving mentally, physically, spiritually, and emotionally. Tribal Affairs works with all five DHS programs to create and provide tribally appropriate programming, services, policies and support. Through tribal consultation with Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes, DHS ensures programming, services, and policies meet the needs of Oregon tribal communities.



- Raising the level of health and wellness of all Oregon tribal communities through elevating tribal voice, sovereignty and culture.
- Collaborate and partner with tribal communities.
- Offer and develop tribally appropriate training, practice, and policy.
- Respect, build, and maintain relationships.
- Inform and provide awareness of tribal affairs.
- Mediate and resolve challenges through flexible consultation and a strengths-based approach.
- Relationships, accountability, tribally responsive practice, inclusion, transparency, trust, integrity, service oriented, and community.

## Staff



**Tribal Affairs Director** Adam Becenti (Diné)

**Executive Support** Kristen Potts (Pit River)

**ICWA Consultant** Christine Kamps (Muscogee Creek)

**ICWA Consultant** Emily Hawkins

# Oregon Tribal Partners

DHS is grateful for partnership with Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes and is honored to serve the tribes in getting their needs met. Each DHS program has taken initiative to develop and strengthen their relationships with all Oregon Tribes. More will be shared about tribal partnership later in the report.



## 2019 Legislative Commission on Indian Services Report

During 2019, the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) and Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes enhanced its sense of oneness to improve the safety and well-being of Native American children, families and elders. The annual Legislative Commission on Indian Services Report provides an overview of our connections and shares the meaningful progress we are making in strengthening our partnership.

Our Tribal Affairs Unit is the Department's facilitator in its work with Oregon tribes. This year's report also highlights how the team created a new approach to organizing and communicating its work by establishing "baskets of work." This framing honors the place baskets hold in tribal culture where they represent not only utility but a connection to heritage and identity. Baskets are woven with materials reflective of a tribe's land base that can take on various styles, customs, and history. Tribal basketry is a demonstration of great skill and is given a specific form to fit its function.

Our commitment to Oregon's tribes is to approach our partnership as though we are together weaving a basket. Our commitment is to work alongside our tribal partners to create a basket that tells a shared story of how we are using the skills, resources and creativity around us to give shape to a strong vehicle for effectively delivering critical services to tribal members.

Like the grasses or bark prepared for weaving, we are much stronger when we work together. We look forward to building upon the accomplishments of 2019 with our tribal partners in the year ahead.

In appreciation,



Fariborz Pakseresht  
Director, Oregon Department of Human Services



The Tribal Affairs Unit (TAU) has created a unit structure that organizes and frames the work happening within Tribal Affairs. Within tribal culture, baskets represent many things, such items of utility as well connection to heritage and tribal history. The TAU has organized its work into baskets that connect to work themes being addressed or pursued. Below is a brief description of each basket of work.

## **Tribal Consultation and Partnership**



In serving tribal nations, it is critical state partners seek and integrate tribal consultation into all planning, implementation, and evaluation of state programming that affects tribes. Through genuine tribal/state partnership, relationships will strengthen and effective service delivery systems can be created and maintained.

## **Program, Practice, and Policy Development**



How tribal communities are served and supported can be validated through programming, practice and policy. Ongoing development and evolution in these areas are pivotal to the success of DHS.

## **Training and Capacity Building**



In tribal/state relations, training and capacity building is essential to strengthening the bond and partnership between tribes and the state. In this context, training and capacity building can further develop understanding, honor diverse voice, and standing. With understanding and clarity, goals can be set and attained.

## **Resource Management and Events**



In the tribal belief system knowing where one has been, helps know where one is going. Through managing and leveraging resources Tribal Affairs can support tribal and non-tribal partnerships. Throughout the year Tribal Affairs hosts many events that celebrate successes while meeting the needs of Oregon tribal children and families.

## **Research and Data**



To improve program, practice, and policy, DHS must be data informed. Research and data can help guide the course of action and inform decision making so that choices made, improve the lives of tribal children and families.



## **On the Horizon for 2020**

Envisioning what's ahead is part of the planning process in fulfilling the mission of Tribal Affairs.

## Tribal Consultation and Partnership

**ICWA Advisory Council Meetings** – ICWA Advisory Council Meetings serves as Tribal Affairs guiding arm concerning all child welfare matters. This year's advisory meetings have focused around strengthening relationships, reformatting meeting structure, and returning to the purpose of the partnership. With a new Tribal Affairs Director, this was an opportunity for the Advisory meetings to have a fresh start and reestablish vision, goals, and structure. By the end of the year the Advisory meetings evolved and now reflect a meeting that is refocused, ripe for open dialogue, and a space where tribal partners can truly advise TAU on child welfare matters. With a renewed energy and refreshed meeting structure, the ICWA Advisory Council meetings are on a course for success.

**DHS Directors/Oregon Tribes Convening** – These quarterly convenings bring together all the DHS program directors and Oregon tribal health leadership to align priorities, needs, and solutions. This year the convenings shifted in structure and purpose with the arrival of the new Tribal Affairs Director. In the past, these convenings became a report out session, but now they are interactive, rich with discussion, and have now added themes to each convening. Judging from the last convening the Tribes continue to see the value in these convenings.

**Office of Equity Multicultural Services (OEMS) Partnership** – OEMS helps integrate equity, diversity, and inclusion into every aspect of DHS including workforce, policy, and programming. This year TAU and OEMS reestablished their partnership that will bring new opportunities in the form of resources, support, and guidance. The Tribal Affairs Unit sees OEMS as a partner who can help Tribal Affairs reach its vision and fulfill its mission.

**Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) Meetings** – The Tribal Affairs Director has returned to attending APD's leadership meetings each month. At one of the last leadership meetings the Director presented on historical and intergenerational trauma, its impact on tribes and how tribes need to be served. The Director will continue attending these meetings in 2020 to strengthen partnership and understanding.

**Meeting with Tribal TANF Coordinators at State Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Conference** – In September the Tribal Affairs Director learned from Oregon Tribal TANF Coordinators about their needs and concerns. Some of the Tribal Coordinators were from Siletz, Coquille and Umatilla Tribes. The interaction helped establish a relationship with coordinators and the Tribal Affairs Director.



**On the Horizon for 2020 - DHS Tribal Consultation Policy** – To strengthen understanding and partnership with all DHS programming, the DHS TAU will create a comprehensive tribal consultation policy for DHS programs to follow, understand, and implement. DHS Tribal Affairs is taking a step forward in ensuring the spirit and intent of Senate Bill 770 framework is realized.

## Tribal Consultation and Partnership

### ICWA Advisory Council

#### Burns Paiute Tribe

Charisse Soucie, Interim Social Services Director, [charisse.soucie@burnspaiute-nsn.gov](mailto:charisse.soucie@burnspaiute-nsn.gov)

#### Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw

Shayne Platz, Lead Case Manager, [splatz@ctclusi.org](mailto:splatz@ctclusi.org)

#### Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Kristi Petite, Children and Family Services Supervisor; ICWA Advisory Council Co-Chair  
[kristi.petite@grandronde.org](mailto:kristi.petite@grandronde.org)

#### Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Cheryl Duprau, ICWA Program Administrator, [cheryld@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:cheryld@ctsi.nsn.us)

#### Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation

Julie Taylor, Director of Children and Family Services  
[julietaylor@ctuir.org](mailto:julietaylor@ctuir.org)

#### Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Cecelia Collins, Child Protective Services Director, [Cecelia.collins@wstribes.org](mailto:Cecelia.collins@wstribes.org)

#### Coquille Indian Tribe

Yvonne Livingstone, Family Support Director, [yvonnelivingstone@coquilletribe.org](mailto:yvonnelivingstone@coquilletribe.org)  
Roni Jackson, Family Support Advocate, [ronijackson@coquilletribe.org](mailto:ronijackson@coquilletribe.org)

#### Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians

Michelle Moore, Human Services Director, [mmoore@cowcreek.com](mailto:mmoore@cowcreek.com)

#### The Klamath Tribes

George B. Lopez, General Manager, [george.lopez@klamathtribes.com](mailto:george.lopez@klamathtribes.com)

Marvin Garcia, Social Services Director, [marvin.garcia@klamathtribes.com](mailto:marvin.garcia@klamathtribes.com)

Candi Uses Arrow, Children & Family Services Program Manager  
[candi.usesarrow@klamathtribes.com](mailto:candi.usesarrow@klamathtribes.com)

## Program, Practice and Policy Development

**ICWA State Statute** – In fall 2019, an ICWA legislative workgroup was commissioned by Oregon State Representative Tawna Sanchez, Oregon Tribal leaders and the DHS Tribal Affairs Unit to craft an Oregon Indian Child Welfare State Statute. The legislation would further embed ICWA into state law and guide child welfare practice. Through the development of state ICWA legislation, state leaders are responding to the national attack on the Indian Child Welfare Act. The Oregon ICWA statute will be introduced in the 2020 Oregon Legislative session.

**Utilizing the Child and Family Service and Review (CFSR) Data to Inform Practice** – Over the last year the Tribal Affairs Unit had many discussions with the CFSR team to figure out how to improve child welfare practice. The case reviews collected through CFSR provides information on the safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes of children in the child welfare system. Moving forward, the Tribal Affairs Unit is utilizing the CFSR data to inform where program, practice or policy improvement needs to happen. Tribal Affairs has since approached and is working with the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline to ameliorate issues identifying tribal children.



**ICWA Conference Regional Breakout Sessions** – During the November 2019 Tribal/State ICWA Conference, Tribal Affairs organized breakout sessions to discuss what's working well, what's not working well, and what's missing in the effort to improve ICWA outcomes. The breakout sessions were organized into five regions of the state and seemed to spark productive discussion among child welfare staff and partners. The Tribal Affairs Unit will continue utilizing this framework as a mechanism to strengthen the child welfare system and improve partnership.



**On the Horizon for 2020 ICWA Search Protocol** – One of the main priority areas for the Tribal Affairs Unit is ensuring the State of Oregon thoroughly follows and administers the protections of the Indian Child Welfare Act. In this process we are reevaluating the ICWA Search Protocol to make sure tribal children and families are given the proper protection under ICWA. This means DHS is doing its due diligence in making sure the child is native and there is support.

## Training and Capacity Building

**Child Welfare (CW) Management Training** – This year the TAU received the opportunity to train new child welfare managers and leadership on the Indian Child Welfare Act, historical/intergenerational trauma, and working with tribal nations. This was the first management training on ICWA for child welfare, which we plan to embed into future orientation trainings for new workers. Moving forward, there is a scheduled follow-up training with child welfare managers and leadership,

**Oregon Child Abuse Hotline Training** – This past year the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline (ORCAH) was consolidated and centralized in Portland, OR. ORCAH is the entry door to child welfare where it receives all calls on child abuse and neglect within the State of Oregon. TAU and ORCAH leadership thought a training on ICWA and working with tribes was long overdue. In December 2019, the TAU facilitated four training sessions with ORCAH managers on ICWA and working with tribal children and families. Our next training step is to focus on training line staff who are taking the hotline calls.

**Self-Sufficiency Family Navigators** – In October 2019 the Tribal Affairs Director met with Family Navigators that work with families served by the Self-Sufficiency Programs. The Navigators wanted to increase their skillset and knowledge on working with tribal families and children. The half-day training consisted of sharing information on historical/intergenerational trauma, Oregon tribal culture and history, understanding verbal/non-verbal communication within a tribal context, and how to overcome historical distrust with tribal communities. The plan for 2020 is to follow up with the same group to begin more training on working effectively within tribal communities.

**Office of Reporting, Research, Analytics, and Implementation (ORRAI) Training** – In late Summer 2019 the Tribal Affairs Unit provided three sets of historical and intergenerational trauma (ht/it) training to ORRAI staff. The discussion circled around the tribal history of Oregon tribes, how ht/it continues to impact tribes today, and how it impacts the work of DHS.

**Active Efforts Specialist (AEs) Capacity Building** – In Spring of 2019, the Tribal Affairs Unit organized a plan for the AEs to attend the National Indian Child Welfare Training focused on ICWA. After the training Tribal Affairs followed up with the AEs in an all day convening to reflect on the NICWA training and see how to continue building capacity among AEs. The Tribal Affairs Unit is convening the AEs quarterly in effort to strengthen relationships and ICWA practice.



## Resource Management and Events

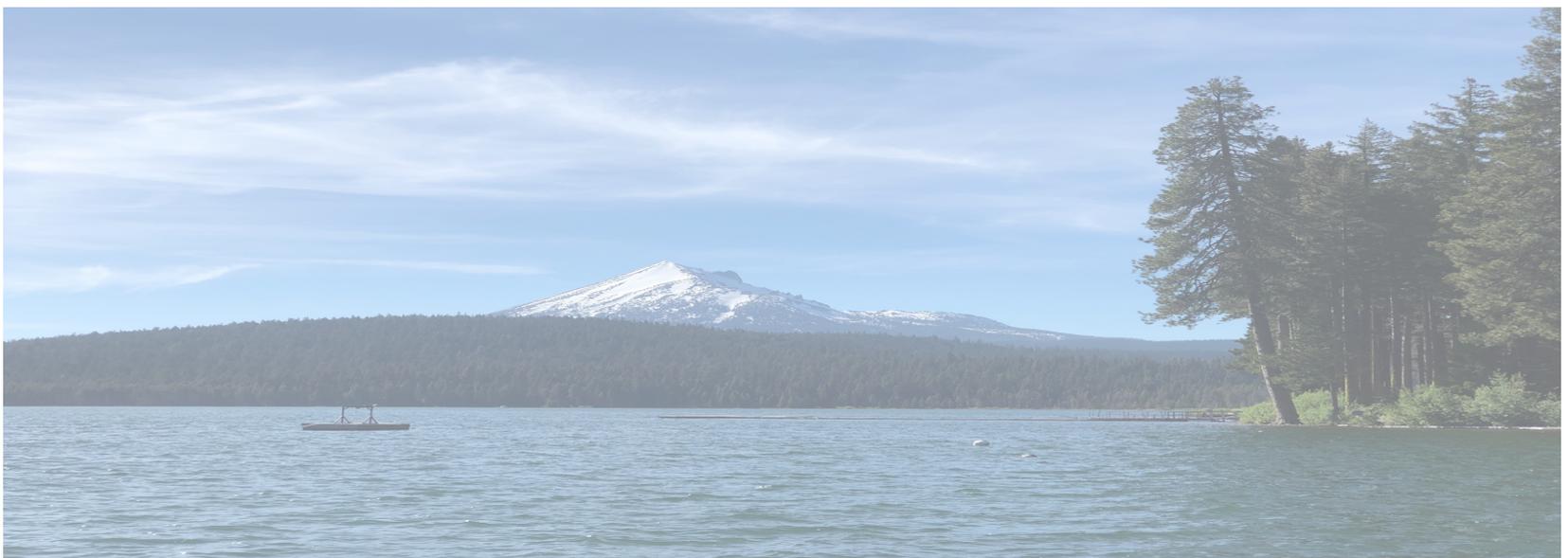
**Renewed Tribal Affairs Vision, Mission, and Values** – In the Summer of 2019, the Tribal Affairs Unit came together for a small retreat to begin planning the future of the unit. Out of this retreat the unit renewed its vision, mission, and values. With the revised vision, mission, and values, the TAU is reestablishing its direction and purpose within the agency.

**Tribal/State ICWA Conference** - In October 2019, the TAU along with the Klamath Tribes hosted for first time the Tribal/State ICWA Conference in Klamath Falls, OR. The theme, "Resilience Through Identity, Honoring the Change," offered the Klamath Tribes an opportunity to highlight how their community and its youth are connecting, reconnecting, and strengthening the connection to their tribal identity through traditional customs, practice, and language. The three-day conference was well attended by Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes, DHS employees, and state partners.

**Hiring of Senior ICWA Manager**- In the Spring of 2019 the Tribal Affairs Unit had an unsuccessful recruitment for the Senior ICWA Manager position. This lead position will oversee the development and the success of the Active Efforts Specialists across the State of Oregon. Although the hiring was unsuccessful, this gave the Tribal Affairs Unit the opportunity to rewrite the job description to fit the need of the field. With the change in the position classification the DHS Human Resources had to approve the new description. Recruitment for the revised position will begin early 2020.



**Develop Strategic Plans for each DHS Program** – The Tribal Affairs Unit plans to partner with the Office of Equity and Multicultural Services to develop strategic service equity plans for each DHS program that addresses the needs of Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes. The plans will outline tribal priorities in each DHS program and how DHS is addressing such priorities.



## Research and Data

**Klamath Data Project** – For the last couple of years the Office of Reporting, Research, Analytics and Implementation (ORRAI) has been working with the Klamath Tribes to explore how disproportionality among Klamath tribal children entering the child welfare system is happening. Through this partnership DHS has identified some key system breakdowns and gleaned that not enough preventive care is happening. The project will be proposing a human centered design approach to address these critical issues. The intention is to design a service approach that fits the Klamath tribal context and meets the specific needs of Klamath tribal children and families.

**Tribal Artifacts Survey** – In October 2019, the Tribal Affairs Unit was tasked by the Governor's office to fulfill an Executive Order that aimed to survey employees on all tribal cultural items or artifacts in the possession of DHS. With the help from ORRAI and DHS Executive Projects, the team created and distributed a survey to more than 9,000 DHS employees. The response rate was around 30%, which was a success for the project. In November 2019, the survey team delivered a summary report with data to The Legislative Commission on Indian Services.



**On the Horizons for 2020 - Designing an ICWA Compliance Tool** – This past year the Tribal Affairs Unit and ORRAI have begun to develop a tool to measure ICWA Compliance in the State of Oregon. The tool is currently taking shaping and being heavily vetted by the ICWA Case Mapping Subcommittee. The goal is to identify where the Oregon Child Welfare system is out of compliance with ICWA. Once identified, the Tribal Affairs Unit will work with DHS Child Welfare to begin ameliorating the issues. This project is a follow up to a request from an Oregon tribal partner. We expect to start using the tool in early 2020.



## Research and Data

In last year's LCIS Report, DHS with the help of the Office of Reporting, Research, Analytics and Implementation (ORRAI), reported ICWA data that was important to the ICWA Advisory Committee and our tribal partners. In this year's report DHS has updated the information and is enthused to see trends pointing towards a reduction in tribal children in care.

**Indian Child Welfare Data:** (as reported in September 2019 compared to 2018)

- DHS – 7,170 children/youth in care (**reduced from 7,669 in September 2018**)
- 374 Indian children (**reduced from 395 in September 2018**)
- 127 ICWA eligible youth (34 percent) from Oregon Tribes (**135 or 34 percent in September 2018**)
- 248 ICWA eligible youth (66 percent) from out-of-state tribes (**260 or 66 percent in September 2018**)

Tribal Affairs and ORRAI have begun using data and visualizations to drill down on trends to better tell the story of what is happening to tribal children. A new approach has led to better discussions and requests for even more nuanced information. This new way of sharing data is starting conversations among ICWA Advisory Council and with the Child Welfare program about how to use the data to better serve Oregon families. Additionally, this conversation style around data is also beginning to be used with the Active Efforts workers, to identify trends within regions where a district or branch is doing well, and to then share practice advice and improvements to other offices.

### Data Challenges

This new work is exciting and not without its challenges. DHS data systems and organizational culture were not designed to work this way, leading to some challenges around measurement and evaluation of some components of ICWA compliance. Some important process measures currently live in spreadsheets in each of the DHS 16 districts, and those and others are not captured in DHS administrative data in a way that promotes analysis. Additionally, some data fields such as case notes were historically entered and never revisited, leading to a lack of detailed documentation, as staff focused on the areas that required immediate attention. To address these barriers, ORRAI is working on technical and organizational cultural solutions. Processes are being streamlined around ICWA search, and there are new screens in the queue for changes in OR-Kids, DHS case management system, which will allow DHS to pull more administrative data for analysis. ORRAI is also working with staff across the state to introduce a data-informed decision making culture and creating understanding and incentive to enter data accurately and at a higher level of detail. It is a work in progress.

# Tribal Affairs Training Numbers

15

The Tribal Affairs Unit fulfills its mission through convening meetings, facilitating trainings, offering technical assistance, and hosting specialty events. Below is a comprehensive list of where our staff has put their time and effort throughout the year. We've also included some of the work of our Active Efforts Specialists.

2019 Training/Technical Assistance	Number	Total
Tribal ICWA Consultations with Oregon Tribes	65	
Tribal ICWA Consultations with DHS Branches	99	
Tribal ICWA Consultations with Out of State Tribes	3	
		<b>167</b>
2019 Quarterly Trainings/Meetings	Number	Total
DHS Directors/Oregon Tribes Convening	3	
ICWA Advisory Council Meetings	4	
Regional ICWA Tribal/State Meetings	9	
Child Welfare Consultants Trainings	10	
9 Tribes Prevention Meetings	3	
Juvenile Court Improvement Project Meetings	4	
Foster Care Steering Committee	2	
ICWA Search Specialists Meetings	3	
Permanency Committee	3	
Community Partner ICWA Trainings	9	
Policy Committee	4	
New DHS Supervisors Trainings	2	
Active Efforts Specialists Trainings/Meetings	8	
Tribal/DHS Branch Leadership Meetings	4	
We Are Here Oregon Native Employees (ERG)	3	
Senate Bill 770 meetings with OHA staff and Oregon Tribes	4	
		<b>75</b>



# Tribal Affairs Training Numbers

16

Special Topic Trainings	Number	Total
Qualified Expert Witness Training	1	
ROM Training for Active Effort Specialists	1	
National Indian Child Welfare Association Conference Workshops		
• Qualified Expert Witness	1	
• Active Efforts	1	
Form 1270 Trainings	6	
PSU Partnership New Worker Trainings	12	
PSU Partnership Netlink Training	2	
		<b>24</b>
ICWA Specific Meetings	Number	Total
ICWA Compliance Committee	10	
ICWA Compliance Subcommittees	26	
Oregon Child Abuse Hotline	10	
Safety and Reunification Subcommittee	3	
Qualified Expert Witness Subcommittee	4	
Statewide ICWA Search Protocol Meetings	2	
The Klamath Tribes & Permanency Presentations	3	
The Klamath Tribes & Transfer of Dependency Cases to Tribal Court Mtg	4	
ICWA and the Oregon Safety Model Meeting	2	
District 5 ICWA Meeting	3	
Native American/Alaska Native Foster Care Recruitment & Retention Mtg	4	
		<b>71</b>



# Tribal Affairs Training Numbers

17

Active Effort Specialists Trainings	Number	Total
<b>Nicomi Levine – District 2 (Multnomah County)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1270 Trainings</li> <li>• ICWA Quarterly Training – Incorporating Culture into Active Efforts</li> <li>• ICWA Quarterly Training – Cultural Importance of Hair</li> <li>• ICWA Quarterly Trainings – Missing &amp; Murdered Indigenous Women</li> <li>• Therapeutic Visits &amp; ICWA Cases Trainings</li> <li>• New DHS Employees Trainings</li> <li>• Boys and Girls Aid Community Partner Training</li> <li>• OR Tribal/State ICWA Conference Workshop</li> </ul>	2 1 1 1 3 2 1 1	12
<b>Matt Manion – District 10 (Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson Counties)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New DHS Employees “ICWA Basics” Trainings</li> <li>• Jefferson County All Staff Meeting</li> <li>• Crook County All Staff Meeting</li> <li>• Deschutes County All Staff Meeting</li> <li>• Warm Springs Tribal Training</li> <li>• OR Tribal/State ICWA Conference Workshop</li> </ul>	15 1 1 1 1	19
<b>Marty Schroeder – District 11 (Klamath and Lake County)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICWA Historical Overview Training with Klamath Tribe</li> <li>• ICWA Quarterly Training – ICWA History and Protective Actions</li> <li>• ICWA Quarterly Training – Tribal/State Relationships</li> <li>• Klamath Tribes Tribal/State ICWA Agreements Training</li> <li>• D11 Mandatory All Staff Meeting Presentations on Current ICWA Matters</li> <li>• OR Tribal/State ICWA Conference Workshop</li> </ul>	1 1 1 1 12	16



# Tribal Affairs Training Numbers

18

<b>Christopher Espinosa – District 15 &amp; 16 (Clackamas and Washington County)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form 1270 Trainings</li> <li>• How to effectively utilize the AE Training</li> <li>• SSA Role in Active Efforts Training</li> <li>• New Search Specialist Trainings</li> <li>• New Worker Orientations</li> <li>• D15/16 Mandatory All Staff Meeting “ICWA Updates”</li> <li>• OR Tribal/State ICWA Conference Workshop</li> </ul>	3 1 1 1 2 6 1	<b>15</b>
<b>Dottie Rundles – District 3 (Marion, Polk, Yamhill Counties)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form 1270 Trainings</li> <li>• ICWA Quarterly Meeting Facilitated a Tribal Panel</li> <li>• ICWA Quarterly Training – Pow Wow 101</li> <li>• ICWA 101 for Marion County CASA Training</li> <li>• ICWA History and Training for Marion County ICWA Unit</li> <li>• ICWA Basics and history for new permanency workers training</li> <li>• ICWA Basics for Polk County CPS Workers</li> <li>• Two Spirit Presentation to LGBTQ Judges Meeting</li> <li>• D3 Mandatory All Staff Meeting “ICWA Updates”</li> <li>• OR Tribal/State ICWA Conference Workshop</li> </ul>	2 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 4 1	<b>15</b>
<b>Tina Timmons – District 7 (Coos and Curry County)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co- facilitated Tribal Parenting Workshop with CLUSI</li> <li>• New staff “Introduction to ICWA” Trainings</li> <li>• ICWA Briefs and Updates at unit meetings</li> <li>• ICWA/Cultural Component Foundations Foster Parent Certification presentation</li> <li>• Parent Education Workshops</li> <li>• CPS and ICWA Coos County Training</li> <li>• CPS and ICWA Curry County Training</li> <li>• ICWA/DHS/CASA Training</li> <li>• Tribal Partner Staffing’s</li> <li>• ICWA Quarterly Meetings</li> </ul>	7 20 8 1 5 1 1 1 3 1	<b>48</b>
<b>Total Number</b>		<b>462</b>

The Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) program assists older adults 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 and the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC). Employees also determine eligibility for certain medical programs (aged & disability) provided through the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Programs administered and key contacts are listed below.

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

## **The 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 (AAAs) for service delivery through subcontractors. About 227,000 Oregonians currently access these services. AAAs develop services that meet the needs and preferences unique to individuals in their local area. Program mandates require services to 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 AAAs 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: Kristi Murphy 503-945-6181**

## Oregon Project Independence

Oregon Project Independence (OPI) is a purely state-funded program offering in-home services and related supports to individuals ages 60 and older or people under 60 diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia disorder. OPI consumers must not be eligible for Medicaid and must meet the requirements of the long-term care Service Priority Rule. In-home services available through OPI include personal care, homemaker and chore assistance, transportation, adult day care, respite care, case management, registered nursing services and home-delivered meals. Case management is provided for free, while other services are provided on a sliding scale and are free to families below the federal poverty level. Services are provided through local AAAs.

**Key Contact for OPI: Kristi Murphy 503-945-6181**

## Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)

The ADRC is the first contact to make to find information and services to address aging or disability needs. The ADRC helps individuals learn about public and privately paid services in your local community. The ADRC has professionally trained staff who can help individuals with immediate needs and planning for the future. The ADRC of Oregon is a statewide resource for everyone, regardless of income level, and can be reached by calling a toll free number, visiting a website or by contacting a local ADRC office. [www.ADRCofofOregon.org](http://www.ADRCofofOregon.org) 1-855-673-2372 1-855-ORE-ADRC

**Key Contact for ADRC: Kristi Murphy 503-945-6181**



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

**Cash payments** for special needs. APD is required to meet maintenance of effort (MOE) payment requirements 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 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 percent 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. Clients most frequently ask for help with the federal Medicare program. 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 more than 130,000 clients in these two programs over one year. These programs help low-income beneficiaries with their cost sharing requirements. Securing this coverage also ensures Medicare remains in a "first payor" status, ultimately saving the state's Medicaid program significant money.

**Key Contact for Direct Financial Support: Erika Miller at 503-373-0756**

## **General Assistance**

The General Assistance program serves Oregonians with severe disabilities who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness who do not have children living with them, and who are not yet receiving Social Security disability benefits. General Assistance consumers are provided with free assistance with their Social Security applications and appeals, along with a small amount of cash and some support for housing and utilities. This current version of the General Assistance program became operational on July 1, 2016. The manager worked with the DHS Tribal Affairs Director to present information on General Assistance to the Tribes prior to the launch of the program.

**Key contact for General Assistance: Christopher Ellis at 503-373-2305**

## Disability Determination Services

People with disabilities may 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) but the medical decision is provided by DHS as outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). 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: Jay Minten 503-986-4803**

## Long Term Services and Supports

Oregon assists qualified low-income older adults, people with disabilities and other adults covered under the Affordable Care Act expansion with long-term services and supports. Assistance is provided to eligible individuals with their activities of daily living (ADLs) and instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs). ADLs are those personal functional activities required by all of us for continued well-being, which are essential for health and safety.

ADLs include tasks such as: bathing, personal hygiene, cognition, behavior, dressing, grooming, eating, elimination (toileting including bowel and bladder), and mobility transfers

IADLs include tasks such as: housekeeping, laundry, meal preparation, medication management, shopping and 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 must 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**



## **Tribal Agreements**

Aging and People with Disabilities has five formal agreements in place with Oregon's tribes with each agreement pertaining to the APD Tribal Navigator Program. Additionally, APD has an agreement with Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest for the same program. Each agreement provides the tribe with up to \$100,000 per year, through December 2024, to hire, retain, and oversee a Tribal Navigator position. The Navigators are trained alongside APD case managers to understand how the APD system and network functions. They use their knowledge of APD service delivery to assist tribal elders and people with disabilities obtain services and supports that allow them to live independently, in the setting of their choosing, with services that are culturally appropriate. Furthermore, APD provides annual funding of \$1,000 and staff support to the host tribe of the Native Caring Conference. APD staff sit on the planning committee and meet regularly with tribal partners. Meeting with Oregon's tribes is vital to successful collaboration. To sustain and continuously invest in government-to-government relationships, APD staff and providers regularly meet with tribal staff through various events.

## **Bi-annual Meet and Greet**

The event brings together tribal staff, APD and AAA staff to get to know one another and create plans to bring services to tribal elders and people with disabilities. The APD Tribal Navigators meet monthly with APD staff and quarterly in-person. APD staff will often travel to tribal offices to offer support, collaboration, and celebrate accomplishments.

## **Travel with Tribal Partners**

Lastly, APD and tribal staff traveled to Baltimore, MD in 2019 to jointly represent the government to government efforts being made by state and tribal entities in Oregon. The representatives participated in three panels sharing information on the meet and greets, Tribal Navigator Program, and best practices in government to government relationships. APD and the tribes have shared many successes in 2019. While trust is still being established, there is an overall shared goal of bringing services to tribal elders and people with disabilities. All parties continue to engage in good faith and drive positive outcomes.

## **2019 Challenges**

While there were many reasons to celebrate in 2019, it is imperative APD continues to focus on building relationships with tribal governments. APD plans to strengthen engagement with Oregon tribes such as Burns Paiute. With long-standing community issues regarding history, discrimination, and segregation can stall relationship building in some counties. Although APD may not have all the answers or the ability to resolve these conflicts, that does not prevent us from trying and continuing to show up for Oregon tribal communities.

The table below shows the increase of American Indian/Alaska Natives served, which demonstrates APD's efforts on improving engagement and building relationships with tribal communities.

<b>American Indian/Alaskan Natives Served Through Older Americans Act Services</b>	
2016	<b>212</b>
2017	<b>217</b>
2018	<b>229</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>456</b>

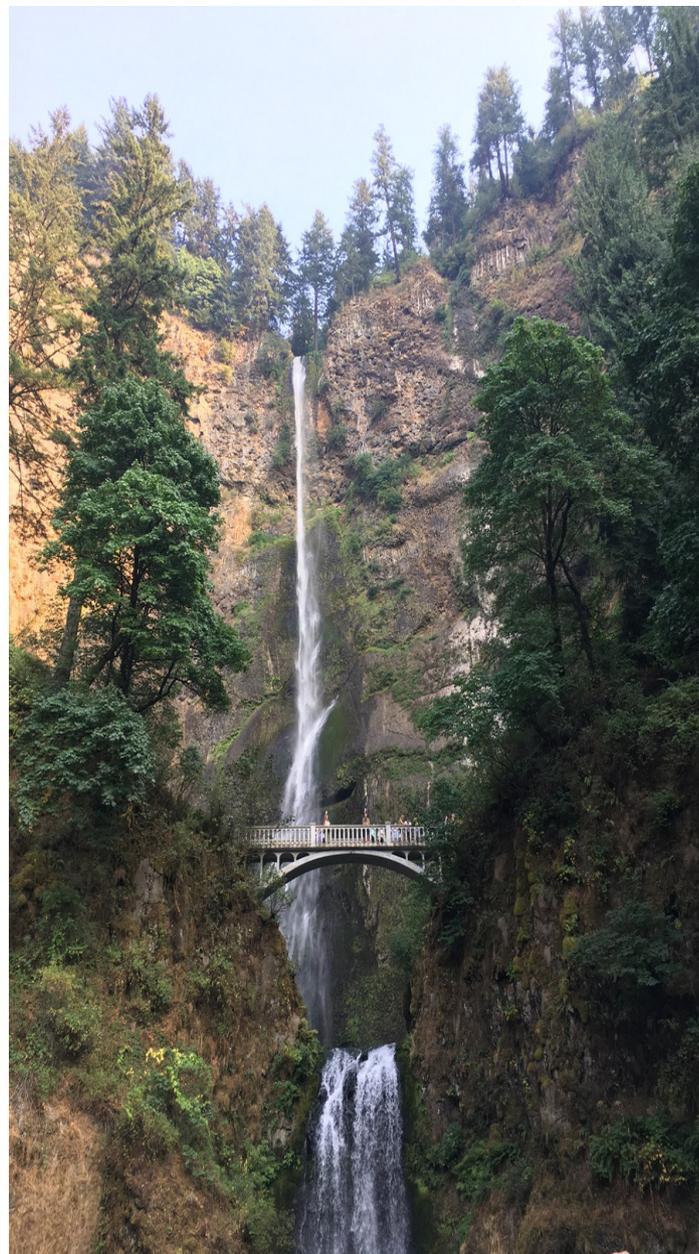
<b>APD Consumers</b>			
<b>Population</b>	<b>Total Receiving Long Term Services</b>	<b>Number Receiving Long Term Services by Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Percent Receiving Long Term Services by Race/Ethnicity</b>
<b>Non-Hispanic Native American/Alaskan Native in 2016</b>	<b>32,027</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
<b>Non-Hispanic Native American/Alaskan Native in 2017</b>	<b>31,801</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
<b>Non-Hispanic Native American/Alaskan Native in 2018</b>	<b>31,966</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
<b>Non-Hispanic Native American/Alaskan Native in 2019</b>	<b>32,795</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

The Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) program strives to support choices of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) 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 ensure that people with I/DD have the opportunity to have fulfilling and meaningful lives, allowing them to contribute to and enjoy their communities.

We currently help approximately 28,000 children, adults and their families have the best quality of life possible at all stages of their lifespan. Many individuals with I/DD are eligible for Medicaid-funded, home- and community-based services which provides access to services in their homes and local communities, instead of in institutional settings. Of the total number enrolled with I/DD services, approximately 200 adults and about 100 children identify as Native Americans.

**We seek to achieve the following outcomes and goals:**

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



An individual's eligibility for I/DD services is determined by a Community Developmental Disabilities Program (CDDP), typically run by a county. Adults who receive services in-home may be served by either a CDDP or a Support Services Brokerage. Individuals receiving services in a residential setting are served through the CDDP.

## Examples of Services

- In-home supports for everyday activities, like bathing, dressing, making meals and help with behavior or communication challenges.
- 24-hour services when persons are unable to stay at home on their own or with their family.
- Community living supports to help promote integration, independence and participation in the community.
- Ancillary services, such as behavioral consultation, assistive devices and technology, environmental modifications and nursing services.
- Employment services to support a person to learn about, find and keep employment.
- Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) safety net for persons with I/DD who have no other option for a residential bed due to high needs and extraordinary challenges.
- Family support services for families with a child with I/DD under the age of 18 who is not eligible for Medicaid. The program offers minimal support services, usually respite care.

In operating its programs, ODDS collaborates with the Oregon tribes as required by federal and state laws and regulations and to promote inclusive decision making around any program or policy changes.

Throughout 2019, ODDS worked with the tribes through the tribal consultation process on changes to Medicaid authorities that support and fund I/DD services and supports.



## Changes included:

- Adding the Medicaid eligibility group for children with adoption assistance, foster care, or guardianship care under title IV-E to ensure children with I/DD receiving services through the Child Welfare system are able to more quickly and easily access services through ODDS.
- Added employment services to the waivers that support children to ensure that transition age youth are able to access needed employment supports.
- Defined State Trained Assessors to ensure that highly trained qualified staff can perform objective needs assessment for people with I/DD accessing services through ODDS.
- Updated language to reflect implementation of the Centralized Abuse Management (CAM) System.
- Preparation included Host Homes as a new service setting available to children with I/DD to ensure children in a Host Home setting access to waiver services.

## Building Tribal Partnership

ODDS is also working on improving relationships with tribal leaders and communities. ODDS created a part-time Service Equity Coordinator role within the program and has worked with the Office of Equity and Multicultural Services (OEMS) to hire a Service Equity Manager for program to assist with those efforts. The Service Equity Coordinator participated in Grand Ronde Veteran's Summit at Ft. Yamhill State Park on July 12, 2019 in collaboration with APD. As part of its strategic effort and in concert with DHS direction, ODDS is working with stakeholders on developing a service equity plan for the I/DD service delivery system. Working with Oregon tribes will be an important component of this effort.

**Key contact: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services**  
503-945-6918 [lilia.teninty@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:lilia.teninty@dhsosha.state.or.us)



Self-Sufficiency Programs offers assistance for low-income families, to promote family stability and support families' progress out of poverty. The principal benefit areas include: Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS), Family Support and Connections (FS&C), Employment Related Day Care (ERDC), Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS), Refugee Program Youth Services Program Delivery and Design

SSP provides direct services through a network of local offices in every county across Oregon. The list of local offices and contact information can be found at this website:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/Offices/Pages/index.aspx>

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps, is a national program that offers nutrition assistance to eligible, low-income individuals and families, and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net and helps bridge the gap for people who need help meeting their basic nutrition needs.

### SNAP program components:

- Food benefits
- Employment and training programs to help participants quickly enter the workforce
- Outreach through local community organizations to improve participation
- Nutrition education in every county through classes, demonstrations and informational materials

### Oregon Fast Facts about SNAP:

- One in six Oregonians participate in SNAP
- 33 percent of participants are children
- 47 percent of households include children or seniors
- 53 percent of participants are between the ages of 18 and 59
- Seniors are the fastest growing category of participants, while overall case load has been decreasing
- SNAP-Ed direct education reached approximately 70,000 unique individuals with an average of six contacts per individual.
- Over 1.4 million visits to Food Hero social marketing displays and events

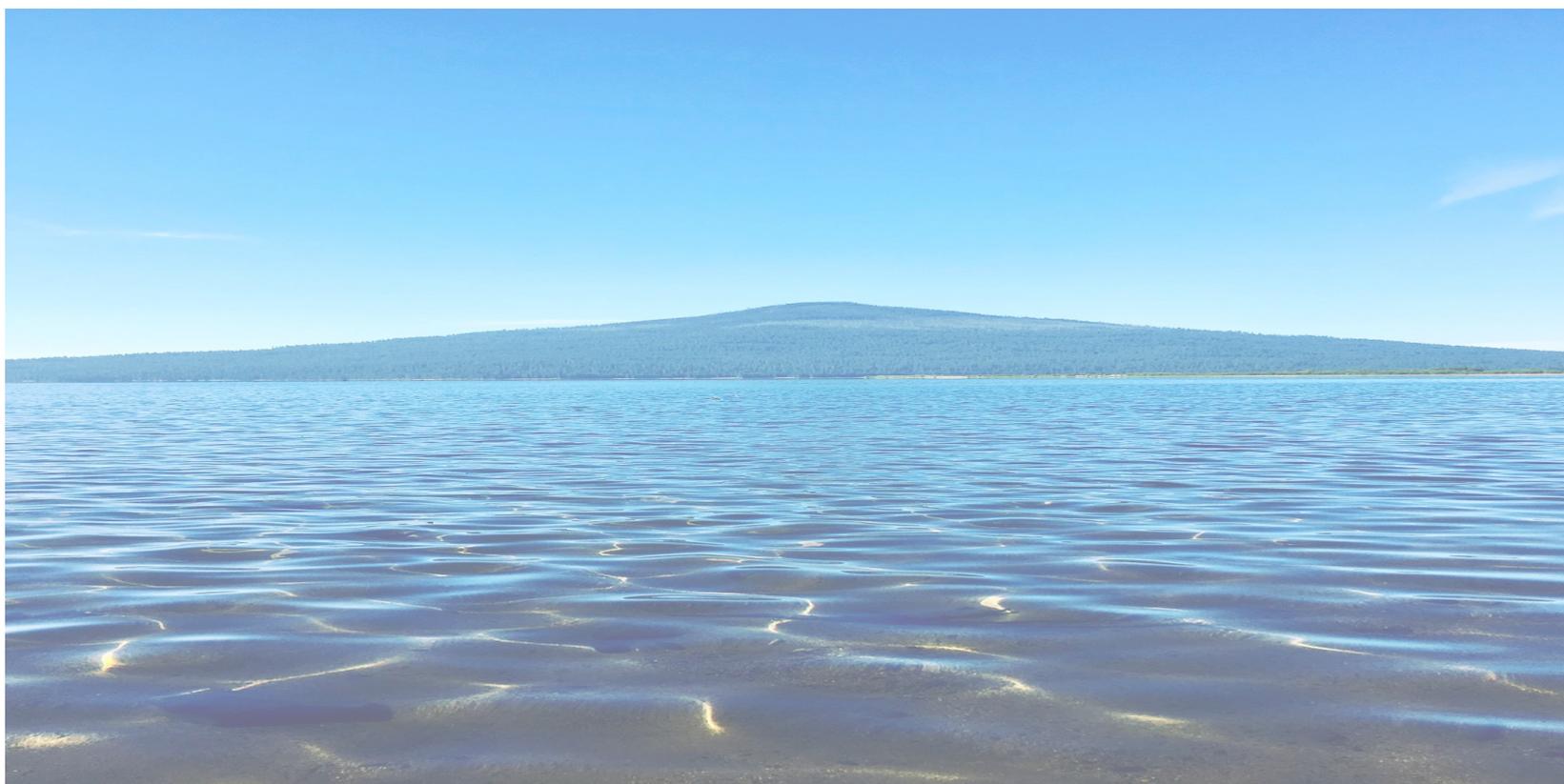
## The Emergency Food Assistance Program

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a federal program which is intended to provide lower-income households with food for household consumption and congregate meal use at no cost. DHS provides USDA commodities, as well as a portion of administrative funds, to Oregon Food Bank (OFB) as the sub-grantee. OFB works with a cooperative network of regional food banks, partner agencies, and programs as the sub-contractors who distribute food to eligible individuals and families. In addition, OFB delivers programming to address the root causes of hunger through public policy, outreach, and education.

Oregon has two voluntary SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) programs:

- SNAP Training and Employment Program (STEP), nationally called the SNAP 50/50 program.
- Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD), is currently in 13 counties

STEP has grown from two providers in 2013 to more than 30 providers with 28 subcontractors in 2020, with Oregon Employment Department (OED) offering STEP in all 37 Work Source offices around the state. The statewide expansion of STEP has provided an increased number of participants with robust components and opportunities, including education, vocational training, work experience, job search training, and support services.



## Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

TANF is a federally funded cash assistance and employment program. Its purpose is to help families with children living in poverty pay for basic needs such as shelter, utilities and daily necessities. TANF also provides services to help participants find and maintain employment 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 that include providing help with applying for Supplemental Security Income or grants to escape domestic violence 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 35 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to qualify. A family of three qualifies for up to \$506 per month in cash assistance approximately 28 percent of FPL.

## TANF Tribal Consultation

TANF program was working with Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes to implement policy changes regarding how TANF time limits and the Indian Country exclusion was applied. This was an opportunity to look at program policies through a different lens and to gain vital feedback from the tribes. One lesson learned was the importance of ongoing relationships and open communication pathways at the program level rather than waiting to collaborate only during vital program intersections. During the consultations, it was also evident that there is significant interest in better serving families through the employment programs offered by both the tribes and DHS.



## **Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS)**

The Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) program for TANF participants offers an array of services that includes job search preparation, life skills, supported and regular work experience and subsidized employment through JOBS Plus worksites. Each service is designed to help participants build employment-related skills, stabilize families, and look for work while meeting participants where they are at in their lives. Oregon is expanding the continuum of services so that TANF-leavers more easily transition to the STEP program and other community resources for continued wrap-around services and support. JOBS can include support services to pay for child care, transportation, and other payments needed to engage in services.

## **Family Support and Connections (FS&C)**

FS&C programs provided through TANF are intended to prevent the need for future child welfare services and to assist participants in moving towards holistic family stabilization using a comprehensive array of life skills, parenting training and support services. The primary service delivery utilizes a “home visiting” model, however if families prefer they can meet at a mutually agreed location.

Oregon contracts with local providers in all 16 Self-Sufficiency Program districts across the state to provide services to families through the FS&C program. While the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funds are one of the funding sources for these services, the purpose for the program is determined by these federal criteria

## **Employment Related Day Care (ERDC)**

ERDC helps low-income, working families arrange and pay for quality child care. The program provides low-income families with the same opportunity for reliable, quality child care as other families with higher incomes.

ERDC helps families make ends meet by assisting with the consistent, stable child care caretakers need to maintain employment. It also contributes to the school readiness of children and supports children with special needs, as well as offering resources to support providers who come from diverse cultural backgrounds. Child care providers are required to meet a set of health and safety standards, provider requirements, and pass required background and fingerprint checks before they can become DHS providers and receive payment.

In 2018, Oregon Administrative Rule 461-165-0180 was amended to ensure tribally licensed child care facilities met the same health and safety standards and received the same payment rates as facilities licensed through the Oregon Department of Education's Office of Child Care.

## Temporary Assistance to Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS)

TA-DVS is a TANF-funded program intended to provide temporary financial assistance and support to families affected by domestic violence during crisis or emergent situations when other resources are not available. TA-DVS is used to help the domestic violence survivor and the children address their safety concerns and stabilize their living situation, reducing the likelihood of the survivor returning to the abuser. The most common need for TA-DVS is when the domestic violence survivor flees the abuser.

The TA-DVS program is enhanced by contracts with local domestic violence organizations who place local advocates in SSP and Child Welfare offices. The advocacy services give enhanced supports to survivors working with DHS. The advocates provide services in DHS offices to survivors either by referral or by self-referral.

## The Refugee Program

The Refugee Program assists refugees and individuals with qualifying immigration statuses such as SIV (Iraq and Afghanistan), Certified Foreign-born Victim of Human Trafficking, Cuban/Haitian Entrant, Ameri-asian, and Asylum. The program is primarily funded by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), with some General and TANF funding. The program partners with local Refugee Resettlement Agencies (RRA), the Refugee Immigrant Community Organization (IRCO), and community partners. Statewide coordination to services and resources is also provided by the program staff.

Cash and medical assistance are provided to eligible single and childless couples that are in their first eight months of arrival in the U.S. or from the date in which an eligible immigration status is granted. Refugees that arrive in the U.S. with dependent children receive TANF. Additional services can be provided are provided such as acculturation, case management, youth mentoring, employment services, school impact, and senior services. These additional services are available to refugees within 60 months of their U.S. arrival date.

## Tribal Agreements

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and The Klamath Tribes, operate their own Tribal TANF programs within Oregon. These programs are funded by the federal U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Program administration for these programs utilize tribal processes and methodology for tracking data on program participants.

DHS has agreements with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and The Klamath Tribes to provide quarterly disbursements to each tribe for the purpose of financially assisting the tribe in the operation of their tribal TANF program. Per the agreements with these two tribes, DHS also provides additional services to members receiving Tribal TANF assistance. The additional services include employment and training, work experience and family supports. The tribes submit quarterly invoices for the additional services that are then paid with state funds. Both the quarterly disbursements and the invoiced amounts are counted toward Oregon's TANF maintenance of effort requirement. Included in the agreements with the tribes is a requirement for the tribes to submit data related to the number of folks served through the agreements.

- The Klamath Tribes: Receive quarterly disbursements each year of no more than \$205,256. The maximum not-to-exceed amount, including both quarterly disbursements and invoiced amounts, is \$455,813 per year.
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians: Receive quarterly disbursements each year of no more than \$244,752. The maximum not-to-exceed amount, including both quarterly disbursements and invoiced amounts, is \$489,054 per year.
- The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation also operates a TANF program in Oregon but there is no formal agreement or funding exchanged between the tribe and Oregon DHS.

Historically, DHS has attended various tribal meetings and gatherings to facilitate program updates and solicit feedback. These meetings include the previous iteration of the 770 Government to Government joint OHA/DHS meetings, Tribal Prevention Quarterly meetings and the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) conferences.

Most recently, DHS has begun a separate 770 – Government to Government meeting to address specific human service programs with tribal attendees. DHS hosts additional meetings as needed on specific topics. When DHS makes decisions on policy that directly affect tribes and their members this is communicated to the tribes and an offer to have formal consultation or meetings upon request or when there is a need for additional shared communication.

**Key contact: Daniel Haun, Director, Self-Sufficiency Programs**  
971-352-1446 Daniel.R.Haun@dhsosha.state.or.us

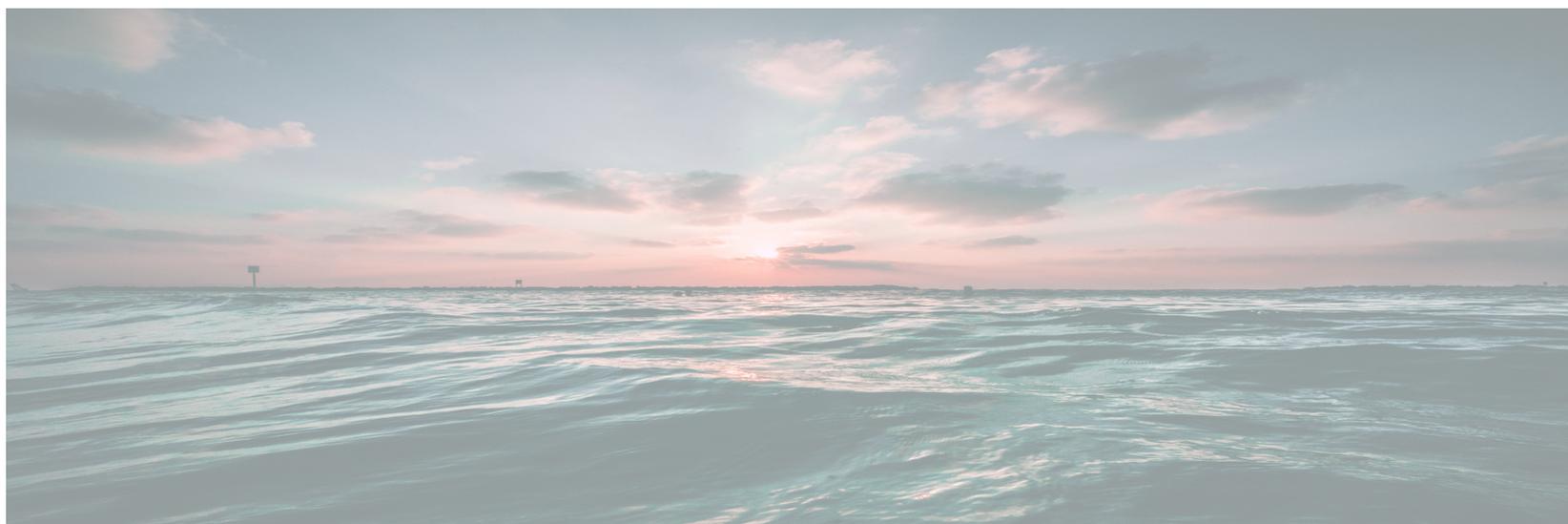
Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) continues to work with the four Tribal governments that currently deliver 121 Tribal VR program services. One program lost its funding in 2019, but the Oregon general VR program is working with that tribal government to assist in the continuation of VR services to their members. In all cases, 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. The work of VR is primarily with tribal governments that have a Tribal VR program.

## Funding

Federal funding is made available to the governing bodies of tribes located on reservations or in federally recognized service areas. The funding provides 90 percent of the costs of vocational rehabilitation services for American Indians living with disabilities residing in counties as specified within the tribe's five year block grant. The non-federal share of 10 percent may be an in-kind or cash contribution as written into the grant submission. Oregon VR has and will continue to support the Tribal VR Programs when they need to apply for new grants for their 121 VR programs. Of the five programs in Oregon that have historically provided 121 VR Services, one lost funding, three had their funding reauthorized in 2018 and one will be required to reapply in 2020.

## Tribal Cooperative Agreements

Oregon general VR has updated the cooperative agreements with each of the Tribal VR Programs: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, and The Klamath Tribes.



## Collaborative Activities

VR, in consultation with all Nine Federally Recognized Tribes, developed the mandatory memorandum of agreement with the Oregon Department of Education and VR. This agreement outlines collaborative efforts between the entities to deliver culturally relevant services to tribal members within the Oregon public school system. VR continues to distribute the PASSAGES curriculum. This curriculum enhances culturally-relevant youth school-to-work transition activities for tribal members between the 9th – 12th grades. The PASSAGES curriculum emphasizes the importance of family and the tribal community.

VR has been collaborating with Northwest Indian College and Western Washington University to develop a specialized university program dedicated to developing tribal vocational rehabilitation directors and counselors (Tribal VR Institute). The program consists of seven courses focused upon delivering rehabilitation services within the tribal setting. Now in its fourth year, this graduate-level training (given as a tribal cohort model) has proven highly successful in advancing the counseling and rehabilitation techniques available to professional tribal staff.

A strong partnership between the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and VR has resulted in a tribal rehabilitation program dedicated to providing services to any federally-recognized tribal member in conjunction with the Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest (NARA) in Portland. This allows access to Tribal VR as part of an outpatient recovery program. A mental health supported employment program was launched in 2018 to provide rapid job search and long-term accommodation supports.



## Tribal Representation on the State Rehabilitation Council

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

## Tribal 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 VR typically provides additional rehabilitation and job development services. Additionally, the Tribal VR Programs add cultural awareness to improve the professional skills among VR staff.

In 2020, VR will meet with the Burns Paiute Tribe since a new satellite office has been opened in Burns. VR also plans to focus upon Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to tribal youth (ages 14-16) who are attending public or charter schools on reservations.

## Local Outreach

A VR Pre-ETS Team has worked with Chemawa Indian School in Salem over the past two years. Initially, the work began with a technical assistance team from the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition, the Bureau of Indian Education, the University of Oregon and a local team comprised of a Transition Network Facilitator, a Pre-ETS Coordinator and Chemawa staff. Their goal was to figure out the specific needs for students with disabilities at Chemawa Indian School. After discussions the local team worked with five to eight students over three classes about instructions of self-advocacy, its origin and its importance from their perspective.

Further meetings with the Siletz Tribal VR explored the services that Siletz can provide to students at Chemawa. After the meetings, many students were referred to Siletz VR. Additionally, Chemawa and the local team worked on locating students' tribal VR in their home state to ensure the continuation of services. In November 2018, a Pre-ETS Coordinator met with Chemawa about providing Motivational Enhancement Group Intervention (MEGI) class for students in 2019. As a result of this group intervention, VR has recognized the successful partnerships with this education program. These services continue to be provided.

**Key contact: Keith Ozols, Vocational Rehabilitation Director**  
503-990-9039 [keith.s.ozols@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:keith.s.ozols@dhsosha.state.or.us)

Child Welfare has new leadership that will be focusing on improving collaboration between the Tribes and Child Welfare. The Child Welfare Director and the Tribal Affairs Director will be concentrating not only on collaboration but a true partnership. The Tribes will be at the table with the Child Welfare agency to ensure Tribal voice in every aspect of the program. Child Welfare has been trying to address the disproportionate number of native children represented in Oregon's child welfare population for many years. It is time for the agency to use data and partnership to inform practice changes and what services are necessary to keep children home or in the community to comply the true meaning of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

The goal for 2020 is to create a clear vision of partnership to enable DHS to provide data and information that demonstrates the desired outcomes and whether the steps to improve disproportionality are clearly identified and measurable.

With recent leadership transitions, the information provided by Child Welfare will remain the same as it has in the past government-to-government reports, which report the amount of state and federal funds that are passed through to the Tribes. These funds help assist the Tribe with their own Tribal Child Welfare programs.

## **Federal Policy and Resources**

DHS has continued to provide updates on the state's progress and decisions on implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act. Child Welfare provided one-on-one review of the Family First Prevention Services provision of the Act with all nine tribes either by phone or in person. DHS ensures tribes are included in the planning, design and implementation of the state's Family First Prevention Plan. In addition, Child Welfare will work with the seven tribes with Title IV-E agreements to update their agreements and to assist the Tribes in creating their five-year prevention plans. The tribes ability to participate in the Family First Prevention Services Act will rely heavily on whether the Children's Bureau identifies any culturally appropriate evidence-based services in its Clearing House list. Regardless of whether there are services the tribes can identify for their five-year plan, DHS must partner with the tribes to develop other ways and/or means to support the tribes ability to serve their own tribal members (in addition to the federal and state allocations described below).

In October 2018, The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs updated policy and procedures to ensure any employee hired to work in the Child Protective Services Center has the required criminal background checks (including fingerprints) completed and approved prior their hire date.

In April 2019, DHS worked with tribes that certify their own foster care homes to review the model licensing standards.

## Federal and State Funds allocated to Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes

### Social Service Block Grants, 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 tribes directly to meet the needs of individuals enrolled or affiliated within the tribe. Services may include, but are not restricted to: Daycare for children, protective services for children, special services to persons with disabilities, adoption, case management, health-related services, transportation, foster care for children or adults, substance abuse, housing, home-delivered meals, independent/transitional living, employment services or any other social services found necessary by the tribe for its population. All nine of the federally recognized tribes of Oregon receive SSBG funds. 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.

Tribe	SSBG Funding Received	Clients Served
The Burns Paiute Tribe	\$ *	55
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians	\$ 8,131	46
Coquille Indian Tribe	\$ 7,798	12
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians	\$14,948	110
The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	\$29,543	100
The Klamath Tribes	\$25,024	145
The Confederated Tribes of Siletz	\$32,470	143
The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla	\$19,856	252
The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	\$35,007	310

\* Funds have not yet been disbursed for 2019 at date of this report

## System of Care

Oregon's System of Care (SOC) child welfare model is the result of a collaborative agreement between DHS, 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.

Tribe	SOC Funding Received	Clients Served
The Burns Paiute Tribe	\$ 11,077	1
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians	\$ 17,390	*
Coquille Indian Tribe	\$ 18,124	6
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	\$ 28,018	*
The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	\$ 47,101	*
The Klamath Tribes	\$ 47,689	*
The Confederated Tribes of Siletz	\$ 57,230	*
The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla	\$ 55,410	130
The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	\$ 61,575	*

\* The department is still waiting for final reports therefore clients served is not complete.

## Title IV-E Agreements

Title IV-E provides federal reimbursement for the costs of eligible children in foster care, adoption assistance and guardianship assistance. 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 27 percent of the child's monthly cost of care. Title IV-E is an open-ended federal entitlement program, governed by the Social Security Act and monitored by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Region X office.

Below is the Title IV-E funding agreements DHS has with seven Oregon tribes

Tribe	Title IV-E Funding Received	Clients Served
<b>The Burns Paiute Tribe</b>	*	
<b>Coquille Indian Tribe</b>	*	
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde</b>	\$351,570	17
<b>The Klamath Tribes</b>	\$107,008	60
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Siletz</b>	\$131,264	38
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla</b>	\$186,947	21
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs</b>	\$134,560	198

\* *Burns Paiute and Coquille Indian Tribe do not have any children in the care and custody. Therefore, no Title IV-E funds have been claimed on behalf of these Tribes.*

## Title IV-B Part 2 Agreements

The primary goals of Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) are to prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families, improve the quality of care and services to children and their families, and ensure permanency for children by reuniting them with their parents, by adoption or by another permanent living arrangement. States are to spend most of the funding for services that address: family support, family preservation, time-limited family reunification, and adoption promotion and support. The services are designed to help state child welfare agencies and eligible Indian tribes establish and operate combined, preventive family preservation services and community-based family support services for families at risk. Funds go directly to child welfare agencies and eligible Indian tribes to be used in accordance with their five-year plans.

Below is a listing of all Nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon Title IV-B Part 2 funds.

<b>Tribe</b>	<b>Title IV-B Part 2 Funding Received</b>	<b>Clients Served</b>
<b>The Burns Paiute Tribe</b>	\$8,600.00	26
<b>Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua &amp; Siuslaw Indians</b>	\$8,600.00	32
<b>Coquille Indian Tribe</b>	\$8,600.00	24
<b>Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians</b>	\$8,600.00	50
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde</b>	\$8,600.00	20
<b>The Klamath Tribes</b>	\$8,600.00	181
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Siletz</b>	\$8,600.00	*
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla</b>	\$8,600.00	218
<b>The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs</b>	\$8,600.00	*

\* The department is still waiting for final reports therefore clients served is not available.

## **Training Provided by Federal Policy and Resources**

The Department provides ongoing training for SSBG, SOC, Title IV-E and Title IV-B part 2 funding sources on-site with individual tribes or group training for tribes. The trainings are focused on providing technical assistance to tribes with Title IV-E agreements but have been 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 2019, 11 individual trainings and technical assistance visits were conducted with the tribes by Child Welfare, Federal Policy and Resources (FPR). 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. Training is also provided to all Oregon Tribes as requested on reporting and documentation requirements for SSBG, SOC and Title IV-B Part 2. Daily technical assistance is available by phone or email to all Oregon Tribes on OR-Kids and federal and state funding sources with each tribe.

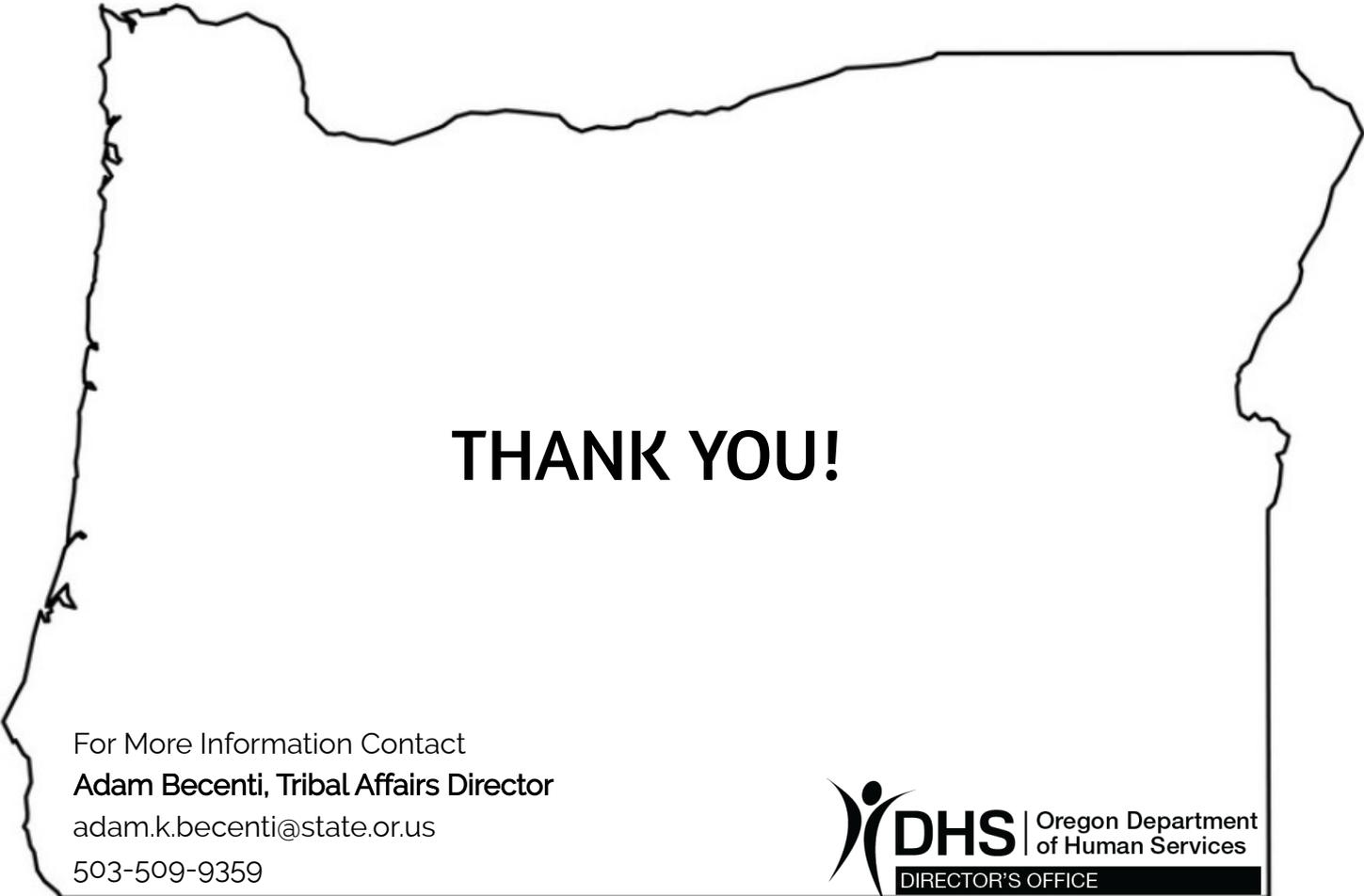
**Key Contact for Child Welfare: Rebecca Jones Gaston, Child Welfare Director**  
[Rebecca.JonesGaston@state.or.us](mailto:Rebecca.JonesGaston@state.or.us)

## **Child Safety Program**

The Child Safety Program is committed to decreasing disproportionality in Oregon's child welfare system. In order to do so, we must be accountable to our practice and innovative in our strategies. The Child Safety Team's number one priority in 2020 is to build upon our partnership with Oregon's nine tribes to identify challenges and remove barriers with a common goal of improving the lives of Indian children and families we serve. In partnership with the Tribal Affairs unit, the Child Safety Consultants will be actively collaborating throughout 2020 with the Active Efforts Specialists to prevent unnecessary separations between Indian children and their families, increase family and community connections when Indian children are placed in out of home care and increase statewide consistency in ICWA implementation. The team will focus on improving outcomes and utilizing data to improve our decision making in choosing interventions that are culturally aligned. We recognize the impact of bias in child welfare has led to over-representation of Indian children in out of home placements therefore each month our Child Protective Services (CPS) program meeting will involve an in-depth focus on ICWA; educating our team through learning opportunities, training and coaching on topics such as historical trauma and the profound impact of removing a child from their community, understanding and addressing bias, using data for change, and conducting practice mapping on ICWA cases to identify gaps in services and inform policy and procedure improvements.

**Key Contact for Child Protective Services: Deena Loughary**  
[Deena.K.Loughary@state.or.us](mailto:Deena.K.Loughary@state.or.us)

While we are proud to share the results of our partnership during 2019, we understand DHS has far to go in meeting the needs of tribes. During 2020, we will continue strengthening our commitment and relationship to our tribal partners so we can move forward together to improve the health and well-being of Oregon tribal communities.



**THANK YOU!**

For More Information Contact  
**Adam Becenti, Tribal Affairs Director**  
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503-509-9359

