

Tribal Consultation Policy Fact Sheet

Purpose

The State of Oregon and the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) share the goal of upholding Tribal sovereignty, strengthening government-to-government relationships, and promoting effective communication with the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon through consultation.

Policy Overview

At the request of Tribal governmental leaders for a single ODHS and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) policy and in coordination with OHA, the OHA-ODHS Tribal Consultation and Urban Indian Health Program Confer Policy has been adopted and will be operationalized for ODHS January 1, 2024.

Tribal consultation involves intentional engagement with Tribal governments in the exchange of information, developing mutual understanding, and ensuring informed decision-making in ODHS program development and changes, implementation planning, and policy changes impacting Oregon Tribal members. Tribal consultation will be offered by ODHS when there is significant, specific or disproportionate impact to Tribes, can be requested by Tribes and should occur at the earliest point in the process.

Process Overview

- "Critical Event" is identified by ODHS programs or Tribes;
- ODHS programs or Tribes coordinate with ODHS Office of Tribal Affairs;
- Official "Dear Tribal Leader Letter" is sent;
- Tribes respond should there be interest in formal consultation or to provide comments;
- ODHS program directors and Tribal governmental leaders formally convene for consultation on the Critical Event (this can include during SB770 Health and Human Services Cluster Meetings, ODHS Directors/Oregon Tribes Quarterly Convening Meeting and Quarterly Indian Child Welfare Act Advisory Council Meetings); and
- Reports are provided on how Tribal perspective is reflected in program development and changes, implementation plans, and policy changes.

For more information including to get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge contact Tribal Affairs Communications Specialist Tony Aaron Fuller (Colville/Yakama) or 503-509-9359 (voice/text). We accept all relay calls.