



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

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Governor

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Director

Tribal Consultation Annual Report July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Agency Overview

The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) works with families, community organizations, advocates and state and federal partners to realize our collective vision that every child, adult, and family in the state of Arizona will be safe and economically secure. DES works to promote enhanced safety and well-being for Arizonans by focusing on three primary goals: strengthening individuals and families, increasing self-sufficiency, and developing the capacity of communities. Whether you are an individual who needs help, a potential employee passionate about helping others, or a part of the extensive network of human service professionals throughout Arizona dedicated to improving outcomes for children and families, we look forward to working with you to create a better tomorrow by providing support today. This includes collaborating with and coordinating service delivery to Arizona's 22 Tribal Government Nations. DES recognizes the importance of highlighting its commitment, perspective and resources to serve as a focal point for bringing pertinent information to all of Arizona's Tribes. DES continues to respect the Tribal sovereignty and self-determination of all 22 Tribes and continues to work with them through Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs), collaborations, and partnerships, both formally and informally. DES is comprised of five core divisions: 1) Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), 2) Division of Benefits and Medical Eligibility (DBME), 3) Division of Child Support Services (DCSS), 4) Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), & 5) Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services (DERS).

Tribal Consultation Activities

Goal 1: Establish Communication Channels for Continuous Dialogue

Objective: Make every effort to solicit feedback and recommendations regarding department issues whenever possible.

DAAS Activities & Measures

- Attended and participated in the Arizona Tribal (Six Tribes) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) quarterly conference on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Reservation to provide program updates as well as technical assistance upon request (Nov. 2016).
- Provided assistance to Fort Mojave Indian Tribe on request for application (Jan. 2017).
- Adult Protective Services (APS) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Colorado River Indian Tribes (April 2017).
- Changes/updates to Request for Application for Fort Mojave Indian Tribe (May 2017).
- Tribal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) MOU (June 2017).

DBME Activities & Measures

- Facilitated Tribes in submitting Data Sharing Agreements, MOUs, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) plans, as well as amendments on said agreements/plans as needed.
- Assisted eight Tribes with their food distribution programs to obtain “AZTECS” computer systems database to assist in eliminating dual participation.
- Provided routine Family Assistance Administration (FAA) communication updates to TANF Tribal programs through quarterly meetings to enhance procedures and create solutions.

DCSS Activities & Measures

- Delivered the Child Support Services overview presentation at the Tribal Social Services Workgroup meeting at the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (Feb. 2017).
- Also delivered the same presentation with follow-up Q/A at the Nineteen Tribal Nations Workforce Development Board (NTNWDB) meeting in February 2017 and at the Arizona Tribal (Six Tribes) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) quarterly conference in March 2017.
- Worked in collaboration with the DES Office of Community Engagement to provide a detailed overview of Child Support Services to Native Health (Federally Qualified Health Center & Urban Indian Health Program) which eventually led to the creation of a weekly co-location, onsite DCSS office to assist urban Tribal members and their families in metro Phoenix with a variety of DCSS services/supports/programs.

DDD Activities & Measures

- Ongoing consultation with Navajo Nation regarding the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) contract for DDD Case Management Services.

DERS Activities & Measures

- Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) staff hosted weekly “Friday Chat” phone calls with Tribal leaders and RSA staff to discuss policy, best practices, and new services.
- The Employer Engagement Administration (EEA) Unemployment Insurance (UI) Tax section participated in a conference call with the Tohono O’odham Nation to Discuss possible ways to ensure their claim documents reach the appropriate location/person and provided assistance to the Nation for difficulties they are experiencing due to multiple organizations under one Tribal account.
- The Tohono O’odham Nation eventually concluded to handle the division of responses internally for the time being.
- Child Care Administration (CCA) provided assistance to the Hualapai Tribe to obtain child care for a child with special needs in foster care in Maricopa County.
- CCA worked closely and guided the Quechan Indian Tribe in securing child care for a Tribal CPS child.
- CCA provided training and support to Pascua Yaqui Tribal DES Certified Homes.
- CCA shared the Tribal CPS and Jobs Child Care referrals.
- CCA participated in discussions regarding Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG) and provided information regarding the Child Care Work Force Registry.
- CCA presented and explained changes to eligibility criteria as it relates to TANF, other categories of child care eligibility, and program changes as a result of CCDBG.

Goal 2: Establish and Maintain Trust, with Ongoing Consultation

Objective: Build meaningful relationships with state and federally recognized Tribes in Arizona by engaging in open, continuous, and relevant consultation.

All Divisions Activities & Measures

- DES Tribal Government Consultation (Sept. 2016, Feb. 2017, & June 2017). DES Office of Tribal Relations Mini-Conference on Cultural Awareness in Recognition of Native American Heritage Month (Nov. 2017).
- Nineteen Tribal Nations Workforce Development Board & Nineteen Tribal Nations Program Directors quarterly meetings and annual conference (Aug. 2016, Dec. 2016, Feb. 2017, & May 2017).
- Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day (Jan. 2017). Arizona Tribal (Six Tribes) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) quarterly conferences (Aug. 2016, Nov. 2016, & March 2017).

- DES Office of Professional Development Tribal Nations Instructor Liaison provided forty-three Tribal consultations/trainings with technical assistance on DES programs/services/supports for FY2017.

DBME Activities & Measures

- Developed a specialized caseload to assist in limiting TANF errors in Southern Region and provided detailed data/feedback to Navajo Nation that factored into the future changes in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) waiver.
- Onsite meetings with all Arizona Tribal Nations to assist in the ongoing feedback and learning process of each Tribe.

DCSS Activities & Measures

- Delivered an in-depth program overview to both the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Early Childhood Education Program and the Arizona Tribal (Six Tribes) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Programs.

DDD Activities & Measures

- Site visit and presentation to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Social Service Department (Feb. 2017).
- Attended the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Resource Fair (March 2017) to provide DDD and Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) information to Tribal community members.

DERS Activities & Measures

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Employment & Training (SNA E&T) Program consultation with all attending Tribal leaders at the DES Tribal Government Consultation (June 2017) which later resulted in the verbiage of the 2018 SNA E&T Arizona State Plan.
- At all DES Tribal Government Consultations, CCA provided updates and support regarding TANF-related child care and questions about CCDBG changes.
- CCA provided ongoing support and technical assistance to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Home Certification Program regarding billing and orientations as well as ongoing requests for assistance.

Goal 3: Promote and Maintain Cultural Awareness and Competency

Objective: Cultivate working relationships with key persons in Tribal governments and acknowledge the unique relationship between the state government and Tribes.

DAAS Activities & Measures

- Navajo Nation Nutritional Assessment & Data Entry Training (Nov. 2016).
- Office of Professional Development Tribal Cultural Awareness Training (Dec. 2016).

DBME Activities & Measures

- At the request from Tribes and with the generous assistance from the DES Office of Professional Development, cultural awareness training workshops were provided to frontline DBME personnel statewide (approximately 2,000 Program Service Evaluators (PSE) trained).
- DES Office of Professional Development Tribal Nations Instructor Liaison, DBME Tribal Liaison, and DES Tribal Relations Liaison all worked together to accomplish this feat which has led to interest from other DES divisions to explore similar cultural awareness trainings for their respective personnel.
- It should also be noted that the DES Office of Professional Development Tribal Nations Instructor Liaison additionally provided twenty-two cultural awareness education trainings with other DES divisions and other statewide partners.

DCSS Activities & Measures

- Ongoing partnership with Native Health to have weekly DCSS case management available at the Native Health Central location in Phoenix, AZ to assist urban Tribal members & their families.
- Child support services presentation at the Guadalupe Coalition Prevention Partnership & the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Victim Services (Oct. 2016).
- Provided information and support at request of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (Nov. 2016).
- Attended and provided divisional support at the Tribal Social Services Directors Workgroup meeting at the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (April 2017).
- DCSS works very intimately with Navajo Nation through an active IGA. Attended and provided informational programmatic support at both the Annual Fatherhood Is Leadership National Conference (Nov. 2016) and Annual Southwest Indian Rainbow Gathering (Oct. 2016).

DDD Activities & Measures

- Delivered DDD/AzEIP overview presentation, follow-up Q/A, and technical assistance to the following: a) Arizona Tribal (Six Tribes) TANF quarterly conferences (March 2017), b) Gila River Indian Community (April 2017), c) Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (April 2017), d) San Carlos Apache Tribe (June 2017).

DERS Activities & Measures

- The EEA State Apprenticeship Program Coordinator participated in the Nineteen Tribal Nations Training Academy in Prescott, AZ and presented on “Registered Apprenticeships” and “Apprenticeships in Arizona”.
- Assisted in collaboration of the DES-wide conference in honor of Native American Heritage Month focused on presentations from Tribal members regarding cultural awareness, sensitivity, and differences in the various Tribal cultures.
- CCA Management Team, CCA Leadership, CCA Certification Staff, and ECE community partners all participated in Cultural Awareness Training by DES Office of Professional Development Tribal Nations Instructor Liaison.

Goal 4: Enhance the Consultation Process

Objective: Establish or participate in work groups, task forces, or other groups or committees with Tribes to address issues affecting the AZ Tribes.

DAAS Activities & Measures

- Assisted the Hopi Tribe with their Indirect Cost (IDC) funds request (Nov. 2016).
- Provided technical assistance to the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe with the State of Arizona Social Services Block Grant (April 2017).
- Helped the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe resolve a contractual funding matter (April 2017).
- Assisted in the resolution of an Adult Protective Services jurisdictional-related matter with the Colorado River Indian Tribes (April 2017).

DBME Activities & Measures

- Assisted eight Tribes with food distribution programs to obtain AZTECS to assist in eliminating dual participation between AZ SNAP and AZ Tribal Food Distribution.
- Coordinated collaboration efforts with DBME policy, systems, and management for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in full support of the Tribe’s amendment to their Tribal TANF Plan.
- Ongoing collaboration with the Hopi Tribe to support their transition to Tribal TANF from DBME to the Tribe, which has involved divisional policy, systems, regions, and management.

DCSS Activities & Measures

- Outreach with select/interested Tribes from presentation efforts at various meetings/conference/events to determine how Tribes would like to proceed with child care services (i.e. income withholding orders, jurisdiction, & cultural context).

DDD Activities & Measures

- Actively participated in the American Indian Disability Summit Planning Committee as a full committee member on behalf of DDD and collaborated with all ADES Tribal Liaisons to deliver a comprehensive presentation at the 13th Annual American Indian Disability Summit.
- Developed ongoing working communication and collaborative relationship with Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Tribal Liaison to better assist Tribes and Tribal members with DDD/AzEIP services/supports.
- Routinely participated in Tribal Social Services Workgroup meetings at the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona to provide divisional updates and technical assistance to Tribes.

DERS Activities & Measures

- RSA staff hosted workshops for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program staff and members of the Tohono O'odham Nation and Navajo Nation Tribal VR 121 Programs regarding how to provide Pre-Employment Transition Services for students with disabilities (new VR service under the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)).
- Provided technical assistance and resolved issues for both Hopi and San Carlos Apache Tribal TANF Programs.
- RSA assisted in the planning, sponsoring, and hosting of the 13th Annual American Indian Disability Summit, which provides training, outreach, and assistance to American Indians with disabilities and their families to increase knowledge of resources and eliminate barriers to service delivery.
- Participated in first DAAS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Workgroup meeting to discuss better collaboration with Tribes and non-Tribal members actively residing on Tribal Nation reservations.
- CCA actively participated in the Tribal Early Childhood Workgroup where CCA provided ongoing support to the Tribes for both child care center and child home care.
- CCA actively participated in the Tribal Social Services Workgroup where CCA provided information/updates and support for Tribes.
- CCA collaborated with the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA), Hopi Tribe Child Care Director, and the Hualapai Tribe Child Care Director to help meet child care needs of the Tribes by providing information on the DES Certified Home and NCRP programs for potential implementation for their respective Tribes.
- CCA participated in a joint site visit of the Hopi Tribe by Tribal members of the Tribe where further conversation was explored regarding DES Certified Child Care Homes and how the Tribe could benefit from the program.
- CCA visited the Tohono O'odham Nation reservation in Sells, AZ with ITCA to provide help and support in establishing a DES Child Care Home Certification Program.

[DES Tribal Government Consultation Policy](#) (DES 1-92-03)

Identify the challenge(s) encountered by staff in providing services to Tribes and/or Tribal Community Members:

Many Arizona Tribes are located in rural communities and some are often in very remote (even isolated) areas which share the same challenges/barriers such as convenient access to DES services/supports, lack of transportation, little or no internet access. Our DES On-The-Go (DOTG) initiative aims to bridge service gaps by bringing a mobile team of staff members from the Family Assistance Administration to rural communities to provide eligibility determination for medical, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. DOTG has provided services to many rural Northern Region Tribal communities (i.e. Kaibab Paiute, Tonalea, Shonto, Teec Nos Pos, Inscription, Kaibeto, Sanders), yet our DOTG still faces challenges with identifying local community assisters to become Health-e-Arizona Plus Application for Benefits (HEAplus) Community Partners where they can receive training for the HEAplus application as HEAplus provides the information that is needed to make an eligibility decision. To help solve this challenge, our DBME Tribal Liaison has been meeting with Tribes to discuss the functionality of the HEAplus software and Data Sharing Agreements with hopes that we can overcome these challenges in providing services to all Tribes/Tribal Members.

Legislative Changes that may have an impact on Tribes and/or Tribal Community Members:

An act amending sections 46-101 and 46-292, Arizona Revised Statutes; Chapter 330 Senate Bill 1108 (relating to Cash Assistance for dependent children) was approved by the Governor on May 22, 2017, which expands the definition of child only case to include cash assistance cases in which the eligible dependent child is in the legal custody of a Tribal court or a Tribal child welfare agency in Arizona and therefore requires DES to allow cash assistance for an otherwise eligible dependent child during the period in which the dependent child is in unlicensed kinship foster care with an unrelated adult. DBME has responded accordingly with a team effort to include policy, systems and management. DBME Tribal Liaison began Tribal outreach and also sought out assistance from Arizona Department of Child Safety Tribal Liaison for Tribal foster care data.

For questions or more information, please contact:

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