



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor

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Director

**TRIBAL CONSULTATION ANNUAL REPORT**  
**July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018**

**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 makes Arizona stronger by helping Arizonians reach their potential through temporary assistance for those in need and care for the vulnerable. 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), Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs), 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:**

*Division of Aging & Adult Services (DAAS)*

Goal	Objective	Activity & Performance Measure
Establish effective communication channels and to discuss potential changes to policy that will have a significant impact on AZ Tribes.	Attend all DES Tribal Government Consultations to have an opportunity to interact with participating Tribal Leaders and Tribal Social Service Directors.	DAAS attended all DES Tribal Government Consultations and followed up with many Tribes that resulted in future learning opportunities with Tribal Social Service Staff.
Establish and maintain trust, with ongoing consultation.	Request by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community to provide Adult Protective Services (APS) overview training to Tribal APS staff.	DAAS provided an in-depth APS overview training to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Tribal APS staff.
Promote and maintain cultural competency and cultural awareness among department division liaisons.	Request by AZ Tribes to have division-wide cultural awareness training.	DAAS collaborated with Office of Professional Development to have the DES Tribal Nations Instructor Liaison provide cultural awareness sessions to division staff.
Enhance the consultation process by gathering individuals with extensive knowledge of particular policy, practice, issues or concerns to work collaboratively and offer recommendations for consideration.	Request by the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe to help with an ongoing APS-related matter involving a non-Tribal member residing on Tribal Land.	DAAS worked closely with the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe per Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) and involved APS leadership in the resolution of the matter.

*Division of Benefits & Medical Eligibility (DBME)*

Goal	Objective	Activity & Performance Measure
Establish effective communication channels and discuss potential changes to policy that will have a significant impact on AZ Tribes.	Obtain MOU from the Tohono O'odham Nation on process and procedure followed by the Nation in meeting Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) work requirements.	DBME participated in quarterly service coordination meetings with the Tohono O'odham Nation in Tucson where the Nation explained the detailed One Stop process for Tribal TANF clients to comply with work requirements.
Establish and maintain trust, with ongoing consultation.	Request by all six AZ Tribal TANF Programs to attend/participate in the Six Tribes TANF Quarterly Conference and share relevant information with active collaboration.	DBME attended and participated in all Six Tribes TANF Quarterly Conferences where specific Family Assistance Administration (FAA) & Disability Determination Services Administration (DDSA) information was shared with the Tribal TANF Programs. DBME also provided technical assistance to help bridge gaps in service delivery.
Promote and maintain cultural competency and cultural awareness among department division liaisons.	Request by Pascua Yaqui Tribe to establish a best practice plan for all Tribal DBME cases managed in the DES – Guadalupe and DES – Tempe sites.	DBME facilitated strategic planning meetings with both Guadalupe & Tempe DBME staff along with Pascua Yaqui Tribal Social Services staff to develop a best practice plan.

Enhance the consultation process by gathering individuals with extensive knowledge of particular policy, practice, issues or concerns to work collaboratively and offer recommendations for consideration.	Execute a Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) with the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe so the Tribe can have shared view only access to the DES Eligibility Determination System (AZTECS) to monitor for dual participation for their Tribal Food Distribution Program.	DBME participated in a meeting with Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe Social Services to explain how a DSA could be helpful to the Tribe's Food Distribution Program by routinely monitoring for dual participation in the DES Eligibility Determination System.
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***Division of Child Support Services (DCSS)***

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Activity &amp; Performance Measure</b>
Establish effective communication channels and discuss potential changes to policy that will have a significant impact on AZ Tribes.	Attend all DES Tribal Government Consultations to have opportunity to interact with participating Tribal Leaders and Tribal Social Service Directors.	DCSS attended all DES Tribal Government Consultations and debriefed with Tribes to learn more about respective Tribes' stance on child support & child support enforcement to learn how DCSS can better serve and collaborate with Tribes.
Establish and maintain trust, with ongoing consultation.	Upon request from Tribes, DCSS is to participate in the Tribal Child Support webinar, "Everything You Need to Know about Tribal Child Support Agencies".	DCSS participated in the Tribal Child Support webinar to learn more about how various Tribal agencies nationwide operate their respective child support programs and future collaborative opportunities with AZ Tribes.
Promote and maintain cultural competency and cultural awareness among department division liaisons.	Request by AZ Tribes to establish a best practice plan for all Tribal DCSS cases.	DCSS routinely participated in the Guadalupe Coalition meetings which included the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. The Tribe provided ongoing best practice plans to assist DCSS in helping to better serve their Tribal members.
Enhance the consultation process by gathering individuals with extensive knowledge of particular policy, practice, issues or concerns to work collaboratively and offer recommendations for consideration.	Attend and participate in the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) National Conference in Scottsdale, AZ to learn more nationwide practices and also educate others on AZ Tribes.	DCSS attended the NCSEA and provided an overview presentation on AZ Tribes to over a hundred attendees to help educate on the uniqueness of Tribes and to learn how other states approach Tribal relations.

***Division of Development Disabilities (DDD)***

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Activity &amp; Performance Measure</b>
Establish effective communication channels and discuss potential changes to policy that will have a significant impact on AZ Tribes.	Highlight the new Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account program to all AZ Tribes. ABLE account programs are investment programs that offer persons with disabilities, their family and friends, the option to contribute to a tax-exempt savings account for disability-related expenses.	DDD provided an overview presentation on the new ABLE account program to all attending Tribal Leaders and Tribal Social Service Directors at the June 2018 DES Tribal Government Consultation. Another overview presentation was also provided at the Tribal Social Services Workgroup meeting at the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) upon direct request from ITCA.
Establish and maintain trust, with ongoing consultation.	Meet with Tribal Social Services and Tribal Leaders to present information on DDD eligibility, referral, and services, provide technical assistance and gather relevant feedback.	From July 2017 through June 2018, DDD actively consulted with nearly all AZ Tribes including numerous in-person meetings with Tribal Social Service staff and select Tribal Leaders to continue to break down barriers and enhance overall communication.
Promote and maintain cultural competency and cultural awareness among department division liaisons.	Request by AZ Tribes to have division-wide cultural awareness knowledge of AZ Tribes and to have a primary point of contact for any/all Tribal DDD matters.	In Winter 2017, DDD senior leadership agreed to commit a full-time staff member to being a division-wide Tribal Liaison. The DDD Tribal Liaison was hired in late February 2018 and has actively provided cultural specific information to DDD staff.
Enhance the consultation process by gathering individuals with extensive knowledge of particular policy, practice, issues or concerns to work collaboratively and offer recommendations for consideration.	Request by First Things First to participate in a collaborative workgroup with other state agencies with focus on current collaboration with Tribes in the areas of developmental & sensory screening and supporting children with developmental delays.	DDD actively participated in the collaborative workgroup and provided detailed AzEIP developmental screening data for Tribal children, which was later used in the First Things First 2018 Tribal Consultation on Developmental & Sensory Screening.

***Division of Employment & Rehabilitation Services (DERS)***

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Activity &amp; Performance Measure</b>
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Establish effective communication channels and discuss potential changes to policy that will have a significant impact on AZ Tribes.	Renew the DSA between DERS Data Security Unit and the Nineteen Tribal Nations (NTN) Workforce Investment Area.	DERS facilitated the DSA renewal process. The renewed DSA will permit member Tribes of the NTN to continue to have shared access to the AZ Jobs Connection labor exchange system for general and unemployment insurance data purposes.
Establish and maintain trust, with ongoing consultation.	Request by AZ Tribes to provide ongoing DES proprietary systems technical assistance.	DERS routinely provided the Hopi Tribe with technical assistance and systems updates to support the Tribe's ongoing use of the state's systems in the provision of their Tribal TANF Program.
Promote and maintain cultural competency and cultural awareness among department division liaisons.	Request by AZ Tribes to have division-wide cultural awareness knowledge of AZ Tribes and to have a primary point of contact for any/all Tribal DERS matters.	In Fall 2017, DERS senior leadership agreed to commit a full-time staff member to being a division-wide Tribal Liaison. The DERS Tribal Liaison was hired in late September 2017 and has actively provide DERS staff with subject matter expertise.
Enhance the consultation process by gathering individuals with extensive knowledge of particular policy, practice, issues or concerns to work collaboratively and offer recommendations for consideration.	Invitation to participate in AZ State Prison Complex (ASPC) tours of ASPC Perryville & ASPC Lewis in December 2017 in support of Governor Ducey's Initiative Second Chance Centers aimed at reducing recidivism.	DERS toured two ASPC (Perryville & Lewis) co-located Second Chance Employment Centers and consulted with incarcerated Tribal members about Tribal re-entry resources. This led to outreach to Tribes to see what (if any) Tribal re-entry resources are available for their Tribal members and how DERS can help support that process.

**Highlights:**

- The DES Office of Tribal Relations has grown to include three full-time Division (DBME, DDD, & DERS) Tribal Liaisons with additional Divisions (DAAS & DCSS) forecasted. The commitment from DBME, DDD, & DERS has permitted the ability to meet, support, and engage in collaborative efforts, both for and with AZ Tribes.
- In support of Governor Ducey's Arizona Management System, DDD has initiated a Tribal Communication Plan which will increase collaboration and communication with all AZ Tribes to enhance the DDD service delivery system for Tribal members. DCSS has also initiated a Tribal Participation Plan that is geared towards increasing overall Tribal participation through targeted consultations with all AZ Tribes and creation of a specific DCSS Tribal Brochure which will great assist Tribal members in understanding which DCSS services/supports are available and acknowledged by their Tribe.

**Recommendations from Tribal Representatives:** Arizona's Tribal Leadership, as a whole, consistently express a desire to be more engaged both with and by their governmental peers; recommending more peer-to-peer involvement by DES leadership in formal meetings and consultations and reiterating the need to actively include AZ Tribes in the drafting or updating/revising of any policy that may affect them. AZ Tribal leadership and Tribal staff also stress the need for continued and continuously improved communications strategies, to ensure a more balanced and efficient distribution of information to all AZ Tribes.

**Revisions to Tribal Consultation Policy:** There were no changes or revisions to the DES Tribal Government Consultation Policy (DES 1-92-03) at anytime during FY18. There are forecasted plans to open the existing policy for review, revision, and comment to AZ Tribes and the general public with hopes of having a newly updated policy in the near future.

**Challenges:** During the Tribal TANF Plan renewal process, it was discovered that one Tribe did not have any Tribal Codes and/or Ordinances within their constitution that pertained to child support or child support enforcement yet their existing Tribal TANF Plan included a section on child support/child support enforcement that would need to be acted on as part of the overall TANF process. Through ongoing communications with both the US Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children & Families Office of Family Assistance and DBME, this Tribe is now actively exploring the internal process required to create specific Tribal Codes/Ordinances necessary for a Tribal Child Support and Tribal Child Support Enforcement program with support from their Tribal community.

**For Questions or More Information, Please Contact:**

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