



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*

Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor

Timothy Jeffries  
Director

AUG 17 2015

The Honorable Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor of Arizona  
1700 West Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Ducey:

I am pleased to provide you with the Department of Economic Security's (DES) Tribal Consultation Report for State Fiscal Year 2015. This report is submitted pursuant to Executive Order 2006-14, which requires all Executive Branch agencies to produce an annual report of all action undertaken as a result of the implementation of its tribal consultation policy. The report is submitted to the Governor and Legislature and a copy is provided to the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (602) 542-5757.

Sincerely,

Timothy Jeffries  
Director

Enclosure:

cc: President Andy Biggs, Arizona State Senate  
Speaker David M. Gowan, Sr., Arizona State House of Representatives  
Members of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
Kristine FireThunder, Executive Director, Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs  
Joan Clark, State Librarian, Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY  
TRIBAL CONSULTATION REPORT  
JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015

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**INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE:**

The Mission of the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) is to make Arizona stronger by helping Arizonans reach their potential through temporary assistance for those in need, and care for the vulnerable.

The Vision: Opportunity, assistance and care for Arizonans in need.

The Goals:

- Serve Arizonans with integrity, humility, and kindness.
- Support Arizonans to reach their potential through social services that train, rehabilitate, and connect them with job creators.
- Provide temporary assistance to Arizonans in need while they work toward greater self-sufficiency.
- Provide children with food, health care, and parental financial support; provide services to individuals with disabilities; and protect the vulnerable by investigating allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

There are five core values that form the basis for the work that DES does in the fulfillment of its mission: Teamwork, Respect, Integrity, Accountability, and Diversity.

The purpose of the Office of Tribal Relations is to abide by the DES mission, vision, goals, and core values, promoting collaboration with the 22 Tribal Governments in Arizona. DES continues to respect the Tribal sovereignty and self-determination of the Tribes and continues to work with the Tribes through Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGAs), collaborations, and partnerships, both formally and informally. This report provides an overview of DES' accomplishments and Tribal consultations to show the Department's strong commitment to work with all of Arizona's Tribes. Any questions related to the information provided in this document should be addressed to Mary Huyser, DES Tribal Relations Liaison, at 602-542-1290 or via email at [DESTribalRelations@azdes.gov](mailto:DESTribalRelations@azdes.gov).

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

The DES Office of Tribal Relations is led by Tribal Relations Liaison, Mary Huyser. To better serve the Tribal communities, each of the six DES program divisions has a full-time field expert serving as a Tribal Liaison in a part-time capacity. The following are accomplishments within the DES Office of the Director through the Office of Tribal Relations and include the divisions' participation at the events:

- Established a food bank on March 25, 2015, in the Grand Canyon with the Havasupai Tribe, along with collaboration from St. Mary's Food Bank and the Division of Benefits and Medical Eligibility (DBME).
- Completed four Tribal consultations on June 19, 2014, October 17, 2014, February 26, 2015 and June 18, 2015, a 100 percent improvement from the prior fiscal year.
- Successfully completed an Emergency Lease Agreement with the Navajo Nation for DBME and the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) to continue operations in Chinle, AZ.
- Consulted with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe to make improvements by adding two benefits and medical eligibility kiosks at two different sites so staff can better assist their Tribal community.
- To better strategize and plan, the Office of Tribal Relations held ten DES internal meetings with the program division liaisons, resulting in successfully completed plans to collaborate with Tribes for better services.
- The Divisions participated, attended and enhanced communications to the tribes through involvement of Tribal events, seminars, and trainings to strengthen partnerships. DES' main involvement was their participation in the Quiz for Youth at the Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day, held at the State Capitol.
- Participated in the Six Tribal TANF Conferences to better coordinate service systems and communicate on issues that related to DES systems and customer services.
- The Office of Tribal Relations was represented at the DBME regional meetings with Tribes and participated on a workgroup to better coordinate and include Tribal youth in the Young Adult Transition Insurance (YATI) program.
- Participated in the Child Care Conference in collaboration with the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona.

- Visited and met face to face with the leadership of the 22 Tribes during the fiscal year to introduce the new DES Tribal Consultation Government Policy and to discuss the efforts made to improve and build better state/Tribal partnerships and working relationships.

#### **ARIZONA EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (AzEIP):**

- DES has updated and renewed the IGA with the Navajo Nation for the provision of Early Intervention Services.
- The Chinle and Tuba City “Growing in Beauty” teams participated in six months of coaching, teaming and natural environment trainings for providing evidence-based early intervention services.
- The Navajo Nation’s “Growing in Beauty Program” was selected as one of several regions to be part of the activities identified in Arizona’s State Systemic Improvement Plan to improve social emotional development of children enrolled in early intervention services.
- AzEIP is participating with the EPICS Center in Albuquerque, NM as one of four states participating in a workgroup sponsored by the Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution Special Education (CADRE) Technical Assistance Center to work with Native American families using collaborative problem-solving processes in Early Intervention.

#### **DIVISION OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES (DAAS):**

- DAAS implemented a new reporting system entitled “Division of Aging and Adult Reporting System (DAARS)” in October 2014. The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. Area Agency on Aging (ITCA) and Navajo Nation Area Agency on Aging (NNAAA) staff attended several DAARS trainings to teach them how to successfully navigate through the new system.
- DAAS administered the Social Services Block Grant contracts with 18 tribes through Inter Governmental Agreements.
- Tribal contracts for “Independent Living Support Services” include, but are not limited to, case management, congregate meals, home delivered meals, housekeeping, and transportation. Each participating tribe determined which services would be offered to its members, allowing tribes the flexibility in addressing unique cultural and service needs of their members.
- The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) Coordinators provided technical assistance and training to designated staff from the NNAAA and ITCA.
- DAAS contract management and program specialists conducted on-site monitoring of 12 Tribes and provided on-site technical assistance and guidance about how to improve program processes and quality of services.

#### **DIVISION OF BENEFITS AND MEDICAL ELIGIBILITY (DBME):**

- IGAs exist with six Tribes who operate their respective Tribal TANF programs. DBME provided the Tribes with technical assistance, coordination of operations, collaboration on participation rate data, and assistance with the completion of federal TANF reports.
- DBME resolves Tribal TANF case determination concerns such as program pre-compliance, lifetime benefits limits, work program referral, and approval process. Consultation was provided on TANF policies and procedures and the Tribes’ TANF Plans.
- DBME instituted quarterly meetings between several tribes and the local Family Assistance Administration (FAA) staff they interact with. These meetings will allow for Tribes and FAA to discuss and resolve concerns pertaining to customer service and benefit determinations.
- DBME assisted on a workgroup to prepare recommendations for changes to the Medicaid Assistance application and determination process. These changes will ensure Tribal Foster Youth receive Medical coverage in a timely and correct manner as prescribed under the Affordable Care Act.
- Upon referral from the Office of Tribal Relations, DBME is assisting the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in setting up kiosks at 2 of their locations by providing equipment and operation support. These efforts will better assist Pascua Yaqui members in applying for benefits through the online HEAplus program application system.
- DBME is coordinating with the San Carlos Tribe in setting up their own TANF program and helping the Tribe understand the interview process.

#### **DIVISION OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES (DCSS):**

- On a regular basis, DCSS had child support service articles appear in the Native Health Newsletter, which is distributed to over 8,400 individuals.

- Made available and administered the DCSS Voluntary Paternity Program at all birthing facilities statewide. This includes birthing facilities on Tribal lands. Hospitals on Tribal lands participate at DCSS quarterly sponsored workshops and occasionally sponsor a workshop in their area.
- DCSS holds regular Executive Leadership meetings between DES DCSS and the Navajo Nation Division Department of Child Support Enforcement (NNDCSE).
- DCSS conducts workshops and other informational sessions at conferences and community venues sponsored by Native American Fatherhood and Family Association (NAFFA), Native American Connections, Native Health, and others.

#### **DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (DDD):**

- Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) maintains an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services through which case management services are provided to their Tribal members who are eligible for Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS). Tribal members choose between a State or Navajo Nation case manager to coordinate the provision of home-and-community-based services. DDD and Navajo Nation case managers are co-located in offices throughout the Navajo Nation. DDD contracts with a network of vendors who provide a range of services and supports. DDD and the Navajo Nation are currently in the process of revising and renewing this contract which expires on September 30, 2015.
- American Indians enrolled in the DDD/ALTCS Program may select to receive medical services through DDD-contracted acute healthcare plan. Individuals who choose American Indian Health Program (AIHP) receive the majority of their medical care through AIHP, with DDD responsible for any medical services provided outside an AIHP facility.
- The DDD Public Health Program Nursing Consultant presented workshops regarding infection control at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cultural Awareness Conference in November 2014, and the Six Tribes TANF Conference in December 2014. The consultant also provided requested materials regarding infection control to the TANF offices for them to post for others to use.

#### **DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES (DERS):**

- With President Obama's signing of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), a majority of the WIOA's provisions became effective July 1, 2015. A team of stakeholders has been formed consisting of representatives from various State agencies including DERS Employment Administration (EA) and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), the Arizona Department of Education, and the Nineteen Tribal Nations Workforce Investment Board (NTNWIB), to prepare for implementation. Workforce Innovation and Office of Apprenticeship (also WIOA) staff attended NTNWB meetings to update the tribes on WIOA regulations and to provide programmatic guidance, as well as provide continued technical assistance to the various tribes.
- RSA is represented on the NTNWB by their assigned liaison. In response to WIOA requirements, RSA will provide representation at the designated Tribal One-Stop Center location, and effective July 2015, has also provided an on-site ergonomic workstation for individuals requiring such.
- EA staff provided technical assistance to two of the six tribes who operate their own Tribal TANF Program and who utilize the Jobs Automated System (JAS) for their case management. EA staff assisted in the gathering of information for, and the processing of, data-sharing agreements and requests for terminal access. EA also provided assistance in a variety of other areas (i.e., facilitated the arrangement of JAS training for new Tribal TANF staff, coordinated guest presenters at quarterly Tribal TANF conferences and provided information regarding WIOA newsletters, news releases and webinars, Work Participation Rate (WPR) findings, and grant information pertinent to the tribes).
- Child Care Administration (CCA) staff provided technical assistance and training to five tribes who have IGAs and provide childcare services to their members. CCA staff presented at a quarterly Tribal TANF Conference regarding the Tribal Jobs Child Care Referral form; providing contact information for attendee feedback in order to develop the form to fit their needs and responding to questions and concerns as they were raised.