

**ECONOMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**  
**Tribal TANF – GF-State Portion**  
**2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET**



Reduction Option	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0
GF-State	(\$6,153,000)	(\$6,153,000)	(\$12,306,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$6,153,000)</b>	<b>(\$6,153,000)</b>	<b>(\$12,306,000)</b>

**REDUCTION OPTION SUMMARY**

As required by 2015-17 Biennial Budget Instructions, the Economic Services Administration (ESA) is submitting a reduction option that would reduce half of the GF-State funding for Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs in Washington State. By implementing this reduction, ESA expects to reduce GF-State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding to the 11 Tribal TANF programs currently in operation. This would save an estimated \$12,306,000 over the 2015-17 Biennium.

**REDUCTION OPTION DETAIL**

Under federal law, federally-recognized tribes have the option to operate their own TANF program. Under RCW 74.08A.040(4), the Department of Social and Health Services (Department) is required to transfer a fair and equitable amount of GF-State TANF MOE funding each year to Tribes that choose to operate a TANF program. RCW 74.08A.040(5) gives the Legislature the authority to set the amount of state MOE the Department has available to transfer to Tribes in the biennial appropriations act.

If this proposal is approved, some Tribal TANF programs may need to scale back services or may not have sufficient funding to continue operating. Should this occur, the tribal members formerly serviced by these programs will be adversely impacted, requiring them to either forgo services or apply for benefits and services under state programs. This would likely be a difficult transition for tribal members who feel more comfortable accessing services through their government. It would significantly increase workload for State staff during the transition period.

The Department’s American Indian Policy 7.01, that is consistent with the 1989 Washington State Centennial Accord and RCW 43.376.020(1), will require the Department to complete State-Tribal government-to-government consultation with all of the twenty-nine federally recognized tribes in the State prior to proposing this reduction to the Legislature. The consultation will include discussing whether the cut will be distributed proportionally to Tribes based on current State funding or on some other basis.



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The Port Gamble S'Klallam and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribes were among the first in the nation to implement a Tribal TANF program, both in 1998. If this funding is lowered, it will likely cause a significant disruption to a successful, 16-year government to government partnership as well as reduce the amount of GF-State funding available to meet the federal TANF MOE spending requirement. This loss of MOE funding will increase the reliance on qualifying GF-State spending in other state agencies in order to meet the MOE requirement. Failure to meet the MOE spending requirement results in a penalty to the state. This penalty is a reduction to the federal TANF block grant equal to the amount of the MOE underspend. The loss of federal funds due to penalty must be replaced with GF-State spending. GF-State spending required to replace a penalty does not count toward meeting the MOE requirement.

**STAKEHOLDER IMPACT**

There are presently 11 approved Tribal TANF programs (listed below) operating in Washington state, that includes ten Tribes and one Tribal consortium (four Tribes participate). Of the 29 federally recognized Tribes in the state, 14 are currently participating in Tribal TANF. In addition, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe intends to start a TANF program in January 2015 and additional Tribes are considering starting TANF programs.

Reducing State MOE for Tribal TANF will be expected to result in a consistent response from the Tribes in the state, regardless of whether a Tribe is now operating a program, opposition to this proposal.

Tribes/Tribal Consortia Operating TANF Programs in Washington State:

- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
- Lummi Indian Nation
- Nooksack Indian Tribe
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
- Quileute Tribe
- Quinault Indian Nation
- South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA) – a tribal consortium comprised of these four Tribes: Nisqually, Skokomish, Squaxin Island, and Puyallup Tribes
- Spokane Tribe of Indians
- Tulalip Tribes
- Upper Skagit Indian Tribe



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