

Oregon Housing and Community Services
GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
2007 SUMMARY REPORT

Director: Victor Merced, Oregon Housing & Community Services

Key Contact: Pegge McGuire, Community Resources Division Administrator
Oregon Housing & Community Services
725 Summer Street NE, Suite B
Salem, OR 97309-0409
Phone (503) 986-6700
E-mail Pegge.McGuire@hcs.state.or.us

Oregon Housing & Community Services (“the Department”) serves tribal nations and Native Americans in Oregon by providing technical assistance, training, and program assistance, and through cooperation with tribal and other partner organizations.

Technical Assistance

The Department provides technical assistance on housing and emergency supportive services delivery to tribal organizations to help assure effective utilization of program allocations available to tribes. Historically, tribal organizations may not have fully utilized program resources available to them from the Department. During 2007, the Department continued to reach out to tribal organizations and assist tribal staff.

The Department assists in emergency food assistance program delivery through training on inventory control, helping to reconcile physical and book inventories with tribal subcontractors. In the past, the Department has also provided technical assistance to improve program eligibility determinations, by contacting tribes and developing a specific intake and assessment form for eligibility determination.

With the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) implementation of the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act, tribal communities have greater responsibility and opportunity for providing housing assistance, related services, housing planning and reporting than in the past. The Department continues to assist tribes with these new responsibilities, providing technical expertise where invited. Also, tribal representatives are regularly invited to participate in the Department's regional Consolidated Funding Cycle (CFC) trainings, to learn how to access the state's affordable housing resources and also to other Department activities across the state.

Much of the Department's relationship building with partners and technical assistance is accomplished through the Department's Regional Advisors to the Director (RADs). Since our Department delivers virtually all programs through partners at the local level, the RADs serve as the Department's main outreach staff to local organizations and initiatives, connecting providers with the State office.

The RADs reported several contacts with tribal housing and service providers during 2007. For example, the Central Oregon RAD has met with the Klamath Tribe Housing Director to discuss the unfunded affordable housing application, providing advice on how to make the application stronger and linking her to a consultant who might be able to help. The RAD also met with the Klamath Tribe Director of Community Services to discuss the status and future of the commodities program located in Klamath Falls, as the tribe desires to relocate the program to Chiloquin. The food program serves some 400 people monthly in Klamath, Modoc and Siskiyou counties. Other discussions covered the general direction of tribal community service programs, casino expansion, and other matters of mutual concern. The Mid-Willamette RAD reports consulted with the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz and Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde on housing issues during the year.

The RADs also serve as Department representatives on the regional teams of the Governor's Economic Revitalization Team (GERT), a key economic development initiative of Governor Kulongoski. The teams replaced the previous administration's Community Solutions Team (CST) initiative. These regional efforts are a key opportunity for tribal representatives to work with all state community development agencies, including the Department, and tribal representatives are now regularly involved in regional processes across Oregon.

In addition to the work of the RADs, Department staff has also assisted with several initiatives through the years to develop Internet web-based resources to assist tribes along with other Oregonians including *OregonHelps.org*, a web-based tool that anyone with computer Internet access may use to preliminarily estimate their eligibility for two dozen key social support programs. (<http://www.oregonhelps.org>); *Housing Connections*, a web-based tool similar to a multiple listing service for affordable housing that has been operating successfully in the Portland Metro area at <http://www.housingconnections.org/>; and *Oregon 2-1-1*, a 9-1-1-like telephone-based service providing health and social service information and referral. The 2-1-1 system is now operating in the Portland Metro area, handling more than 10,000 calls a month. Development of the 2-1-1 system is also progressing in several other parts of the state, including areas served by the nine tribes.

As web-based and other technology tools become generally more accessible to the public, tools such as these can often be provided at no cost to citizens in need generally, including tribal members, as well as all partners who assist and work with Native Americans.

Training for Tribal Representatives

The Department regularly invites and includes tribal representatives in training opportunities sponsored by the Department. Generally, the Department helps tribes to utilize Department programs and improve efficiency and effectiveness of programs operated by tribes that contract directly with the federal government to provide affordable housing and emergency assistance. The goal is to help tribes maintain efficient and effective internal program and administrative capabilities. An example is the on-going training that the Department provides for establishing and maintaining effective contract procedures with the Klamath Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla, and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians focused on intake and information systems to enhance program operations.

The Department has also supported training for tribes wishing to administer the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) payments. For several years now, Department staff

provided support (principally to the Klamath Tribes) by providing dial-up support to allocate money into the system and helping to fix client records. Department staff also provided trouble-shooting services of dial-up software and provided phone support for program related questions.

In recent years, tribes have become interested in directly contracting with the Federal government for administration of energy assistance programs. During 2003, additional Oregon tribes chose to directly contract with the Federal government to provide LIEAP assistance. Department staff has continued to provide assistance since that time to help staff at the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, and Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, and the Klamath Tribes to comply with Federal application requirements.

Tribal representatives were also invited to the Energy Assistance Fall meeting, a gathering of all Department partners involved with energy assistance programs. Reported by attendees to be the best Fall meeting ever, several tribal program representatives attended.

As in previous years, the Department's Information Services staff provided technical advice on use of the OPUS computer database system for the Klamath tribe's LIEAP program. Partnering programs may not use the Department's computer information systems directly, but tribal staff still benefit from technical assistance on Department Information Services issues and have been included in several trainings. As additional tribes assumed responsibility for directly contracting with the Federal government to administer LIEAP during the 2003 year, the Department offered access to the OPUS system and partner trainings to staff of other tribes. Most have not wished to use the system, however, because the database system designed in Oracle may be more robust than needed for small tribal LIEAP programs. Also, the OPUS system necessitates storage of client information on Department servers. Department staff learned in conversations with tribal staff that some tribes may not wish private client information to be housed outside tribal systems. Still, staff from the Department's Information Services have helped tribal representatives currently operating LIEAP programs, and have provided advice and counsel on several occasions in discussions with tribes establishing new direct contracts with the Federal government to administer LIEAP.

Tribal housing representatives are also invited to and regularly attend trainings on the Consolidated Funding Cycle (CFC), periodic meetings on Oregon's Individual Development Account (IDA) Initiative, and other meetings related to Department programs and initiatives.

In October 2007, the department was a vendor at the Native Caring Conference. This conference, targeted to caregivers and clients, explored care-giving and knowledge on self-care. Many Native American speakers covered topics ranging from medication management, "fun with chair exercise" for the elderly, burnout prevention and nutrition education. The event provided the Department with an opportunity to share information on the many services administered by the agency including homebuyer, weatherization, and energy assistance programs. The department's booth displayed information, brochures, and USDA commodities from the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) program.

Program Assistance

Almost all programs administered by the Department are available to all Oregonians who meet income eligibility requirements, including those who live in tribal communities and Native Americans who live on non-tribal lands in Oregon. Some major programs are described below.

Low Income Weatherization Assistance

Funds from the U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Grant are used in conjunction with other funds from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, utility companies, the Bonneville Power Administration and Low-Income Energy Assistance Block Grant funds to perform cost effective weatherization measures on houses occupied by low-income families. Weatherization services include energy saving modifications of heating systems; anti-infiltration measures; water heater traps; insulation for attics, ducts, floors, walls; and/or storm windows to eligible low-income families, for both owners and renters. Through weatherization, fuel consumption is reduced, resulting in lower heating bills. The Department directly contracts for weatherization services with the Klamath Tribe and maintains a 3% set-aside for Native Americans through its other service partners across the state.

The Department is also exploring how to focus existing Department related weatherization program efforts of local community action agencies to better address tribal weatherization needs. During the coming year, the Department intends to continue discussions with local agencies and two tribes to explore opportunities for improvement. Department staff is also exploring how tribal weatherization staff might be better engaged in training offered by the Department. While tribal staff has always been invited, participation has not been slight.

During 2005, the Department of Energy State Plan included a new idea that has proved very successful to encourage weatherization services for eligible low-income Native American Oregonians. Instead of using the old formula to allocate the smaller amounts of funds to individual Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to serve Native American clients, DOE Native American energy weatherization funds were combined into one statewide pool of about \$75,000. CAAs were invited to submit proposals that showed partnerships with tribes in their service area and apply for projects to be done by the CAAs. Under the old allocation formula, some CAAs were only eligible for enough funds to weatherize a couple of homes. Two tribes, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, through partnerships with CAPCO in Pendleton and YCAP in McMinnville respectively, implemented this strategy in 2005. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, through YCAP in McMinnville and NeighborImpact (formerly called COCAAN) in Redmond, utilized the strategy in 2006. The Department is currently preparing to implement the 2007 allocation in the next few months. Considered a great success by those involved, this new system greatly increased the service delivery to tribes and ensured full expenditure where applied.

Department weatherization staff is also working to secure funding for training of tribal contractors to provide qualified weatherization services. Staff is also working with the ACE tribal representative to prepare a formal training on developing, funding and managing low-income weatherization for tribes wishing to pursue Department of Energy program funding.

Starting in April 2008, the Burns-Paiute tribe in Harney County will become an official weatherization sub-grantee. The tribe is working with the local Workforce Development program to provide crews through department training and funding. They will also provide services in Malheur County.

Low Income Energy Assistance

The Department uses the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) funded by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services to provide energy assistance payments to vendors (i.e., utilities and heating oil companies) to help low-income households pay their winter energy bills. The funds also provide energy education, energy conservation activities and conduct outreach activities designed to assure that eligible households are made aware of the assistance available. The Klamath Tribes, the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, and Confederated tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw have administered LIEAP programs for several years now. They apply to the Federal government for direct funding from HHS to administer LIEAP. The Department has provided program, management and tribal liaison staff time assisting and advising tribal staff. Department staff regularly invite tribal staff to trainings offered to partners as learning opportunities, even though the Department's relationship with the tribes on this program is not contractual. As with prior years, local community action agency programs did not serve persons on the official membership role of these six tribes and have referred clients back to their tribes to avoid duplication of LIEAP services.

Emergency Food Distribution

The Department is responsible for administering several emergency food distribution programs in the state and facilitates efforts to alleviate hunger.

The Emergency Food Assistance (EFA) program distributes U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities to low income households through emergency food boxes and provides over 3 million meals each fiscal year. The Community Food and Nutrition Program (CFNP) , distributes food rather than food vouchers, and focuses on the specific nutritional needs of targeted populations. The program serves approximately 1400 Oregonians. The department also administers these programs to low income Native Americans living on or near reservations.

The EFA program has provided funding for a Legislative Hunger Relief Task Force, assisting in developing statewide programs targeted at ending hunger in Oregon and raising public awareness of the issue, and developed strategies to establish a statewide food purchasing cooperative. Other food distribution programs include the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), which distributes food rather than food vouchers, and focuses on the specific nutritional needs of targeted populations.

The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) provides commodity foods to low income households living on Indian reservations and to American Indian households residing in approved areas near reservations. This program is administered at the Federal level by the Food and Nutrition Services an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. FDPIR is administered locally by either Indian Tribal Organizations or a State government

agency. Many households participate in the FDPIR, as an alternative to the Food Stamp Program, because they do not have easy access to the food stamp offices or authorized food stores. Each month, participating households receive a food package to help them maintain a nutritionally balanced diet. Participants may select from over 70 products including frozen meats (bison included), canned fruits and vegetables, soups, spaghetti sauce, macaroni, cheese, pastas, cereals, rice, egg mix and nonfat dry or evaporated milk, flour, cornmeal, crackers, beans and dehydrated potatoes. As of July 2007, the department was serving at total between 100 to 150 Oregon households (participation varies month to month).

Listed below are the Tribes that participate in this program in Oregon. Department staff has developed a close network and are in constant communication to help, assist and share information with each other throughout the year.

Ms. Angela Smartt
Director, Food Distribution Program
Burns Paiute Tribe
HC-71 100 Pasigo Street, Burns, Oregon 97720
Tel: (541) 573-7312 ext. 231
Fax: (541) 573-4217
Areas of Operation: (1) Burns Paiute Reservation

Mr. Richard Tupper
Director, Food Distribution Program
The Klamath Tribe
2200 South 6th Street, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601
Tel: (541) 883-2876
Fax: (541) 883-6505
Areas of Operation: (1) Klamath Reservation

Ms. Joyce Retherford
Acting Director, Food Distribution Program
Siletz Confederated Indian Tribes
P.O. Box 549, Siletz, Oregon 97380
Tel: (541) 444-8393
Fax: (541) 444-2307
Areas of Operation: (2) Siletz and Grande Ronde Reservations

Mr. Jon L. Brown, III
Manager, Food Distribution Program
Warm Springs Confederated Tribes
P.O. Box C, Warm Springs, Oregon 97761
Tel: (541) 553-3579
Fax: (541) 553-2279
Areas of Operation: (1) Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Ms. Cecilia Gonzales-Lyons
Food Program Representative
Oregon Housing and Community Services
P.O. Box 14508, Salem, Oregon 97309-0409

Tel: (503) 986-2065
Fax: (503) 986-2006

Ms. Paula Chavez
FDPIR Coordinator
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
P.O. Box 638, Pendleton, Oregon 97801
(541) 276-5073

Areas of Operation: (1) Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

FDPIR is available to all tribes in Oregon. Four Oregon tribes administer their own FDPIR program. The Department is presently working to expand service of this program in the Coos Bay area. The Department administers the FDPIR program for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation through a contract with the Community Action Program of East Central Oregon (CAPECO). The FDPIR program implemented program benefits to all eligible persons living in the tribal boundaries of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and all eligible tribal members living within a region that extends outside the boundary of the reservation. The designated service area includes Umatilla and Morrow Counties in Eastern Oregon.

USDA holds a yearly meeting where all the Western Region Tribes get together for a week long meeting. This training conference consists of training, education, and sharing of information. It also develops a close friendship that has allowed us to develop a respect and partnership with each other.

During 2007, Department staff continued to work with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde on the development of a food warehouse and the possible application of FDPIR on the Grand Ronde reservation.

The Interagency Coordinating Council on Hunger, which the department facilitates, adopted its 2007-09 biennium activities during the past year. Tribes were specifically targeted for efforts to reduce hunger. The department has taken the lead to identify the needs and issues related to hunger for this partner.

In June 2007, department staff met with Confederated Tribes of the Siletz to discuss the possibility of the Coordinating Council's helping to finance the development of a food distribution and programs facility; due to timing and other constraints, however, the Council was not able to assist the project.

The Klamath Tribes have also approached the department for assistance in acquiring and developing a food distribution and nutrition programs center. The Central Oregon Regional Advisor to the Director is assisting their efforts.

Homeless and Emergency Housing

Like poverty, homelessness disproportionately affects racial and ethnic minority populations. The U.S. Census Bureau (2005) reported that 1.4% of Oregon's population was American Indian or Alaska Native, but the department partners 2007 One-Night Shelter Count of homeless programs reported 5% of all homeless Oregonians were in this group.

The Department administers several programs targeted to persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Through the State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP), the Department funds service providers that assist homeless Oregonians and encourages homeless shelter providers to convert a portion of their shelter units into transitional housing. These activities are financed through an Emergency Assistance Grant (ESG) and includes case management, job training, and other essential support services targeted at breaking the cycle of homelessness. The ESG provides grants for emergency shelter services and shelter-related activities. This number does not include those accessing ESG in Clackamas and Multnomah counties, as these counties administer their own programs separate from the Department managed program.

The Emergency Housing Account (EHA) targets those populations most at risk for homelessness. Designated lead agencies receive funding for emergency shelter and services, transitional housing services, supportive housing services to enable persons to continue living in their own homes, and programs that provide emergency payment of mortgage payments, rents, or utilities. EHA homeless funds are also used in conjunction with Adult and Family Services and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds creating the Housing Stabilization Program. Funds from EHA are matched to provide stabilization assistance and homeless prevention programs.

Client information on tribal affiliation is not tracked. However, homeless programs served 1582 people who identified themselves as Native American during last program year 06-07 (July 1 2006 through June 30, 2007). Services included emergency shelter, transitional housing, move in costs, eviction and foreclosure prevention, auxiliary services and case management.

HOME Tenant-based Assistance

In 2005, the Oregon Coast Community Action, a key Department partner locally administering the HOME Tenant-based Assistance Program, entered into a partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians to serve tribal members. The partnership provided mutual benefit, since the tribe had a shortage of housing and housing subsidies and the community action agency had a shortage of case management services. A contract between the tribe and agency was established and has served a limited number of tribal households since. The agreement remains in force and has led to similar partnerships on several other services including drug and alcohol recovery, youth training and employment, business employment, and energy services.

OHCS Consolidated Funding Cycle

The department uses a twice annual application and review process to fund affordable housing development partners. Competition for housing development funding is stiff, since requests usually exceed funding double. As mentioned earlier, tribes typically utilize federal or their own funding before seeking to the state for funds. In 2007, one tribe applied for funds but was not funded. The RAD continues to work with the tribe on the application and expects a revised application to be submitted in the future.

Oregon Individual Development Account (IDA) Initiative

Tribes continue to be interested in the Oregon Individual Development Account (IDA) initiative. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation became the first tribal fiduciary organization in the State of Oregon funded IDA Initiative in 2003. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, and Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde have attended program meetings and have partnered with other Department partners to provide access to this program. Marcus Luke (CTUIR) and Alisa Larson (a consultant to several Oregon tribes) participate in Fiduciary Organization meetings. In July 2007, Alisa, Marcus, and Center for Social Development representative Karen Edwards presented a panel on “lessons learned from tribal IDAs” to a group of Fiduciary Organizations and other partners in Salem. Several tribal representatives have attended Oregon IDA gathering and expressed interest in marketing the homeownership IDAs better to minority and under-served populations. Program staff expect a tribe to apply to become a Fiduciary Organization for the 2008 program year. In the coming year, additional tribal activity in the personal asset-building arena is anticipated.

Home Ownership Programs

Using the Department home ownership programs for dwellings on sovereign lands presents many challenges. The Department continues to work with tribes and financial partners to overcome the barriers to home ownership lending on tribal lands as well as other locations. Department records indicate 17 Oregon families were assisted with the Department's Homeownership Programs during 2007 identified themselves as American Indian or Alaskan Native. Total loan value for these families was about \$2,911,702. The data required for loan applications does not distinguish tribal affiliation, so the Department is not presently able to determine how many of benefited families are members of the nine federally recognized Oregon tribes.

Department staff continue to track the Federal Home Loan Bank's Sovereign Lending Task Force, attending when possible, and also continues to explore use of HUD's 184 Loan Program to assist tribal members in purchasing homes.

Much of the department's technical assistance for homebuyers is provided through local Housing Center partners. The Centers often engage and focus on tribal members. For example, when a Housing Center facilitates a lender/real estate presentation, they have been incorporating information on down payment and first mortgage loans for tribal members by inviting someone with such experience to explain applicant requirements. In another example, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians has been actively referring tribal members to the local Housing Center for classes and counseling in coordination with their Homeownership Program. The schedule of classes was developed in partnership with the tribe and the local school district, while tribal staff will assist in conducting the classes. In 2008, a class will be held at the tribe's Lincoln City casino. The department's homeownership program staff report that all of the ten state-funded centers plan to incorporate training materials targeted specifically to tribal members in the coming year.

During 2007, the staff from one Housing Center also attended a Tribal Lending training provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

The Department helped organize the first ever in Oregon Native American Housing Fair at the Chemawa School in Salem on July 31, 2004. While the department was not heavily involved, a second and third fair was organized by tribes in 2006 and 2007.

Other Cooperation with Partners & Tribes

The Department continues to be an active participant in Government-to-Government relations directly and through partnering organizations. The Department's policy strategist has served as the OHCS Government-to-Government liaison for several years. He has regularly attended and supported the quarterly Health/Social Supports Cluster meetings (facilitated by the Department of Human Services) and Economic Development Cluster meetings (facilitated by the Oregon Department of Transportation). These meetings offer state agency and tribal representatives opportunities to build relationships and address common interests on a regular basis.

The Department director participated in the annual Government-to-Government Summit, hosted by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs at Kah-Nee-Ta in Central Oregon in November 2007. This major gathering of tribal and state agency officials celebrates the unique relationship enjoyed by tribes and state government in Oregon and affords an excellent opportunity for leaders to network and cultivate relations.

In 2004 and 2005, the Department cultivated interest in tribal members serving as on Department advisory committees. As a result, Carina Kistler-Ginter, Executive Director of the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority, began serving as a tribal representative to the OHCS Advisory Committee on Energy (ACE) during 2006 and continued in this role through 2007.

The Department administers the HOME Investment Program for non-entitlement jurisdictions across the state. OHCS acts as the "Responsible Entity" in terms of compliance with CFR 24 Part 58 for this program. As part of the required Environmental Review process for all housing developments funded by the HOME program, a Tribal Consultation is performed. Tribes are notified of the development of every affordable housing project on sites which may be of historical or cultural interest.

Department staff made sure that tribal contacts were notified about public hearings, comment periods, and other requirements of the State of Oregon Consolidated Plan during 2007. The Consolidated Plan is a HUD prerequisite for receiving funding for the State of Oregon HOME and CDBG programs.

Training on Government-to-Government Relations

The Department pursued several opportunities for staff to enhance their knowledge of Native American cultures and the unique issues related to developing safe and affordable housing and critical supportive services for tribal members. Several staff participated in the events and training of Tribal Day at the Capitol. Five staff, besides the director and tribal liaison,

participated in the Tribal Day. In the past five years, more than 10% of the Department's staff has completed appropriate training, such that all management and program staff who are likely to be engaged in tribal relationships have had at least some training. The Department will continue to encourage new employees to participate in available trainings and, for those already trained, refresher courses.

Partnerships with Community-based Organizations

The Department is a small agency that accomplishes its large mission by partnering with an extensive network of community-based organizations including tribal organizations, community action agencies, community development corporations, housing authorities, non-government organizations, and non-profit and for-profit affordable housing developers. These partners are encouraged by the Department to serve tribal needs and to include tribal members in the composition of their boards and committees. In many programs administered by these partners, a specific set-aside for Native Americans guides program implementation, usually in the form of a percentage of funding targeted to this population. The Department continuously seeks ways to encourage better relationships between tribal and other partner organizations.

Government-to-Government Policy Statement

Prior to 2007, a policy statement concerning tribal relations had not been developed by the Department. The lack of a formal policy had never been a hindrance in Department-tribal relations. The Department agreed to review the need for a policy during 2007. After consideration, the Department decided to draft and approve a policy late this year. A copy has been forwarded to the Commission for Indian Services and also posted on the Department's website.

Problem Solving and Relationship Building

The Department strives to serve as a problem-solver in all its partner relationships, including its relationships with the tribes. For example, Department staff provided many hours of assistance to tribes applying for contracts with the Federal government to administer the LIEAP, providing several solutions to challenges faced by the tribes during 2007. In 2008, the Department will continue its role in this area, to assure that the best possible Government-to-Government relations are realized.

OHCS Government-to-Government Relations Goals for 2007

A summary of our stated goals and outcomes for 2007 are listed below, followed by a listing of goals for 2008. Department administration intends to continue cultivating sound relationships with Oregon tribes in the coming years. The Department will continue to provide services and programs to all Oregonians including those who are members of recognized tribal nations and other Native Americans during the coming year.

- An administrative level Department staff person will continue to be assigned to serve as the Department's Government-to-Government representative. (*David Foster, the Department policy strategist, had served as government-to-government liaison for several*

years. In November 2007, the role was reassigned to Pegge McGuire, the Department's Community Resource Division Administrator.)

- The Department's Government-to-Government representative will continue to attend and support Economic/Community Development Cluster and Health/Social Services Cluster meetings, as well as the annual State-Tribal Summit. *(The Department Liaison regularly participated in the cluster meetings during 2007.)*
- A Department representative will tentatively attend a Northwest Tribal Housing Authority Association meeting, as out-of-state travel restrictions are eased or meetings are scheduled within Oregon. *(Not accomplished during 2007. This may not be a reasonable objective since the group does not meet regularly in Oregon. Attendance and out-of-state travel is a challenge for department staff. When this group holds a meeting in Oregon, the liaison may be able to attend in the future.)*
- Department staff will enhance relationships with Oregon Tribal housing entity representatives. The Department will continue to provide information about the Department and its programs and services to Tribal housing entities across the state. The Department will also strive to establish communication with Tribal social service administrators during the coming year. *(Communication linkages continued. Will continue this work during 2008 to further enhance mutual awareness and trust.)*
- The Department will seek additional training opportunities on Government-to-Government relations and encourage Department staff to participate. *(DONE in 2007 and will continue to encourage new staff to participate in 2008. To date, more than 10% of the Department staff has now attended one or more trainings.)*
- The Department will continue to investigate development of an agency policy for Government-to-Government relations for review and adoption by the Department. *(DONE: Adopted in 2007.)*
- The Department will submit its annual Government-to-Government report. *(DONE: With submittal of this document, completed for 2007.)*

OHCS Government-to-Government Relations Goals for 2008

- A Department staff person will continue to be assigned to serve as the Department's Government-to-Government representative.
- The Department's Government-to-Government representative will continue to attend and support Economic/Community Development Cluster and Health/Social Services Cluster meetings, as well as the annual Summit.
- Department staff will continue to enhance relationships with Oregon Tribal housing entity representatives. The Department will continue to provide information about the Department and its programs and services to Tribal housing entities and social services staff across the state.
- The Department will seek additional training opportunities on Government-to-Government relations and encourage Department staff to participate.
- The Department will submit its annual Government-to-Government report.