



# Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) Definition of an Indian Child Tribal Consultation

## Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. to Noon  
Hybrid Meeting

### Welcome and Introductions

Ross Hunter, DCYF Secretary and Daniseten (Michael) Vendiola, Indian Policy Early Learning (IPEL) Chair, welcomed tribal delegates, DCYF staff, and partners.

### ECEAP Definition of an Indian Child Tribal Consultation

- [ECEAP Definition of an Indian Child Consultation Presentation](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no concerns with the proposed definition of an Indian Child</li> <li>• <a href="#">Verification of Tribal Status: ECEAP &amp; Early ECEAP Applicant</a></li> <li>• Tribal Question: On the verification form where the parent signs, it says if they provide fraudulent information, they may have to pay back ECEAP funds. How do you determine that?</li> <li>• DCYF Response:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ That is language that lives on current ECEAP application. It is there so that staff can ensure parents understand the weight of providing accurate information.</li> <li>○ Historically, DCYF has not requested funds back. It is not our practice. If someone provides false information on their form and it is discovered that they are not eligible, DCYF would stop providing that service.                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We work with ECEAP contractors to gather information and work with DCYF staff on how to support families. If it's determined that a family does not qualify then the services will end. If the situation arises part way through the year, we allow the child to continue services and then stop at the end of the year.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please reach out to the DCYF Office of Tribal Relations (<a href="mailto:dcyf.tribalrelations@dcyf.wa.gov">dcyf.tribalrelations@dcyf.wa.gov</a>) with any follow up questions.</li> </ul>

### Attendees:

#### Tribal

Jeanie Kent, Colville  
 Lola Moses, Lower Elwha  
 Waylon Ballew, Lummi  
 Kevin Stark, Kalispel  
 Jasmine McDonald, Nisqually  
 Jacklyn Haight, PGST  
 Sarah Beach, Samish  
 Jamie Chinuhuk, Samish  
 Laila Laclair Longshore-Smith, Skokomish  
 Daniseten Michael Vendiola, Swinomish  
 Erin Smead, Swinomish

#### DCYF

Cassie Anderson  
 Angela Bay  
 Charlotte Campbell  
 Melissa Cheesman  
 Ashley Cook  
 Rayna Espinosa-Ives  
 Mindy Flett  
 Karin Ganz  
 Polo Hernandez  
 Ross Hunter  
 Tleena Ives  
 Mandy Morlin  
 Sally Nahsonhoya

Kelly Pelland  
 Nicole Rose  
 Jessica Spencer  
 Megan Tady

#### Partners

Nahrin Aziz, NWIC  
 Dr. Lisa Tsuchiya, OPPCO  
 Tanya Hutton, NICCA  
 Kari Tally, OSPI  
 Maxine Alex, OSPI  
 Michelle Johnson, AG  
 Nigel Lawrence, WSA