



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
PO Box 47890 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7890  
Tel: 360-236-4030 • 711 Washington State Relay

January 6, 2025

**Re: Informative - Update on WIC's Tribal General Welfare Payment Waiver Request**

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners, and Professionals:

In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we are providing information on the status of Washington WIC's Tribal General Welfare Payment Waiver Request to USDA-FNS.

Over the past year, we worked with the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) and Tulalip Tribes' Treaty Rights and Governmental Affairs Manager to request a waiver to exclude Tribal General Welfare (TGW) payments as part of a participant's income for eligibility for the WIC program. Currently, tribal members who receive these payments are considered over-income and not eligible to receive WIC services.

On September 27, 2024, we received a letter from USDA-FNS Policy Division Director, denying our waiver request. In collaboration with AIHC, we are developing a comprehensive engagement plan that will include avenues to pursue to bring attention to this important issue and seek resolution with tribally driven strategies.

For additional information, please contact Brittany Tybo, Office Director/WIC Director, at [brittany.tybo@doh.wa.gov](mailto:brittany.tybo@doh.wa.gov) or 360-763-6842, or Candice Wilson, Executive Director, Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), at [candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov) or 360-819-7626.

Respectfully,

Michele Roberts, MPH, MCHES  
Assistant Secretary  
Office of the Assistant Secretary

cc: Lacy Fehrenbach, Chief, Office of Prevention, Safety and Health, WA-DOH

Kristopher Holiday, Chief, Office of Strategic Partnerships, WA-DOH  
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH  
Elizabeth Perez, Chief, Office of Public Affairs and Equity, WA-DOH  
Sheryl Pickering, WIC Tribal Liaison, Office of Nutrition Services, WA-DOH  
Kathy Pierre, ESJ Strategist for Tribal Relations for PCH, WA-DOH  
Umair A. Shah, Secretary of Health, WA-DOH  
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, WA-DOH  
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Candice Wilson-Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, WA-DOH