
DCYF Background Check as a Service for Tribes

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CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES





Today

- Background: DCYF Background Check for Certified Programs
- Opportunity: Background Checks for non-Certified programs
- Feedback and advice

Background

- CCDF requires grantee Tribal Nations and States to administer a comprehensive background check (BC) for non-relative ECE staff
- CCDF requirements are a minimum so grantee requirements can exceed
- Tribal CCDF grantees in WA meet this requirement either
 - By administering their own BC system
 - By using DCYF's BC system through the process of Certification



Background Checks for ECE Staff Under Certification

- Tribal Sovereignty still applies – DCYF has no jurisdiction to disqualify ECE staff in programs on Tribal land.
- Under Certification, Tribes just use DCYF BC (including suitability assessment) to determine clearance for staff on their lands. The final decision is still the Tribe's.
- For DCYF the process looks identical to our BC process for licensed providers on state land.



Opportunity: DCYF BC for Non-Certified Programs

- In 2021, DCYF began workign with Cowlitz Tribe (which is CFPO) to provide BC for its FFN providers
- DCYF completed updates that allow these providers to apply for BC through their own MERIT registration
- Cowlitz pilot yet to be implemented, but highlights opportunity for other non-certified Tribes

Options Under Tribal Sovereignty



Option 1

- DCYF completes background check
- DCYF completes suitability assessment when required per the DCYF Secretary's List
- Tribe and staff receive a simple yes/no BC result and Tribe uses DCYF BC result as its decision


Option 2

- DCYF completes background check
- Staff receives background check result, including criminal history when applicable
- Tribe obtains results from staff, makes own decision (e.g., using its own disqualifying crime list)





DISCUSSION

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- Are there other options you see for non-Certified Tribes to use DCYF BC process?
 - Are there any potential pitfalls?
 - Is your Tribe interested in partnering in this way?