# DCYF Background Check as a Service for Tribes

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# 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

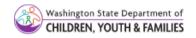






# **Background Checks for ECE Staff Under Certification**

- 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

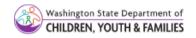
# **Options Under Tribal Sovereignty**

#### **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)



# DISCUSION



- Are there other option 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?

