



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

CHILD CARE LICENSING  
PRACTICE MEMO

**Date:** December 1, 2022

**To:** Child Care Licensing Staff

**From:** Travis Hansen, Senior Child Care Administrator

**CC:** Tleena Ives, Director of Tribal Relations

**Subject:** **WAC 110-300-0196, Food Sources, Indian Tribes and Tribal Organizations**

**Purpose:** To provide guidance for WAC interpretation for traditional food resources used by Tribes

**RCW:** 43.216

**WAC:** 110-300; 110-301; 110-300E

**WAC:**

It has been determined that a piece of current WAC is not supporting Tribal food sovereignty practices and is in opposition to its own guidance to follow USDA. DCYF licensing staff is learning and committed to better serving the children and avoid perpetuating culturally harmful actions moving forward.

Current WAC states: 110-300-0196 (2)

(2) Food prepared and served from an early learning program must be obtained from an approved source licensed and inspected by the local health jurisdiction, the Washington state department of agriculture (WSDA), or the USDA. Food items not approved to be served to children in care include:

- (a) Meat, fish, poultry, eggs, or milk that has not been inspected by the USDA or WSDA;
- (b) Home canned food;
- (c) Game meat or other meet that has not been inspected by the WSDA or USDA;

**Effective immediately** we will use the following guidance for USDA until the current WAC is revised.

Please see the Memorandum dated July 31, 2015: [Service of Traditional Foods in Public Facilities](#) states “wild game meat, fish, seafood, marine mammals, plants and berries” are traditional foods that should be allowed to be served or consumed through food service programs at public facilities and nonprofit facilities, including those operated by Indian tribes and facilities operated by tribal organizations, that primarily serve Indians.” It notes it is specifically intended guidance for schools and institutions operating the USDA child nutrition programs.

Next Steps:

Licensing staff are instructed to not cite inspection reports for programs at public facilities and nonprofit facilities, including those operated by Indian tribes and facilities operated by tribal organizations that primarily serve Indian children on around traditional foods. If you have a concern please discuss with your Supervisor. This WAC is under review and will be changed after the moratorium on WAC changes is completed.

If you have any questions about this practice memo, please contact your supervisor.

Thank you,

Travis

CC: Tleena Ives, IPEL Delegates



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