



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Tribal Consultation Action Plan

April 2025 to April 2026

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Federally recognized Tribal Nations headquartered in Wisconsin held a consultation meeting on April 16, 2025. This action plan is the result of that consultation meeting. The action plan is a set of mutually agreeable short- and long-term strategies to address issues of interest to Tribal Nations. DCF and the Tribal Nations agree to collaborate on these strategies and provide staff support as required to successfully achieve these outcomes by April 2026.

2024-02: Child Care (Continued)	<i>Responsible Party:</i> DCF Division of Early Care and Education <i>In collaboration with:</i> WI DOA, Tribal Leaders and Directors
<i>Requested Action:</i> <p>At the 2025 Tribal Consultation meeting, DCF provided updates and agreement for continued collaboration with tribal leaders and tribal nations on two child care items from the 2024 Tribal Consultation Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fingerprinting: DCF continued their commitment to partner with Tribal Nations in exploring ways to make child care and Head Start fingerprinting more accessible for tribal community members, including the following action steps:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ WI DOA, in partnership with DCF and WI DOJ, requests to meet with Tribal IT leaders to discuss TAP kiosk data and accessibility.○ DCF will explore whether other machines operated by Tribal Nations or the surrounding community could be an option for fingerprinting.○ DCF will continue to meet with other state agencies to research alternative options that could support increasing access to fingerprinting.• “Full-Faith and Credit” for Tribal Self-Regulated Certification and Licensing for Providers: DCF agreed to work to advance statutory change in relation to full-faith and credit for tribal self-regulated certification and licensing for providers. Tribal leaders committed to working with DCF on advocacy.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Related to the continuation of this action item, please also see action item 2025-02, below in this document. <p>For the full background regarding these action items, please see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Item 2 on the 2024 Tribal Consultation Action Plan: https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/tribal/pdf/24-25-tribal-consl-act-plan.pdf• Background Checks https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/tribal/pdf/tribal-background-checks.pdf• Full Faith and Credit https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/tribal/pdf/full-faith-credit.pdf	
<i>Outcome:</i>	
<i>Resources:</i>	

2025-01: Information Sharing	<i>Responsible Party:</i> DCF Tribal Liaison <i>In collaboration with:</i> DCF Divisions & Tribal Nations
<p><i>Requested Action:</i></p> <p>Throughout the 2025 Tribal Consultation meeting, tribal leaders requested information across several topics. DCF agreed to provide information and resources on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barred offenses lists for foster care and child care – tribal leaders were asked to identify which barred offenses were concerning/problematic. • 161 resource that was created in collaboration with the ICW Directors after the 2023 tribal consultation meeting. • Information on rehabilitation reviews from previous tribal consultation meetings. 	
<p><i>Outcome:</i></p> <p>Please see below for links to the requested information regarding barred offenses and 161 agreements. Additional information will be provided as they become available.</p>	
<p><i>Resources:</i></p> <p>Barred Offenses Lists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster Care: https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/publications/pdf/5407.pdf • Child Care: https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/publications/pdf/5206.pdf • Kinship Care: https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/kc/kc-barred-offenses-updated-oct2022.pdf <p>161 Agreement Resource: Please see attached document.</p>	
2025-02: Barred Offenses and Full Faith and Credit	<i>Responsible Party:</i> Division of Early Care and Education <i>In collaboration with:</i> DCF Office of Legal Counsel
<p><i>Requested Action:</i></p> <p>At the 2025 Tribal Consultation meeting, there was a discussion about whether tribes would have to follow the state barred offenses list if we are able to move to recognizing tribally regulated child care providers under full-faith and credit. DCF was not sure if tribes would have to continue to follow the state barred offenses list or if they could follow their own barred offenses list. DCF requested time to research this question.</p>	
<p><i>Outcome:</i></p>	
<p><i>Resources:</i></p>	

2025-03: Safe Haven	<i>Responsible Party:</i> DCF Division of Safety and Permanence <i>In collaboration with:</i> Children's Court Improvement Program (CCIP)
<i>Requested Action:</i> <p>During the 2025 Tribal Consultation meeting, tribal leaders requested data on the number of infants relinquished under Safe Haven. There was also an interest in whether there has been an increase in the number of infants relinquished under Safe Haven since Roe v Wade was overturned in June 2022. Related to this request, tribal leaders also requested an update on conversations with representatives from the State of California regarding the judicial process for notifying tribes that is used in Safe Haven cases.</p> <p>DCF agreed to provide the data requested. DCF will work with the Children's Court Improvement Program (CCIP) to understand the State of CA judicial process for notifying tribes in safe haven cases and identify any potential solutions for WI in accordance with current Wisconsin statutes.</p>	
<i>Outcome:</i> The requested data regarding Safe Haven is attached.	
<i>Resources:</i>	
2025-04: Coordination & Collaboration in preparation for any potential Head Start transition	<i>Responsible Party:</i> DCF Division of Early Care and Education <i>In collaboration with:</i> Tribal Nations & DCF Communications Team
<i>Requested Action:</i> <p>During the 2025 Tribal Consultation meeting, there was a conversation about the future of the Head Start Program and federal funding. DCF provided an overview of the conversations they were having to identify how to best move forward in the event federal Head Start funding is reduced or eliminated. DCF would like to have collective and individualized conversations with tribes to discuss emergency preparedness planning as it relates to the impact of the loss of federal funds or any transitions away from Head Start programs.</p> <p>DCF identified that personal impact stories will also likely influence decisions regarding Head Start at the federal level. DCF offered to partner with tribes to ensure impact stories from their communities were represented.</p>	
<i>Outcome:</i>	
<i>Resources:</i>	