

TPS INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM – 2024 - 2025

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR NATIVE AMERICAN / ALASKA NATIVE FAMILIES RESIDING IN PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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NATIVE COMMUNITY RESOURCES

[PUYALLUP TRIBAL HEALTH - PTHA](#) - 253-593-0232

Click on Departments & Services for detailed information.

- Students and families do not need to be Puyallup Tribal members. See the [Eligibility Page](#) for details. Many AI/AN families qualify for services at PTHA.
- In addition to medical and dental, PTHA also provides addiction treatment and has a mental health branch through [Kwawachee Counseling Center](#).
- For those families that are Puyallup Tribal members, additional services are available.

[SOUTH PUGET INTERTRIBAL PLANNING AGENCY \(SPIPA\)](#) – Tribes Assisting Native Families (TANF)– Pierce County -

253-250-0550 TANF/Workforce Development is a program that provides assistance to eligible families and children. The program’s primary intent is to assist families in becoming self-sufficient rather than rely on TANF or other programs for assistance.

- The SPIPA TANF program may assist Native American/Alaska Native families that are members of a Federally recognized Indian Tribe with the following – see the Program Services tab on the website for more services than listed below.
 - Job Preparation
 - Job Retention Services
 - Work Experience
 - Education Assistance
 - Monthly Grants
 - Support Services
 - Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Low Income Home Energy Assistance

[TAHOMA INDIAN CENTER](#) – **Catholic Community Services** - 253-593-2707 Located on the east side of

Tacoma, Puyallup Reservation, the Tahoma Indian Center has met the basic needs of low-income and homeless Urban Native Peoples for more than 20 years in a safe, warm, peaceful and drug- and alcohol-free environment. The purpose of the Center is to restore and sustain the dignity and culture of Urban Native Americans in Pierce County.

- Services –
 - Provide a safe, warm friendly, peaceful, respectful drug and alcohol-free environment for Urban Native American Indians.

- Provide coffee and a daily meal Monday-Friday.
- Provide referrals to needed social services such as housing, food, clothing, employment and training, legal services, education and counseling.
- Provide referrals to culturally specific services such as tribal registration, pow-wows, education and training, employment services, counseling and healing circles.
- Provide a site for native cultural/spiritual ceremonies and activities.

OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES

[HOMELESS STUDENT ASSISTANCE \(MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT\)](#) – In transition? Unstable housing situation? Let us connect you with the support to keep your education on track. There are links on this site to lists of Utility, childcare, housing, and food assistance resources.

[2021 COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY](#) – **COMMUNITY RESOURCE CONNECTION CENTER (CRCC)/ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES – Tacoma-Pierce County – 2018 - 253-383-3056** Visit this site to download this comprehensive community resource guide.

- [ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES](#)
- Associated Ministries is an interfaith organization that unites people of faith to build stronger communities. As a crossroad for communication and cooperation, they engage and equip faith communities and persons of goodwill to address the many needs in Pierce County through advocacy, education, and service.
- This is a comprehensive guide that lists community resources for families. Below are a few of the resources listed. See guide for complete list of resources.
 - Emergency Shelters
 - Domestic Violence Shelters
 - Housing Services
 - Medical Care
 - Prescription Assistance
 - Child Care
 - Legal Aid Resources
 - Furniture Banks
 - Pregnancy Services
 - Transportation
 - Food Banks
 - Quick Reference of Important Phone Numbers
 - See guide for more resources

[COMMUNITY RESOURCE CONNECTION CENTER \(CRCC\)](#) – Some of the services provided include: Northwest Furniture Bank Referrals, Minor vehicle maintenance *when funds are available, Rental screening fees, and much more.

[KOREAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION \(KWA\)](#) - The Korean Women's Association (KWA) is a registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, providing multi-cultural, multi-lingual human services, **regardless of race or ethnic background**, to diverse communities through education, socialization, advocacy, and support.

[WASHINGTON 211](#) - Helping Washington connect to services. Washington 211 provides the most current and comprehensive database of community resources in the State of Washington (over 30,000 listings), which serves as a central access point for connecting Washington residents to community resources. By simply dialing the number 2-1-1,

searching the website, or texting 211WAOD to 898211, people can connect to help when they need it regardless of who provides the services or where the services are located.

PIERCE COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS DIVISION - Pierce County has many Community Action Programs that help residents with early childhood education, energy assistance, rental assistance, home repairs, home weatherization and more.

[SVdP – ST. VINCENT DE PAUL TACOMA, PIERCE COUNTY](#) – Serving our Neighbors in Need Since 1926 - Many of us have a friend or family member who has needed a hand or a second chance in life. We welcome everyone with compassion and without judgment. You may know us for our thrift store, but our mission is much broader!

In these uncertain times, will continue to uphold our mission to help those in need regardless of race, religion or orientation.

The most needed and funded requests are rent & utility assistance, shelter assistance, gas cards, grocery gift cards and household goods and clothing.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Thanksgiving Meals

[THANKSGIVING TURKEY GIVEAWAY](#) – The Tacoma Police Department and Tacoma Ministerial Alliance are leading an effort to provide FREE turkeys to families during Thanksgiving. Families can pick up the turkeys at locations listed below. Turkeys will be given away while supplies last on a 1st come 1st serve basis. Participants at the drive thru locations must stay in their vehicles. One turkey per family.

- **Tacoma Dome (Drive Thru Only)**
Location: 2727 East D St
Date: Wednesday, November 15th
Time: 12:00pm-3:00pm
Contact: CEM Bervin Smith @ (253) 290-9238
- **Eastside Community Center (Drive Thru Only)**
Location: 1721 E. 56th St
Date: Saturday, November 18th
Time: 9:00am-12:00pm
Contact: Pastor Mitchell @ 253 472 1147
- **Salishan (Drive Thru & Walk ups Accepted)**
Location: 1724 E 44th St
Date: Saturday, November 18th
Time: 12:00pm-2:00pm
Contact: CEM Bervin Smith @ (253) 290-9238
- **People’s Community Center (Drive Thru Only)**
Location: 1602 Martin Luther King Jr Way
Date: Monday, November 20th
Time: 5:00pm-8:00pm
Contact: Bishop White @ (253) 272-1900

- [THE COFFEE OASIS Tacoma Drop-In Center](#) – Free Dinner for Youth Ages 13 – 25 –
 - **Night of Thankfulness**
 Date: Friday, November 22, 2024
 Time: 6:00 p.m.
 Location: 1424 Tacoma Ave S., Tacoma, WA 98402
Who's invited: Youth 13-25 years old
Who is organizing/hosting the event: The Coffee Oasis Youth Programs
 Please contact any of our youth program managers with questions about attending or donating to these events.
 Become a volunteer through an in-person or online orientation by visiting our [Volunteer page](#).

[TACOMA & PIERCE COUNTY FOOD BANKS](#) – PIERCE COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES - Food bank list and locations map, Nourish Pierce County, Home Delivered Meals, Senior nutrition, Meal sites

[EMERGENCY FOOD NETWORK](#) – Emergency Food Network provides healthy, nutritious food to 75+ partners in Pierce County. If you are in need of food, please feel welcome to visit any of the food pantries in our network. EFN works to keep this list updated and accurate. Once notified of a closure, this list and map are updated. We recommend that you call the food pantry before your first visit to confirm days and times and open, items you may need to bring with you, the number of times you may use the site, and if you need to schedule and appointment. The Pierce County emergency food system includes more than 75+ food pantries and hot meal sites, providing over 12.2 million meals annually for over 1.4 million visits. In recent years, food programs have experienced an increase in the number of clients seeking services.

[FAMILIES UNLIMITED NETWORK FOOD PANTRY – UNIVERSITY PLACE](#) - When a family doesn't have enough food, stability in other areas is impossible. Families Unlimited Network's Food Assistance program offers a safe and welcoming environment where you will be able to get fresh, healthy food – including fresh produce, meat, bread, soup, pasta, peanut butter, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, beans, tuna and refrigerated dairy items. Once registered, you will be able to visit our food bank once a month. The amount of food you will be able to receive will be based on the size of your family. We also have a number of other food programs designed for youth hunger. Must reside in Pierce County.

[FOOD LIFELINE](#) – Find a food bank or meal program near you.

[MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOUNDATION](#) - Weekly home delivery for our most vulnerable population has become an extension of the ECP service, which we have found to be invaluable. Along with an onsite food bank, ECP serves the elderly and residents with disabilities, allowing this vulnerable population to continue to live independently by providing home delivery of food and pet supplies to 500 home-bound clients. Many clients have special dietary restrictions and deliveries are customized to meet individualized client needs. The home delivery program is designed to serve the most at-risk constituency in its target community, and all individuals served by ECP's delivery program are unable to travel to the food bank because of either financial or physical hardship or disability. Others are limited because of public transportation. All of our client who receives home delivery from ECP reside in what is called a "food desert" a geographic area where nutritious and affordable food is difficult to obtain, particularly without access to a vehicle.

[MY SISTER'S PANTRY](#) - My Sister's Pantry has been partnering with the community for over 20 years to provide hot meals, groceries and clothing to our neighbors in need. We want to make sure that no one in our local community has to go hungry. At My Sister's Pantry, you can stock up on groceries and fresh food, "shop" for clothing and get a hot meal (*hot meal currently unavailable due to COVID-19*).

We know that crisis and financial difficulties can strike anyone. We also understand how difficult it can be to ask for help. That's why we welcome everyone with compassion and kindness.

My Sister's Pantry is located at 621 Tacoma Ave. S., Tacoma, WA 98402. We are one block west (uphill) from Corina Bakery. Our phone number is (253) 627-1186.

[**NORTHWEST HARVEST**](#) – Locate food banks and meal programs in Washington State on an interactive map.

[**ST. LEO FOOD BANK – FOOD CONNECTION - TACOMA**](#) - The open hours for the St. Leo Food Bank can change depending on holidays and “closure weeks” which happen throughout the year. We do our best to include unusual schedules on our home page. If you are unsure or have a question, please give us a call at 253-383-5048. Includes St. Leo Food Bank, Springbrook Mobile Food Bank, and Children's Programs.

SEASONAL ASSISTANCE – GIFTS AND MORE

[**USPS OPERATION SANTA**](#) - The North Pole is now accepting letters! To participate in the USPS Operation Santa program as a possible recipient of holiday gifts, all you have to do is write a letter, put it in a stamped envelope with a return address, and send it to Santa’s official workshop address. Here’s how to get your letter to Santa. Visit website for details and instructions. Letters must be postmarked after September 16 and before December 9th.

[**FORGOTTEN CHILDREN’S FUND**](#) - We provide a Christmas experience for families in need. This includes a visit to your home from Santa and his team of elves who will deliver gifts and warm coats for your children, blankets and a food box to your family on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

[**JOY BOX MINISTRY**](#) - Joy Box Ministry in Tacoma, invites low-income families, seniors, veterans, and anyone else having a hard time to their ministry. With this ministry, those in need receive an anonymous joy box filled with five wrapped gifts and five uplifting letters to help brighten their spirit.

[**SALVATION ARMY SEASONAL ASSISTANCE**](#) - Salvation Army offers their Angel Tree program for underprivileged families during the holiday season. These families will receive new toys for their children, clothing, shoes, and food from donors in the community. Visit this site to see if your area has an Angel Tree program.

[**SHOP WITH A TACOMA COP**](#) - Shop With A Tacoma Cop in Tacoma, offers a unique experience for children of low-income families during the holiday season. Chosen children get to shop with Tacoma deputies, enjoy refreshments, gift certificates, wrapping supplies, toys, and more. Additionally, children also get to pick out gifts for their family members.

[**TACOMA TOY RESCUE MISSION**](#) - Toy Rescue Mission in Tacoma, offers seasonal assistance to families currently using state services and meet their criteria. These families receive both toys and clothing through donations made by the community. Additionally, they offer birthday baskets and Easter baskets filled with toys and candy for the kids. TOY RESCUE MISSION - TACOMA - Address - 607 S Winnifred St, Tacoma, WA, 98465, Telephone: (253) 460 - 6711

[**TOYS FOR TOTS – PIERCE COUNTY**](#) - Toys for Tots enrollment begins early. Get registered to get free gifts for your kids!

[**TREES FOR TROOPS**](#) - Trees for Troops distributes free Christmas trees to enlisted military servicemembers between E-1 and E5 ranks. The trees are distributed every year through the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation.