

TPS INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM – 2025-2026

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

*If viewing a printed version, you may access links by going to:

<https://www.tacomaschools.org/departments/indian-education>

- NATIVE COMMUNITY RESOURCES
- GENERAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES
- FOOD ASSISTANCE
- SEASONAL & OTHER ASSISTANCE – GIFTS & MORE

NATIVE COMMUNITY RESOURCES

TRIBAL SERVICES – VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA WESTERN WASHINGTON – Serving Native American & Alaska Native Communities throughout the state of Washington to access culturally appropriate behavioral health resources.

- **NATIVE & STRONG LIFELINE** – The Native & Strong Lifeline is a suicide, crisis, and help line specifically for American Indian and Alaska Natives.
- **TRIBAL SERVICES PROFILES** - Tribal Services at Volunteers of America Western Washington (VOAWW) is partnering with the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) and Tribal Communities in Washington state to provide information regarding healthcare resources.
- **THE HUB** – The Native Resource Hub exists as a central resource point for those affiliated with the Native American and Alaska Native Communities. We are available statewide to assist in a variety of ways, giving special attention to culture and community connection.

NATIVE RESOURCE HUB - The Native Resource Hub is a phone line and centralized information center. The Native Resource Hub is for all Native people in Washington state. We serve all Indigenous people in Washington – American Indian and Alaska Native people, First Nations people, Tribal members and unenrolled descendants. You can call regardless of your tribe’s homeland.

We help Native people and their health care providers find resources for:

- Food or housing insecurity.
- Mental health needs.
- Trouble paying energy or utility bills.
- A desire to connect with their culture or community through tribal events.
- Drug dependence or addiction, including alcohol addiction.
- Legal challenges.
- Job loss or trouble finding a job.
- Any need to connect with resources, services or support.

Call 866-491-1683. Open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

NATIVE & STRONG LIFELINE – If you are experiencing a mental health crisis or thinking about suicide:

- Dial 988 and press 4
- Confidential support from Native counselors is available 24/7, at no charge

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.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INDIAN AFFAIRS - Financial Assistance and Social Services (FASS) consist of direct funding and activities related to financial assistance, including general assistance, child assistance, burial assistance, emergency assistance, and adult care assistance; social services, including services to children, the elderly, and families; and child and adult protection services.

This program provides assistance to American Indians and Alaska Natives who have no access to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), do not meet eligibility criteria for TANF, or have exceeded the lifetime limit for TANF services. The services under this section are designed to be secondary in nature.

The five types of direct assistance offered include:

- Burial Assistance

- Child Assistance
- Emergency Assistance
- General Assistance
- Non-Medical Institutional or Custodial Care of Adults

GENERAL 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 \(CRCC\)](#) –

- [Family Resource Centers](#) - Get the help and resources you need at any of the 10 resource centers provided by Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. Each center has unique services to help you achieve your family's goals.
- [Community Resources for Support](#) - There are many resources and programs available throughout the city and County that provide support services. Visit uwpc.org or call 211 for more resources.
- **Discounted activities for low-income or foster youth**

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 - **211 is a free, confidential, multilingual helpline.** It is your one-stop connection to local community services from utility assistance, food, housing, healthcare, elder care, childcare and after school programs, mental health supports and much more.

211 is always ready to assist you in finding the help you need. 211 has the most current and comprehensive database of community resources in the State of Washington (over 17,000 listings).

Simply dial the three digit number 211 on your phone or [find help here](#).

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.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL TACOMA, PIERCE COUNTY (SVdP) – 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.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOUNDATION – Making A Difference Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization with the mission to make a difference in the lives of others, one person at a time, by helping them acquire the most basic needs: food, housing, encouragement, and opportunity.

THE COFFEE OASIS – YOUTH PROGRAMS - The Coffee Oasis Youth Programs exist to create pathways of opportunity for youth and young adults (ages 13-25) to be restored in heart, soul, mind, and body.

Since 1997, The Coffee Oasis has offered hope and opportunity to youth ages 13-25 in Washington state.

Thousands of youth have found community and healing through The Coffee Oasis Youth Programs.

The Coffee Oasis offers all resources, services, activities, and programs without regard to religious beliefs, race, color, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disability.

- Crisis services
- Youth engagement
- Housing services
- Youth development

FOOD ASSISTANCE

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. *Note: Food banks often change their hours and days of operation. Call first to confirm this information. Many food banks require an appointment as well as proof of ID, residency, social security, etc. Some may limit number of visits per year.*

[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 an 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.

- [Eloise's Cooking Pot Food Bank](#) - Providing food for Pierce County's most vulnerable citizens since 2009
- Eloise's Cooking Pot Food Bank provides quality food to the communities of East and South Tacoma, Washington

[MY SISTER'S PANTRY](#) - My Sister's Pantry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit food and clothing bank located in Tacoma Washington's Historic Stadium District. Since opening its doors to the community in 1999, My Sister's Pantry has become one of the busiest food banks/pantries in the area. We are open Mondays from 4-6pm (**closed July 7th**), providing a space where clients can shop for groceries, clothing, toiletries, and household goods.

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 & OTHER – 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.

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-come 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 –

- **Utility Assistance** - Providing utility assistance during the holidays is crucial for supporting families in need, ensuring they can stay warm and safe while managing financial challenges during the festive season. [Learn More](#)
- **The Angel Tree Program** - The Angel Tree program provided gifts for more than one million children last Christmas. If you are at risk of not being able to provide presents for your children this holiday season, please [reach out to your local Salvation Army](#). If you're interested in providing gifts for this program, please visit our [Angel Tree registry page](#).
- **Other Programs & Services** - We know the holidays causes financial stress each year for millions of families around the country. We encourage individuals and families seeking assistance to [reach out to their local Salvation Army](#).

SHOP WITH A TACOMA COP - Shop With a Tacoma Cop is a unique program in which Tacoma Police Officers can make a positive contribution to the community by sharing Christmas with children and families in Tacoma who are in need. Officers and kids spend time one-on-one together in an unforgettable holiday shopping experience.

TACOMA TOY RESCUE MISSION - Our programs are designed to take away the stress of a parent wondering how they are going to buy a birthday gift, Easter basket, a new backpack or Christmas gifts when they are dealing with finding ways to keep food on the table and provide safe shelter. Well known psychologists have publicly stated that playthings are essential to the development of a child's creativity and have a direct bearing on hobbies and or future careers. Toys also help in building self-esteem so that children feel equal among their peers.

If you are on state services for your child and can meet our criteria for proof, let us remove the extra stress by putting toys into the hands of your child.

(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.

LL – 10/7/2025