Serving Washington’s Rural Tribes

Presented by:
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Overview:

• Background

• The Need

• The Solution

• Where We Are Today
**Background**

- In 2014, Congress tasked DOL/VETS to submit strategies to address Tribal Veteran employment
- VPL 05-15 encouraged state special initiatives
- In 2018, VETS approved grant modification for two positions to serve Washington’s rural tribes
- Native Americans and Alaskan Natives serve in the military at a higher per capita rate than any other ethnic group
The Need

• Washington State is the home of 29 Federally recognized tribes

• Rural tribes in Washington suffer high unemployment rates (19-25% on Olympic Peninsula; 10-14% East of the Cascades)

• Distance to the nearest American Job Center and lack of local employers are the current reality for Washington’s rural tribes
The Need (contd.)

“Tribal nations continue to experience unemployment rates well above the national average, and rates of unemployment are exacerbated by economic conditions, endemic poverty, inadequate infrastructure, and marginal education opportunities”

- National Congress of American Indians: www.ncai.org
The Solution

• Two Tribal Consolidated Veteran Services Representatives (Peninsula; Eastern WA):
  – Provide cultural awareness training for WorkSource staff
  – Develop partnerships with agencies working with the tribes (DVR, WDVA, etc.)
  – Connect tribal warriors with WorkSource services
  – Engage businesses to encourage hire of tribal warriors

• Involve tribal entities (TERO; TVR) and leadership in defining and selecting Tribal CVSRs
Primary Tribes Supported:

- Peninsula: Makah, Quinault, Hoh, and Quileute
- Eastern: Spokane, Colville, and Yakama
Where We Are Today

• Joe Turrey hired May 20th
• Recognizing need for cultural competence training
• Need to market AJC services to Tribes more effectively – they are unaware of scope of resources available
• Joe connects AJC staff to local Tribal Counsels and Tribal Vet Rep
• East Side Tribal Consolidated position to be hired soon – Statewide plan to follow
Joseph Turrey
Tribal CVSR
Olympic Peninsula
QUESTIONS

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