

Frequently Asked Questions: Tribal Navigator Program

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What is the Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) Tribal Navigator Program?

The APD Tribal Navigator Program is a formal partnership between local APD/AAA offices and Tribal Entities. Each participating Tribal entity will designate a staff member as the Tribal Navigator. Their role is to liaise between their members who are older adults or people with disabilities to assist with enrollment in Older Americans Act Services or Long-Term Services and Supports. The ultimate outcome is decreased barriers to access and increased trust between all agencies and Tribal members.

The Tribal Navigator role sounds like our intake and options counselors. How is this different?

Given the unique history of Native American Oregonians, there is an inherent distrust between Tribal members and state government. Tribal members go without vital services, such as Long-Term Services and Supports. This program allows them to seek answers and access services from an individual they know and trust and who understands their unique cultural traditions.

How will I interface with the Tribal Navigators?

Depending on your role you will have varying contact with the Tribal Navigators. It is important that all staff are aware of the Tribal Navigator Program. Front desk staff can direct calls to the appropriate Case Manager. Eligibility workers and Case Managers can refer individuals to both the Tribal Navigator and APD/AAA single point of contact to help support this partnership.

What is the purpose and role of the APD/AAA single point of contact?

The single points of contact at both the APD and AAA offices are Case Managers that have been designated by management to serve all Tribal clients in the area. The Tribal Navigators will have a direct line to the single point of contact and accompany them on assessments for Tribal members. In addition, they will staff cases jointly.

Where do I find more information and keep up to date on the Tribal Navigator Program?

There will be monthly meetings held with the Tribal Navigators and single points of contact.

Information links

- To learn more about Oregon's Tribes please visit the following pages: DHS Tribal Affairs Office:
<https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/tribal-affairs/pages/default.aspx>
- The Legislative Commission on Indian Services:
<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/cis>

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact the Aging and People with Disabilities at apd.ltss@odhs.oregon.gov or 503-945-5600. We accept all relay calls.



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