

**OPTIONS FOR AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER  
SERVICES TO TRIBAL MEMBERS: Discussion Paper**

7/18/2008

Following extensive consultation with various tribal representatives and GLITC, the Department of Health Services has identified three potential options for tribal Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) services, within the limits of current funding, which respond to the needs expressed by tribes.

**Option 1: A tribe participates as a full partner in the formation of a multi-county/tribal ADRC.**

- A tribal government representative serves on the governing board of the ADRC.
- Tribal representatives including consumers participate in planning the ADRC.
- Tribal representatives work with counties to assure that culturally appropriate and accessible services are provided by the ADRC to tribal members.
- The state contracts with the ADRC (or its designated fiscal agent), and the ADRC receives \$40,000 for each tribal partner.
- The multi-county-tribal ADRC provides all of the core services of an ADRC as specified by the state contract to any residents of the counties or reservation.
- The ADRC will provide the same level of information, options counseling, eligibility and enrollment assistance for access to Family Care, Partnership (where available) or IRIS (self-directed supports waiver) to tribal members and county residents.
- The ADRC will provide culturally sensitive and appropriate services to tribal members in the area.

**Option 2: A Tribal Aging and Disability Resource (ADR) Specialist position for any tribe seeking this option.**

- A tribal full-time or part-time position is funded by the state to assure that tribal members receive culturally appropriate information on aging and disability services and benefits, and receive support to access long-term care programs including Family Care, Partnership (where available) and IRIS (self-directed supports.)
- The state contracts directly with the tribe to support the full-time or part-time position, at a funding level that reflects the relative size of the tribal population living on or near the reservation.
- The services to be provided by the tribal ADR Specialist would include outreach, liaison between tribal people and the county ADRC, conducting home visits to provide information and counseling and assisting people to use the ADRC,.
- The tribal ADR Specialist serves as a customer advocate for tribal members using the ADRC.
- The tribal ADR Specialist will assure there is training and technical assistance provided to the ADRC(s) serving the area where tribal members reside about resources available through the tribes, about culturally appropriate ways of

serving tribal elders and persons with disabilities, and to assist with collecting information.

- There will be an MOU between the tribe and ADRC(s) serving the area where tribal members reside specifying the roles and responsibilities of the Tribal Aging and Disability Specialist and the ADRC.
- The ADRC(s) serving the area where tribal members reside are required to provide culturally sensitive/competent services to the tribal members in the area who use ADRC services.

**Option 3: A Tribal Aging & Disability Resource Center is established by multiple tribal governments.**

- Participating tribes will establish a governing board that consists of tribal members, with at least 25% consumers.
- The ADRC will operate as a single organization, with one director and one budget and centralized data base and fiscal operations.
- The tribal ADRC will provide to tribal members the full range of core ADRC functions, based on the standard ADRC contract, at locations accessible to all tribes.
- The tribal ADRC will provide options counseling and benefits counseling to tribal members to assist them with access to Family Care and other public programs.
- The state will contract directly with the multi-tribal ADRC. The multi-tribal ADRC will need an agency to sign a contract, receive and manage funds. One tribe may be designated by participating tribes to play this role for the entire ADRC.
- Funding will go to the multi-tribal ADRC, not to the individual tribes, to provide services to tribal members.
- The population base served by the multi-tribal ADRC needs to be large enough to qualify for sufficient funding to provide all ADRC functions required by the DHS contract.

The State of Wisconsin recognizes the sovereign status of the Indian nations of Wisconsin, and seeks to support the decisions made by tribal representatives regarding these alternative ways of participating in the ADRC initiatives under the Family Care legislation.