

Area office accomplishments/successes in 2021 and 2022

Eugene Area Office

Our office is fully staffed with a variety of programs to serve our Tribal community. Programs include 477-SSP, Community Health, Behavioral Health, Education, Vocational Rehabilitation and Culture/Language. Our office works with Tribal community members living in Lane, Linn and Benton counties.

The Eugene office is always working on making good community connections to better support our Tribal community. One very strong connection we have made is with Food for Lane County. We are currently involved in their Produce Plus Program, which has been a huge support to our members. Each week, staff travel to FFLC to pick up produce/bread, bring it back to the office and make it available for those in need.

Month/Year	Number of individuals served	Number of households served
January 2021	148	49
February 2021	281	98
March 2021	289	92
April 2021	207	65
May 2021	207	61
June 2021	281	84
July 2021	206	54
August 2021	300	91
September 2021	171	56
October 2021	254	87
November 2021	163	54
December 2021	100	32
January 2022	176	63
February 2022	203	65
March 2022	287	86
April 2022	203	63

Impact stories from a few Tribal members who pick up food from the office

“It’s been a huge help. I hardly have to buy any fresh fruits and veggies. Since my mom passed, I buy groceries for a household of seven. This saves me a lot of money. Now I eat plain yogurt, never thought that would happen. Very little goes to waste. I make sure to use everything because I would feel bad if it did go to waste and someone else could have used it. Also it pushes me to cook more and not eat out as much. I am always making new things; last night I made roasted garlic for the week. I’m excited to use it. I have found different ways to use the meatballs; they are good in the air fryer. I have put them in spaghetti and on pizza. I actually found a recipe to make the pizza crust with the plain yogurt from the family food box. I then used the cheese from the box and the meatballs. I have all these new habits. I cut apples/oranges and put them in baggies each week for ready-to-grab snacks. I cut the brick of cheese into chunks as snacks as well. I have also started making cabbage steaks.”

“I am grateful for the Trillium Produce Plus Program. These foods impact me positively weekly. I get excited to visit the distribution spot where I am exposed to my community. The foods I receive nourish my mother as well as myself. I learn to incorporate items that I wouldn’t normally choose with the help of the amazing staff at the Eugene Area Office offering ideas and recipes. I am more likely to use up foods given to me quickly and readily. The ability to attain foods without having to traverse grocery stores during a pandemic has also been a great benefit. Thank you for the awesome work in making this program available to me!”

Another community partner we have been working with is the NAACP. They have a really nice pantry that we are invited to “shop” in for needed items for our community members. These items are non-perishable food items as well as hygiene products. This has been a great addition to Food for Lane County because these items have a longer shelf life and the hygiene products are necessities.

Month/Year	Number of households who picked up
August 2021	8
September 2021	0
October 2021	19
November 2021	6
December 2021	3
January 2022	5
February 2022	14
March 2022	15
April 2022	13

In 2021, we held two successful socially distant events for our community.

The first was a barbecue on the go, along with a mask decorating contest. Staff worked together to prepare a full dinner with hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad and dessert. Community members arrived and in the safety of their cars, picked up dinner and mask decorating supplies. We served 91 dinner plates and received many entries for the mask decorating.

The second activity was a soup-in-a-jar and culture craft event. Staff made chicken noodle soup-in-a-jar kits. The jars contained all the ingredients to make a family-size pot of soup. Each household member also chose a cultural craft activity to take home and complete.

This was a well-received event as 35 households picked up soup and crafts. Many have called the office since to request the soup recipe.

Our goal for 2022 is to offer four events/activities for our community members. So far this year we have completed one event and we have one in the planning stage.

In March we held a drive-through Indian taco event. Staff worked together to make more than 160 pieces of fry bread and all the toppings for a delicious dinner. We also made up key chain kits as a take-home project. We served 95 taco plates.



Salem Area Office

The Salem Area Office is home to many Tribal programs, including Alcohol/Drug, Mental Health, Home Visiting, Education, Community Health and 477-SSP, plus community, holiday and culture events for Salem Area Office Tribal members.

Many departments exist within these programs, including:

- Education: JOM program for children age 3-18, Adult Education, Adult Vocational Training and Higher Education
- 477-SSP: Tribal Aid to Needy Families, General Assistance to single adults, Work Experience, Youth Work Experience, Emergency Assistance, client training and growth conferences
- Community Health: Nutrition, Health, Diabetes advocates and prevention, Elder assistance, health and immunization screenings at Head Start, car seat program, cooking and food preservation classes, and wellness clinics
- Vocational Rehabilitation: Provides support to overcome barriers to employment, job coaching, résumé writing, interview practices, employment success
- Peer Mentoring: Provides support and assists Tribal members in re-entry services.
- Alcohol and Drug: counseling, prevention awareness/support, and talking circles.
- Mental health: Youth counseling, marriage counseling, and crisis intervention and prevention
- Home Visiting: Parenting programs and trainings, mentorship while families participate in the program
- USDA: Food and nutrition program that provides food to families
- Indirect staff: Assist all program staff as well as provide assistance to Tribal members with programs not staffed in the Salem area, such as housing programs, energy assistance, program applications and updates, Tribal IDs, per capita, minor trust, enrollment applications, elders and health clinic-related inquires, updates and forms

In a community office, staff also has additional duties that for most of us include some of the following:

- Assisting with community events, meetings and distributions such as fish, health fairs and clinics, Tribal meetings and Covid-related programs
- During the recent heat waves, distributing foot baths, neck cooling scarfs and water, and telephoning at-risk Tribal members to do safety checks
- Tribal Council provides funding so area offices can hold community, holiday and culture events based on the area’s individual interests and requests. When funds allow and we can locate instructors through staff or volunteers, we are also able to have teacher-led experiences for our service area.

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