

Save Our Skookum (SOS)

Frequently asked questions

Q: What is the point of making members apply for Oregon Health Plan/Medicaid or other state coverage?

A: To save Tribal dollars. If you are eligible for a state plan, this would become primary and pays claims before Skookum, which saves Tribal funds.

Q: Does Tribal Council know you're doing this to the membership?

A: Yes. This was a directive from Tribal Council. (We are doing this FOR the membership ... to benefit everyone by keeping the plan sustainable.)

Q: What information can be submitted to the Skookum Secondary Payer Group if I don't qualify for the state coverage?

A: Income verification, such as a pay stub or tax information showing you are over the income limits would be acceptable.

Q: If I am an Elder receiving the Tribal Elder Pension, single family of one, do I have to apply?

A: No, not if you are a single family of one, receiving the Tribal Elder Pension. The Skookum Secondary Payer Group will verify your pension information with Member Benefits.

Q: If I am a married Elder receiving Tribal Elders Pension, and my spouse is working, do I have to apply?

A: If you are a family of two, receiving Tribal Elders Pension, the Skookum Secondary Payer Group will need to verify income information for your household to help determine whether or not you need to apply for OHP/Medicaid.

Q: If I have a primary insurance, do I have to apply?

A: No, not at this time. This will only affect Tribal members using Skookum as their only coverage.

Q: Isn't my Skookum Health Program benefit insurance coverage?

A: No, Skookum is not an insurance plan, therefore, it is not considered to be insurance by definition. You should not reference Skookum as insurance, as it is not. It is a benefit you receive from the Tribe because you are an enrolled Tribal member.

Q: What happens if I do not comply?

A: Your claims will be suspended in a pending status at Shasta and not paid until you fulfill your obligation. Once it is confirmed that you have fulfilled your obligation, we will instruct Shasta to process and pay your claims.

Q: I might be getting a job soon; if I do, should I drop my Medicaid?

A: Keep your Medicaid until you have new coverage in effect and notify Medicaid of your change in status.

Q: How do I apply for Medicaid?

A: Many states have an online application and eligibility information or you can call the Department of Human Services in your state to learn about what is available to you.

Q: Will there be Tribal staff available to answer my questions about applying for Medicaid?

A: Yes, there will be Tribal staff available to assist you with questions.

Q: Am I required to pay for insurance through my employer?

A: We encourage those Tribal members with alternate resources, such as employer sponsored insurance, to enroll in those plans and use Skookum as a secondary coverage to pay for any balances that are patient responsibility. But, at this time, you aren't required to enroll in your employer plan if there is an associated premium that you must pay. (But you may certainly choose to.) ■

Thank you to everyone that has responded to this effort and/or provided necessary documentation. We look forward to hearing from you! Please call with your questions.

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Save Our Skookum

Portland float



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council member Chris Mercier kayaks his way through The Big Float 3 on the Willamette River in downtown Portland on Sunday, July 28. The Tribe sponsored the event, which was expected to draw 2,000 people who floated from the Marquam Bridge to the Tom McCall Waterfront Park Bowl.

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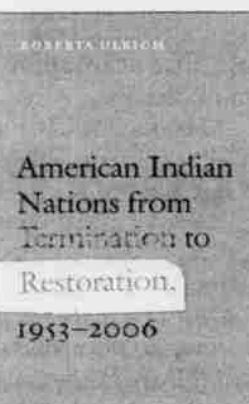
American Indian Nations from Termination to Restoration, 1953-2006

Roberta Ulrich

When the U.S. government ended its relationship with dozens of Native American tribes and bands between 1953 and 1966, it was engaging in a massive social experiment. Congress enacted the program, known as termination, in the name of "freeing" the Indians from government restrictions and improving their quality of life. However, removing the federal status of more than nine dozen tribes across the country plunged many of their nearly 15,000 members into deeper levels of poverty and eroded the tribal people's sense of Native identity. Beginning in 1973 and extending over a twenty-year period, the terminated tribes, one by one, persuaded Congress to restore their ties to the federal government. Nonetheless, so much damage had been done that even today the restored tribes struggle to overcome the problems created by those terminations a half century ago.

Roberta Ulrich provides a concise overview of all the terminations and restorations of Native American tribes from 1953 to 2006 and explores the enduring policy implications for Native peoples. This is the first book to consider all the terminations and restorations in the twentieth century as part of continuing policy while detailing some of the individual tribal differences. Drawing from Congressional records, interviews with tribal members, and other primary sources, Ulrich delves into the causes and effects of termination and restoration from both sides.

Roberta Ulrich is a retired newspaper reporter. She is the author of *Empty Nets: Indians, Dams, and the Columbia River*.



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