



# **Oregon's Aging and People with Disabilities Tribal Navigator Program**

January 28, 2026

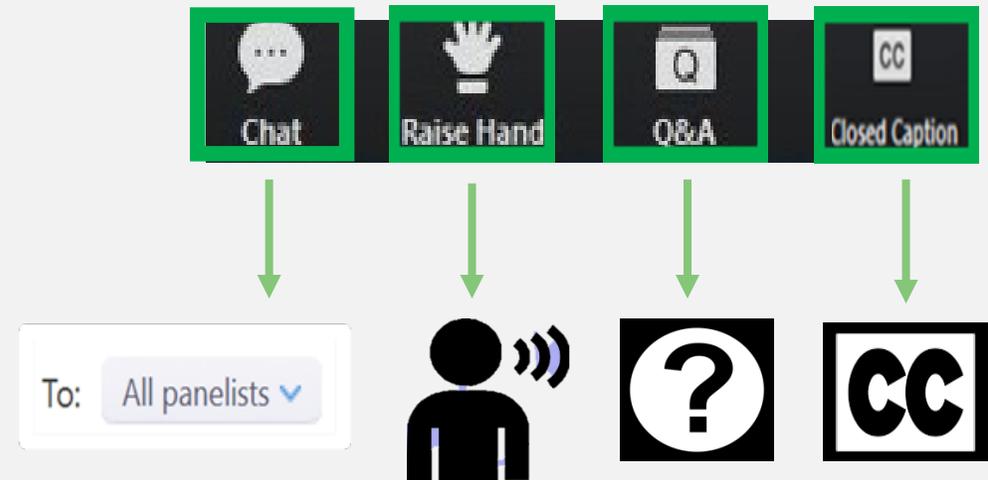
# Technical Notes and Support

---

If you lose connectivity during the session, **click your original join link to regain access to the webinar.**

If you experience technical difficulties, **send a note using the chat box in your bottom menu bar,** and we'll assist you from there.

Enjoy the session!

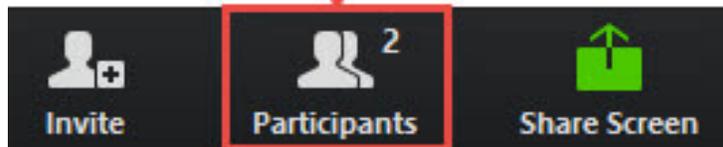


# How to Change Name in Zoom

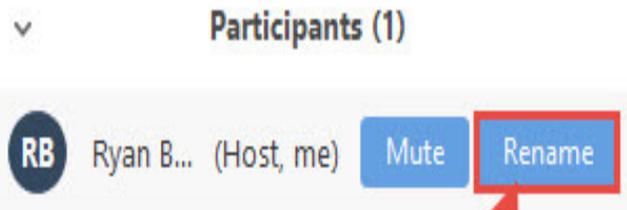
To change your name after entering a Zoom meeting, click on the **"Participants"** button at the top of the Zoom window.

1

After launching the Zoom meeting, click on the **"Participants"** icon at the bottom of the window.



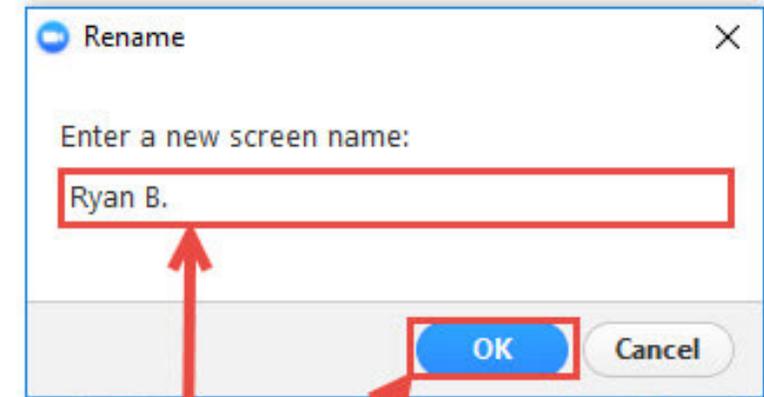
Next, hover your mouse over your name in the **"Participants"** list on the right side of the Zoom window. Click on **"Rename."** You can also click on the three dots in your video box to rename yourself.



2

In the **"Participants"** list on the right side of the Zoom window, hover over your name and click on the **"Rename"** button.

Change your name to show:  
Name, last initial, name of organization  
**Example: Cary D., VOAD**



3

Type in the display name you'd like to appear in the meeting and click on **"OK"**.



## **Disclaimer**

This webinar series is supported by GS-00F-0012S/75FCMC25FJ107 awarded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this webinar are those of the presenters and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Department of Health and Human Services or the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

# Today's Presenters



**Barbara Black**  
Tribal Navigator  
Confederated Tribes  
of Coos, Lower  
Umpqua and  
Siuslaw Indians



**Danielle  
Broncheau**  
Public Services  
Coordinator  
Yellowhawk Tribal  
Health Center



**Laura Hunker**  
Tribal Affairs  
Consultant  
Office of Aging and  
People with  
Disabilities  
Oregon Department  
of Human Services



**Debbie McCuin**  
Program Analyst,  
Community Services  
and Supports Unit  
Office of Aging and  
People with  
Disabilities  
Oregon Department  
of Human Services

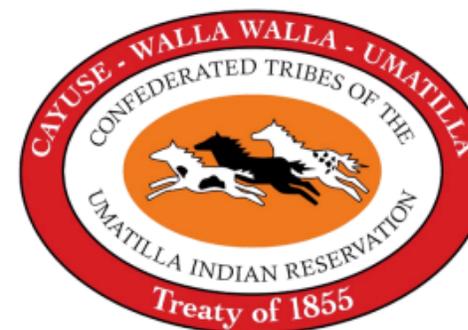


**Jane-ellen Weidanz**  
Deputy Director of  
Policy  
Office of Aging and  
People with  
Disabilities  
Oregon Department  
of Human Services



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF  
**Human Services**

January 28, 2026



# Oregon's Aging and People with Disabilities Tribal Navigator Program

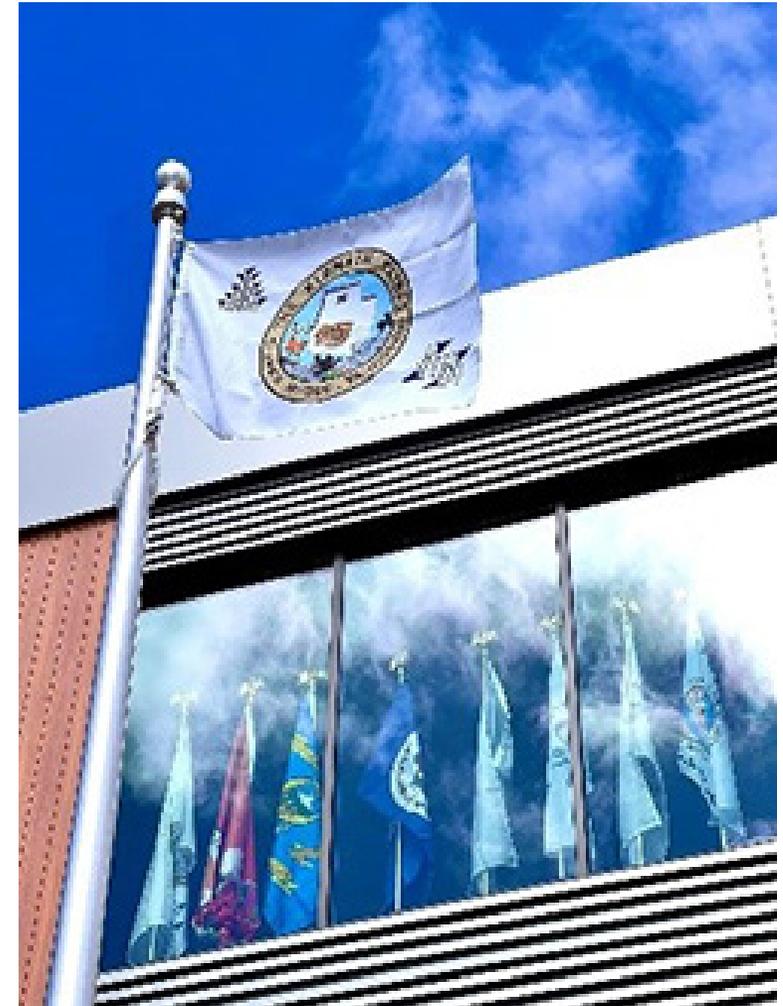
# Webinar Objectives

- Explain how tribal navigators help increase access to long-term services and supports
- Highlight the role of tribal navigators in repairing relationships between the Office of Aging and People with Disabilities/Area Agency on Aging (APD/AAA) and the tribal nations of Oregon

# Government-to-Government Relations and Tribal Consultation

---

- Oregon has a longstanding commitment to working with the nine federally recognized tribes
- Senate Bill 770 established a framework for communication between tribes and state
  - Government-to-government relations and communications
  - Formal and ongoing convening with the nine tribes
- Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Office of Tribal Affairs
- ODHS tribal consultation policy
- APD created the position of dedicated tribal affairs consultant



# History of the Tribal Navigator Program

**2017**

Tribal Title VI Coordinators express a significant need to improve coordination of services between AAAs and tribal governments

**Summer 2018**

Relationships expand, new relationships begin

**Winter 2018–2019**

Barriers and challenges experienced by Native American elders and adults with physical disabilities continue to be identified

**Summer 2019**

First couple of tribes express interest in a system navigation model  
Contracting options are explored with tribal governments, Oregon Department of Justice, and AAAs

First Title VI Coordinators Statewide Meet & Greet is hosted

**Spring 2018**

Second Title VI Coordinators Statewide Meet & Greet is hosted  
The idea of a Tribal Navigator Program emerges at a tribal consultation for the Medicaid waiver renewal

**Fall 2018**

Third Title VI Coordinators Statewide Meet & Greet  
Models of tribally specific service delivery are explored by ODHS Aging and People with Disabilities

**Spring 2019**

Fourth Title VI Coordinators Statewide Meet & Greet  
Tribal Navigator Program begins

**Fall 2019**

# Where Are We Now?

## Summer 2022

Regional Meet & Greets resume in person  
Gained national recognition for the Tribal Navigator model  
Presented at national conference in Austin, Texas

## 2023–2024

Relationships expand, new Tribal Navigator contracts are developed with The Next Door, Inc., and The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

## 2026 and ongoing

Annual Meet & Greets continue  
Regional Meet & Greets expand  
Work to have contracts in place with all federally recognized tribes in Oregon

Annual Title VI Statewide Meet & Greets resume in person, with Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians hosting  
APD hires a tribal affairs consultant

## Fall 2022

Annual Title VI Statewide Meet & Greets  
Regional Meet & Greets held throughout the year across the state  
Contracts developed with The Klamath Tribes and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians  
Presented at national conference in Minneapolis

## 2024–2025

# The Tribal Navigator Program

---

The APD Tribal Navigator Program is a formal partnership between APD/AAA offices and the tribes of Oregon.

Each tribe hires and supervises their own staff as an APD Tribal Navigator.

Navigators serve as liaison between tribal elders or people with disabilities and APD/AAA. They help tribal members enroll in Older Americans Act services or Medicaid long-term services and supports (LTSS).



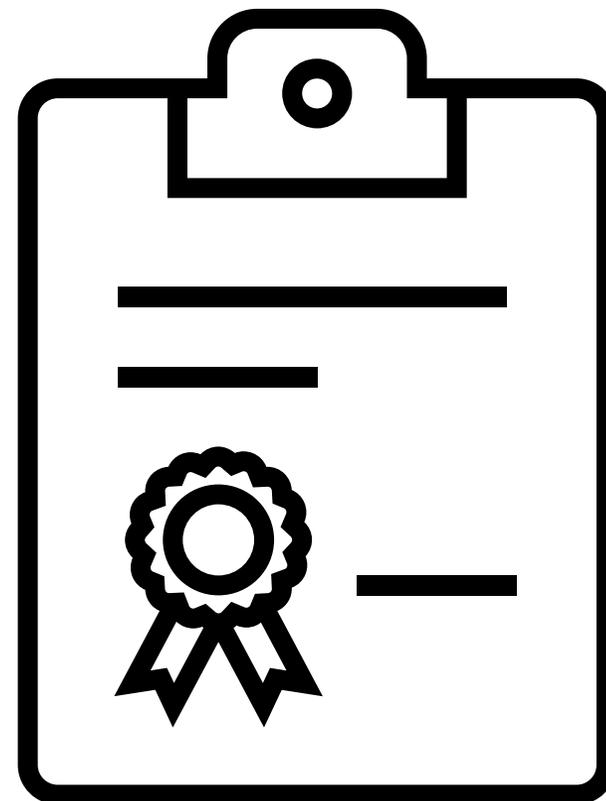
# The Tribal Navigator Program Goals

---

The goal of the program is to decrease barriers to accessing services and to repair the relationship between APD/AAA, the nine tribes of Oregon, and all tribal elders and people with disabilities.

Given the history of Indigenous and Native American Oregonians, trauma impacts relationships between tribal members and the state government.

This program allows tribal members to seek answers and access services from an individual they know and trust who understands their culture and traditions.



# Participating Tribes and Programs

---

- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- Coquille Indian Tribe
- Klamath Tribes
- Native American Rehabilitation Association Northwest, an urban Indian health center serving the Portland Metro area
- The Next Door, a nonprofit that serves the Columbia River Gorge and Celilo Village



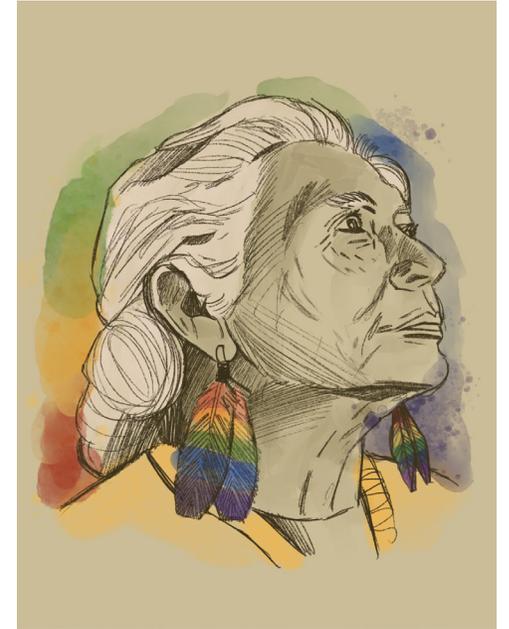
# Aging and People with Disabilities Services Available to Tribal Members

---

APD serves tribal members through programs such as the Older Americans Act, Oregon Project Independence, Aging and Disability Resource Connection, Medicaid, cash assistance benefits, and Medicaid LTSS, including an 1115 LTSS demonstration waiver.

Available services include:

- Information and referral
- Options counseling
- Home-delivered meals
- Congregate meals
- Case management
- Health promotion
- Nutrition education
- Medicaid home- and community-based care
- Nursing facility care
- Money management
- Home modifications
- Community transportation
- Social isolation prevention



# Meet & Greets

The Meet & Greets bring together leadership from the nine tribes of Oregon, with Aging and People with Disabilities and the Area Agencies on Aging.

The purpose of these meetings is to better serve tribal elders through coordination of the Older Americans Act services, Medicaid, and other APD services.

Under the Older Americans Act, Title III and Title VI coordination is required.

These meetings foster relationship building, create opportunities for collaboration, and offer an intentional listening space for APD to hear directly from tribal leadership.



## Meet & Greets (*cont.*)

- APD partners with one of the nine tribes of Oregon to host and plan the annual APD Title VI Statewide Meet & Greet.
- In 2025, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians hosted in Canyonville, Oregon.
- APD also partners with local AAAs and tribes to hold smaller Regional Meet & Greets throughout the year.
- The regular, consistent, in-person connection is vital for collaboration, partnership, and coordination.



# What Have the Meet & Greets Meant to Participants?

“Really, Meet & Greets are relationship builders. Title VI coordinators were not part of the Area Plan creation before. Now we are, which is great!”

“Building relationships honors and respects tribes and cultural learning opportunities.”

“This has allowed us to build relationships and discuss what is working well in other areas. We have the opportunity to learn about the tribes’ history and culture, sometimes even from the elders.”

“I also love that tribes get a chance to share their history with the group, which is powerful. You learn so much through cultural sharing!”

“We are able to cross share new programs and hear where the unmet needs are, to pinpoint areas to improve.”



# What Does a Tribal Navigator Do?

---

- Honoring cultural customs
- Planning
- Coordination
- Advocacy
- Monitoring and follow-up
- Transportation
- Documentation
- Communication
- Crisis support
- Goal setting
- Care transitions
- Risk assessment and safety planning
- Interdisciplinary team
- Discharge planning



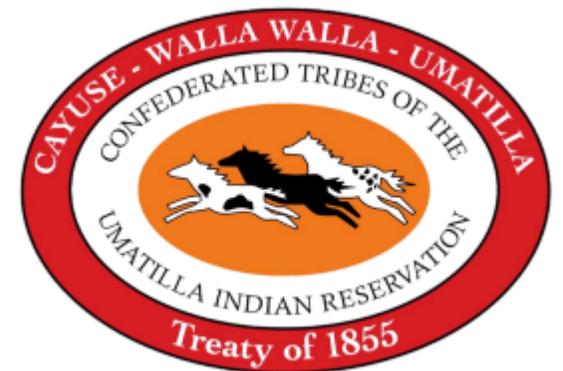
# Tribal Navigators at Tribal Health Centers

---

- Help individuals access Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and APD services
- Provide outreach and education to patients who may be eligible for Medicare, Medicaid, and APD services
- Help obtain documents needed to process resource applications
- Conduct necessary interviews with APD/AAA/Adult Protective Services case managers
- Transportation to the needed resource
- Work with state, local, and tribal entities to identify and address the needs of elders and people with disabilities (includes tribal members and their descendants who are eligible to receive services at Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center)



**YELLOWHAWK**  
TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER



# Tribal Navigators and Referrals

---

- Decrease barriers for tribal elders when accessing services
- Repair relationships between APD/AAA and the tribal nations of Oregon
- Serve as the liaison between tribal elders or people with disabilities and APD/AAA
- Help tribal members to enroll in:
  - Older Americans Act services
  - Medicaid long-term services and supports
- Advocate for the tribal elder or person with a disability to ensure access to services
- Keep the APD/AAA case manager updated on emerging needs and issues

# External Agencies and Organizations

---

Oregon  
Commission  
for the Blind

Oregon  
Homecare  
Commission

Alzheimer's  
support  
groups

Social  
Security  
Office

Hospital case  
managers

Home rental  
agencies

Community  
transportation

Hotels

Grocery  
markets

Gas stations  
for gas cards

# How Has the Tribal Navigator Program Assisted with Service Coordination?

“They have been able to catch those who are falling through the cracks for services.”

“As a specialized program, it has helped many, many elders access equal services.”

“Essential to referral process, communication, trust building with tribal elders.”

“It has allowed more collaboration with elders services departments, which has given more coverage of care to more tribal elders without letting anyone slip through the cracks.”



# Identifying and Addressing Initial Barriers

---

- Emergency food box deliveries
- Purchased food, cleaning supplies, and over-the-counter medications for porch drop-off when tribal members had COVID
- Assist elders with LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)
- Work with tribal housing department to address elders' requests
- Transport people to medical appointments
- Transport people to congregate meal locations (elders' lunch)
- Evaluate and work with an APD case manager to devise a plan to help an elder



Pandemic



Housing



Transportation



Oregon Office of  
Aging and People  
with Disabilities

# Evaluation and Identifying Barriers

- Evaluate needs
- Help an elder locate a caregiver
- Title VI Elders Grant
- Chore services—funding provided to help a tribal elder get assistance with chores that are now too difficult
- Respite care—funding for the unpaid caregiver to have a break, go shopping, run errands, etc.
- Help an elder come home safely
- Coordinate possible transfers to skilled nursing homes, assisted living, etc.
- Provide transportation to medical appointments at doctors' offices, eye clinics, dental clinics, etc.
- Note, tribal navigators are not qualified to drive a tribal elder to the hospital in an emergency, nor transport them home



Caregiver



Homecare needed



Hospital social workers



Transportation to medical appointments

# Tribal Navigators as Liaisons

---



- Many barriers and bumps along the way
- Respecting an elder's right to make their own decisions
- Having the honor of walking beside elders and people with disabilities through larger systems and tribal services



**Questions?**



# Contact Information

---

## **Barbara Black**

Tribal Navigator

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua  
and Siuslaw Indians

[BBlack@ctclusi.org](mailto:BBlack@ctclusi.org)

(541) 294-5472

## **Danielle Broncheau**

Tribal Navigator

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla  
Indian Reservation

[Danielle.Broncheau@yellowhawk.org](mailto:Danielle.Broncheau@yellowhawk.org)

(541) 240-8701

## **Jane-ellen Weidanz**

ODHS, Aging and People with  
Disabilities

Deputy Director of Policy

[Jane-ellen.Weidanz@odhs.Oregon.gov](mailto:Jane-ellen.Weidanz@odhs.Oregon.gov)

(503) 602-8399

## **Laura Hunker**

ODHS, Aging and People with  
Disabilities

Tribal Affairs Consultant

[Laura.Hunker@odhs.Oregon.gov](mailto:Laura.Hunker@odhs.Oregon.gov)

(503) 449-5438

## **Deb McCuin**

ODHS, Aging and People with  
Disabilities

Program Analyst

[Debbie.McCuin@odhs.Oregon.gov](mailto:Debbie.McCuin@odhs.Oregon.gov)

(541) 301-1672

