



TRIBAL BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

Written by Crystal Bass, Tribal Administrative Director in partnership with relevant departments and programs.

HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Yakama Nation Human Services programs have been working diligently to support our community, protect our elders, and empower our youth.

Area Agency on Aging (AAOA)

Approximately **900 people** attended Yakama Nation's annual Elder Luncheon held May 19 at the Yakima SunDome. This year's theme, "Peace, Love, and Memories," reflected the spirit of the gathering. A performance by White Swan Head Start students made the day even more memorable.

Yakama Nation Head Start

Our youngest learners and staff had an exceptional quarter marked by achievements and cultural connections.

- Head Start reached a major milestone by achieving 100% enrollment, filling **all 114 slots**, and being officially removed from the Office of Head Start's "Chronic Under-Enrollment" list.
- Students deepened their cultural knowledge through Root Digging Field Trips and Root Feast Celebrations, while spring assessments for the *50 x 5 Ichishkiin Language Initiative* showed exceptional growth in Yakama language.
- Congratulations to Head Start staff **Norberta ScabbyRobe** who earned her B.A. in Early Childhood Education and **Tanara Andy** who earned her A.A. in Early Childhood Education.



Johnson O'Malley (JOM) Program

Johnson-O'Malley is a federal program to ensure Native children receive educational opportunities that might not otherwise be available through the public school system. During the quarter,

JOM staff assisted **401** clients, investing **\$45,791.81** in support services for Yakama students.

Veterans Affairs

On May 8, Veterans Affairs hosted an Employment and Housing Resource Fair in partnership with WorkSource Yakima. **150 people** attended the event including veterans,

widows, and Gold Star families. Attendees enjoyed a free lunch, haircuts, medical screenings, and connections to vital Tribal services and local community service organizations.

Vocational Rehabilitation

In June, Yakama Nation Vocational Rehabilitation welcomed **Sheanesha Dominguez** as a new counselor (right).



- The second quarter also saw three YNVR participants exit the program after securing competitive employment and maintaining stable work for at least 90 days.

Higher Ed & Adult Vocational Training

The Higher Education Department awarded **\$461,980 in scholarships to 393 Yakama students** for the 2025-2026 academic year. Funding came from through 11 distinct scholarship funds.

- In March, Tribal Council recognized **three students** who not only completed externships at Yakama Nation Farms but were also hired as employees.
- **Nine Wapato High School seniors** truly carry the Ichishkiin language in their hearts. Tribal Council recognized them on May 14 with the Ichishkiin Seal of Bilitery.



Yakama Nation Library

The library serves as a dynamic hub for reading advocacy, digital literacy, and cultural preservation.

- Expanding digital access remains a top priority. Staff are actively preparing to implement the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity project.
- This quarter staff brought the joy of reading directly to families by distributing free books at their *May the 4th Be with You* (Star Wars Day) celebration.
- The library also hosts traditional storytelling and offers a vast collection of Native American titles to ensure our history and voices are preserved for future generations.
- Their innovative book vending machine provides free, easy access to books, helping local children build their own home libraries.

Child Care and Development Fund

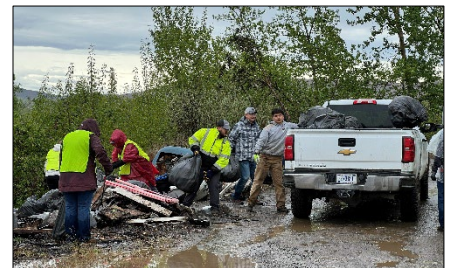
CCDF continues to expand access to safe and affordable childcare. During the quarter, the program served **197 families, 357 children, and 86 providers**. It also hosted the first annual *Week of the Young Child* on April 17, welcoming **12 Tribal programs, 85 adults, and 60 children** for a day of family engagement and community connection.

Earth Day Event

On April 22, employees from both the Yakama Nation and **Yakima Chief Hops** worked together to clean up and restore the area around Parker Dam, a site historically used for fishing and gathering.

The day began with an opening prayer and ceremonial song to bless the work and the volunteers. This marked the fifth time staff from both organizations had gathered to restore the natural landscape. Despite the rain, the annual

Earth Day Cleanup was an enormous success and a reminder of the impact of collaboration.



Village of Hope

The Village of Hope is a transitional housing program designed to provide temporary, supportive housing to Yakama individuals and families. Village of Hope **currently operates 11 transitional housing units**. Plans are underway to develop a second site, adding 24 additional housing units over the next two years.

Beyond providing a safe place to live, VOH helps residents build the skills for long-term stability. In June, **three residents graduated from Yakama Nation Tribal School**, while others continue working toward their GEDs. **Four residents transitioned into permanent housing** through YNHA and Neighborhood Health. Additional successes include family reunification and resident participation in parenting classes.

Iniitnu't Winter Weather Shelter

The shelter provides critical support for community members who are homeless and living on the street. As a low-barrier shelter, Iniitnu't focuses on meeting individuals where they are by providing a safe, accessible space for people who may be facing significant barriers.

The program prioritizes connection, safety, and access to resources. Together, Village of Hope and the Iniitnu't Shelter represent important steps Yakama Nation is taking to address homelessness and housing insecurity.



FOOD & ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Addressing food insecurity remains a critical priority. Access to nutritious food and essential household resources directly impacts the health, well-being, and stability of families, elders, and individuals with disabilities. Through programs like Commodity Foods and LIHEAP, Yakama Nation supports vulnerable community members.

- On June 26, 2026, Commodity Foods participated in the White Swan Food Distribution. **200 households** received vegetable bundles containing potatoes, celery, and carrots. Yakama Nation Fisheries donated Lukameen kits that included flour and canned salmon. Additional support from local nonprofit partners included diapers, wipes, and other essentials.

PROGRAM	APRIL 2026	MAY 2026	JUNE 2026
Commodity Foods	115 Active 219 Certified	131 Active 251 Certified	117 Active 223 Certified
LIHEAP	152 Households	95 Households	125 Households
Food Voucher	26 Household	87 Households	212 Households

STAY CONNECTED YAKAMA NATION GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS:



Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/YakamaNationOfficial/>



Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/yakamanationofficial/>



LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/confederated-tribes-and-bands-of-the-yakama-nation>



Website

<https://www.yakama.com/>



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