



The Economic & Community Benefits of Tribes in Washington

Washington State is home to **29 federally recognized Indian tribes**. Tribal governments are making investments that improve people's lives, Indian and non-Indian alike.

Improving Lives

Tribes in Washington are making significant investments in the state's quality of life. They are large employers, fiscally independent governments and contributors to the public good.

Growing tribal economies fund schools, housing programs, health clinics, environmental rehabilitation, infrastructure development, law enforcement, firefighting and other public services for Indians and non-Indians alike.

“ Tribes are running business enterprises, not to maximize profits, but to benefit communities. Gaming opens the door to possibilities. ”

W. Ron Allen

Chairman of Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe



Strong Tribal Economies Benefit All Washingtonians

Washington's 29 tribal governments generate:

Economic Activity

\$6.6 billion

in gross state product

\$1.5 billion

in wages and benefits

\$1.2 billion

in state and local taxes

Jobs

37,371

direct employment

54,000

jobs trace back to tribes

1 in 86

Washington jobs

Strengthening Washington's Economy

Tribal government enterprises are a major driver of Washington's economy. Tribes employ tens of thousands of Washingtonians and generate billions in revenue every year.

Because tribes are governments, 100 percent of tribal enterprise income is government revenue. This means that profits from tribal enterprise benefit communities in Washington, not private shareholders.

Rooted in Washington

Tribes are rooted in the lands and waters of Washington. They will never threaten to take operations or profits out of the state. Washington has substantially benefited from the economic and social resurgence in Indian Country and will for years to come.



Caring for Communities

Tribes are committed innovators in government and effective during a crisis. Even though COVID-19 brought rapid closures to casinos and other fiscally critical tribal enterprises, tribal governments have been at the vanguard of Washington's pandemic response.

Tribes' efficiency and public-spiritedness helped speed up vaccine rollout for teachers and first responders across the state, and tribes continue to take actions and sponsor initiatives that benefit all Washingtonians.

This piece is based on an economic study funded by the Washington Indian Gaming Association and conducted by Jonathan Taylor, President of the Taylor Policy Group.

Learn more about *The Economic and Community Benefits of Tribes in Washington* at washingtontribes.org.