

Presentation to the House Committee on Early Childhood  
and Human Services

# Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act (ORICWA) implementation update

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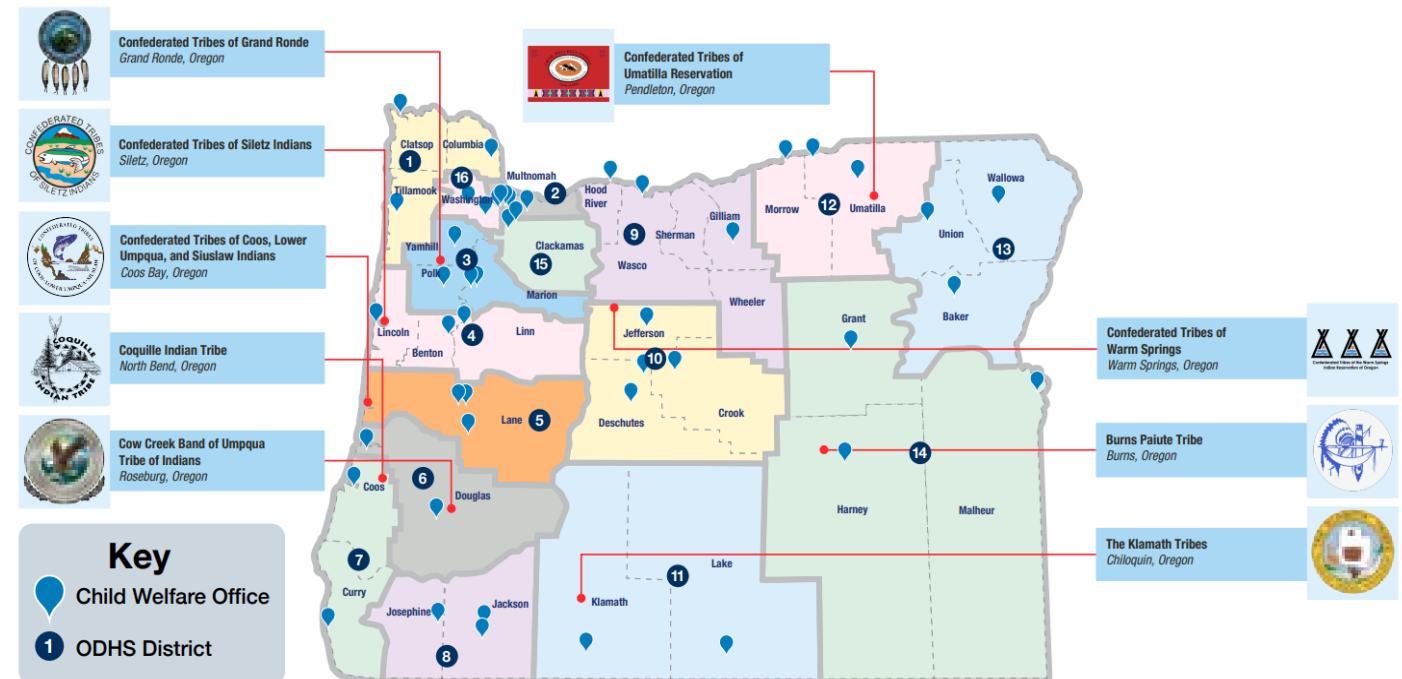
April 22, 2024

# Government-to-government relationship

ODHS is committed to:

- Honoring and upholding Tribal sovereignty
- Tribal consultation and co-creation with Tribes of initiatives, programs and services
- Aligning services to existing Tribal frameworks and activities
- Implementation of the Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act

## Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes



# ORICWA builds on ICWA

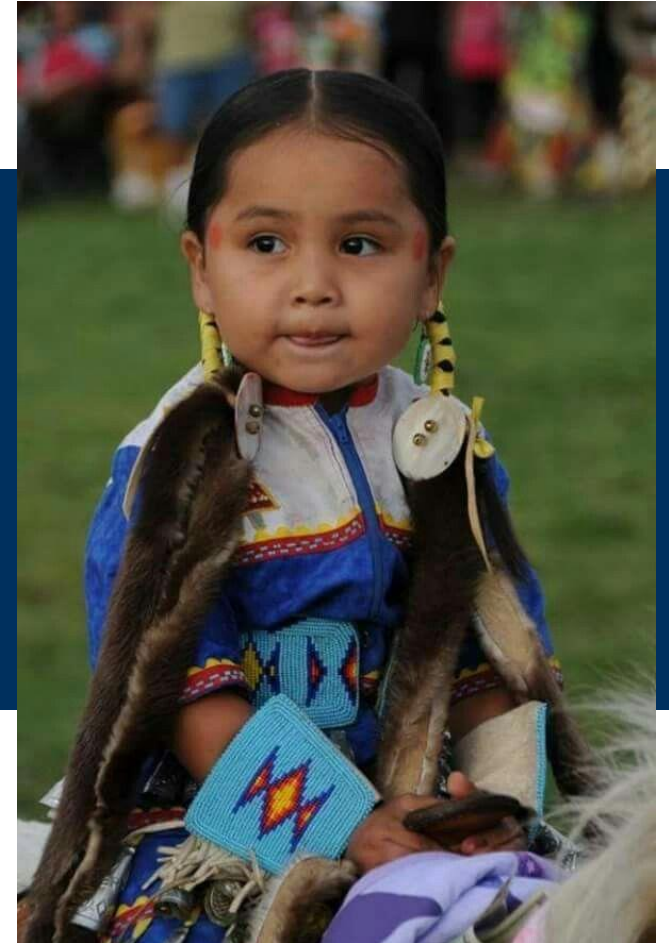
The child's **political, cultural, social and spiritual** relationship to their Tribe must be considered in court's best-interests analysis.

Expanded **recognition of fathers**

Additional requirements around who can be a **qualified expert witness**

Provides in-depth direction related to **placement preferences**

Clarifies **active efforts** standard for keeping families together or reuniting them following a child's removal



# ORICWA Implementation

# ORICWA Implementation Assessment

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**Collaboration with third-party consultant**

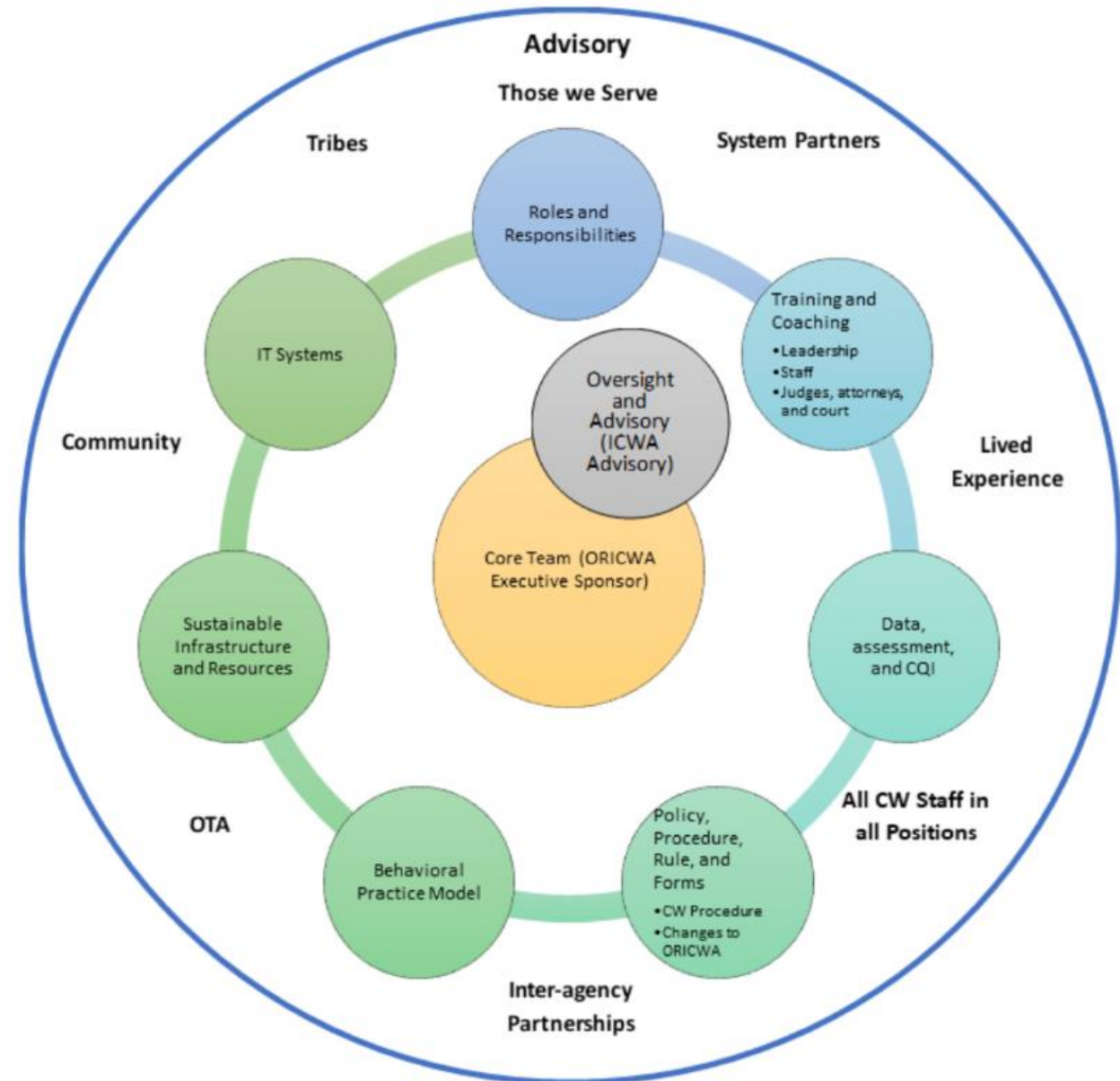
**60 interviews were conducted with staff and Tribal representatives.**

**Identified strengths and challenges**

ORICWA Core Implementation Team established a comprehensive implementation plan that embodies the spirit of ICWA/ORICWA in practice, policy, relationships, and purpose.



# Interagency Partnership







Questions?

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