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**STATE JOINS FORCES WITH WASHOE TRIBE OF NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA
FOR NATIVE TANF PROGRAM**

February 6, 2006 (*Carson City*) – The state Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) has partnered with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California to administer the Native Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program.

The Native TANF Program is focused on serving the Native American community through culturally specific services that can help families become self-sufficient. The Native TANF Program provides temporary assistance benefits to Washoe Tribal members or descendants with a qualifying child, residing in Douglas County or Carson City. Those eligible for temporary assistance receive financial, medical and support services such as child care, transportation and other services for families that are unemployed, underemployed or unable to work.

This program is funded through the federal Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families. Previously, all TANF cases were managed by DWSS staff; the establishment of the new program will allow for the transition of native TANF cases to the new Tribal program administered by the Washoe Tribe.

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The Native TANF Program office is located at 919 Highway 395 South in Gardnerville, Nevada. For more information on the Native TANF Program, please contact Pat Baldwin at 775-265-8672.

The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services promotes the health and well-being of Nevadans through the delivery and facilitation of essential services to ensure that families are strengthened, public health is protected and individuals achieve their highest level of self-sufficiency. Under Director Michael J. Willden, each of the Department's agencies is committed to being accessible and responsive to the public it serves.

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