

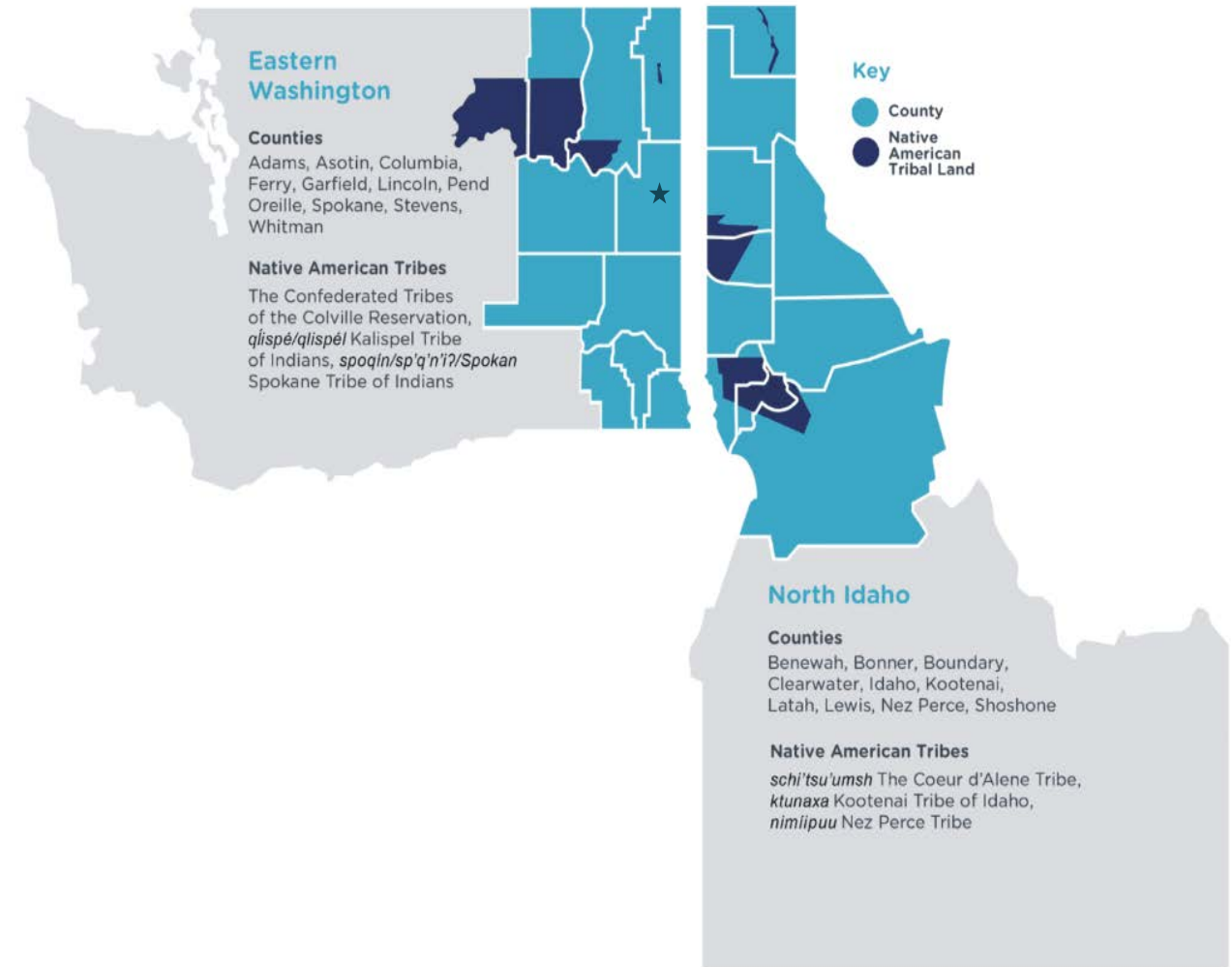
Supporting Marshallese Students and Families in Spokane County

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Innovia Foundation

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Innovia Foundation

- ▶ Community foundation located in Spokane, WA
- ▶ Serve 10 counties in Eastern Washington, 10 counties in North Idaho, and six federally recognized tribes



LaunchNW

- Innovia Foundation's cradle-to-career initiative
- Pairs a promise scholarship with comprehensive supports for youth and families in our region
- One mechanism for prioritizing how to best support youth and families: task forces
- One of our task forces is focused on K-12 attendance

LaunchNW

- Low rates of regular attendance among NHPI students
- In 2023-24, regular attendance rates among 6 largest Spokane County school districts:

All students (67,000): 70%

NHPI students (1500): 47%

- ▶ Marshall Islands natives and their families make up a large NHPI group in Spokane County
- ▶ About 5,000 Marshallese residents in the City of Spokane



LaunchNW attendance task force

- Task force set out to learn about barriers to school attendance among the Marshallese community in Spokane
- Invited a community health worker who is Marshallese to present to our task force, and she has since joined the group permanently
- Followed up with a listening session with 5 Marshallese pastors

Themes from conversations with Marshallese leaders

- “Marshallese people don’t care about education” is a widely held but untrue statement
- Confrontation is often difficult for Marshallese people
- Transportation is often an issue for Marshallese families
- Recognize that being on time is a Western, individualistic value
- **Belonging** is key
- English is not the primary language spoken at home for most Marshallese students

Task force work to support Marshallese families

- Support for translation of automated calls following student absence
- Student support position for our medium-sized districts
- Work on transportation challenges
- Provide support for Marshallese/Pacific Islander student clubs