



2022 Regions IV-VIII  
**Tribal TANF and NEW Programs Virtual Meeting**  
August 16–18, 2022 • 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. MT

## Agenda

### Tuesday, August 16, 2022: Session One (2.5 Hours)

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. ET  
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. CT  
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. MT

**Welcome, Opening Prayer, Introductions, and Agenda Overview**  
Office of Family Assistance (OFA) leadership and speakers will welcome attendees and share the themes and purpose(s) of the meeting. Speakers will also share an overview of the three-day agenda.

*Moderator:*

- Karen Beckerman, Regions V and VII TANF Program Manager, OFA

*Speaker (Welcome):*

- Ann Flagg, Director, OFA

*Speaker (Opening Prayer):*

- Elaine Topsky, Program Director, Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF

11:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. ET  
10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. CT  
9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. MT

**Plenary Session: Tribal TANF and NEW Programs: Shared Expectations and Opportunities for Partnership**

During this session, OFA leadership will kick off discussion about Tribal TANF and NEW program fundamentals, with a focus on shared expectations between programs as well as opportunities for Tribal TANF and NEW programs to partner.

*Speaker:*

- **Carrie Greene**, Branch Chief, Division of Tribal TANF Management, OFA

11:10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. ET  
10:10 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. CT  
9:10 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. MT

**Quick Tip Video: Tribal TANF and NEW Program Partnerships**

This video will showcase how a Tribal TANF and NEW program forged a sustainable partnership. The presenters will share tips and recommendations on how programs can collaborate to support families and increase efficiencies across services.

*Speakers:*

- **Katheryn Tupper**, Economic Support Coordinator, Forest County Potawatomi Tribe
- **Jamie Awonohopay**, TANF Case Worker and **Terri Conn**, 477 Job Counselor, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

11:15 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. ET  
10:15 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. CT  
9:15 a.m. – 9:25 a.m. MT

**Break**

11:25 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. ET

**Transition to Breakout Rooms (2)**

## Tuesday, August 16, 2022: Session One (2.5 Hours)

10:25 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. CT

9:25 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. MT

*Moderator:*

- **Jessica R. Kendall**, Director, ICF

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. ET

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CT

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. MT

**Concurrent Breakout Sessions:**

### **Tribal TANF Program Fundamentals Overview and Updates**

Under Tribal TANF programs, tribal governments have the flexibility to establish eligibility criteria, cash assistance amounts, work participation rates, time limits, and penalties. Understanding how best to use flexibilities to tailor services to local needs can be challenging. This breakout session will provide an overview of Tribal TANF and include information about use of TANF funds, work requirements, reporting, and how to ensure the best outcomes for families. It will also include participant Q&A.

*Speakers:*

- **Frances Dixon**, Region X TANF Program Specialist, OFA
- **Alisa Matthews**, Region VI TANF Program Specialist, OFA

### **NEW Program Fundamentals Overview and Updates**

Under NEW programs, tribal governments have the flexibility to establish eligibility criteria, cash assistance amounts, work participation rates, time limits, and penalties. Understanding how best to use flexibilities to tailor services to local needs can be challenging. This breakout session will provide an overview of NEW programming and include information about use of TANF funds, work requirements, reporting, and how to ensure the best outcomes for families. It will also include participant Q&A.

*Speakers:*

- **LaMonica Shelton**, Region IV TANF Program Manager, OFA
- **Marjorie Hudspeth**, Region VIII TANF Program Specialist, OFA

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CT

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. MT

### **Plenary Session: Enhancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in OFA's Partnerships with Tribal Grantees**

In 2022, OFA embarked on an effort to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) across all its programs. This led OFA to evaluate its internal policies, program practices, and services using a racial equity lens with the hope of increasing program impact. A key part of this initiative is examining communication and internal processes to support a more inclusive, equitable, and effective partnership in OFA's work with tribal communities. As OFA considers how to improve and enhance our work with tribal communities, there is an essential need to include and amplify the diverse voices and perspectives of the tribal programs we support. In partnership with our Tribal TANF and NEW grantees, OFA intends to identify and implement technology, policy, and technical assistance efforts that enhance equity and inclusion. In this session, OFA will discuss the rationale for prioritizing and implementing a DEI approach, goals and expected outcomes of this

## Tuesday, August 16, 2022: Session One (2.5 Hours)

work, tasks completed to date, and a preview of upcoming Tribal DEI Listening Sessions.

*Speakers:*

- **Rebekah A. HorseChief**, Family Assistance Program Specialist, Division of Tribal TANF Management, OFA
- **Lizeth Hester**, Family Assistance Program Specialist, OFA
- **Patrick Heiman**, Region X TANF Program Specialist, OFA

1:00 p.m. – 1:10 p.m. ET

12:00 p.m. – 12:10 p.m. CT

11:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. MT

**Wrap-Up and Closing**

*Speaker:*

- **Jessica Kendall**, Director, ICF

1:10 p.m. ET

12:10 p.m. CT

11:10 a.m. MT

**Adjourn**

## Wednesday, August 17, 2022: Session Two (4 Hours)

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. ET

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. CT

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. MT

**Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Overview**

During this opening session, the moderator will recap the first day and share an overview of the agenda for the second day. A facilitated icebreaker will ask participants to share an item on their “bucket list” or something they hope to do in the future.

*Moderator:*

- **Caprisca Randolph-Robinson**, Region V TANF Program Specialist, OFA

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. ET

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. CT

8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. MT

**Plenary Session (LEARN): The After COVID Economy: In-Demand Jobs and Employment Partnerships**

During this session, presenters will discuss the impacts COVID has had on the economy and workforce, and trends for in-demand jobs post-COVID. Presenters will also identify and discuss critical employment-related partnerships for Tribal TANF and NEW programs to help program customers navigate a post-COVID economy. The session will include participant Q&A.

*Moderator:*

- **LaMonica Shelton**, Region IV TANF Program Manager, OFA

*Speaker (Opening):*

- **Miriam Jorgensen**, Research Director and Research Professor, Native Nations Institute, Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, University of Arizona; Research Director, Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

## Wednesday, August 17, 2022: Session Two (4 Hours)

### *Speakers (Moderated Panel):*

- **Delia Smith**, Community Resource and Economic Support Director and **Barbara Metoxen**, Economic Support Program Manager, Oneida Nation
- **Jonathan Crittenden**, TANF Manager, Cherokee Nation
- **Lana Chanda**, Director for Employment and Training, Gila River Indian Community

11:45 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. ET  
10:45 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. CT  
9:45 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. MT

### **Quick Tip Video: The After COVID Economy: In-Demand Jobs and Employment Partnerships**

In this video, the presenter will share tips and recommendations on how Tribal TANF programs can forge strong partnerships with employers and explore and support in-demand job attachment during or after COVID.

### *Speaker:*

- **Jonathan Crittenden**, TANF Manager, Cherokee Nation

11:50 a.m. – 11:55 a.m. ET  
10:50 a.m. – 10:55 a.m. CT  
9:50 a.m. – 9:55 a.m. MT

### **Transition to Breakout Peer Exchanges**

### *Moderator:*

- **Jessica Kendall**, Director, ICF

11:55 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. ET  
10:55 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. CT  
9:55 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. MT

### **Concurrent Breakout Sessions (DISCUSS): Peer Exchange on the After COVID Economy: In-Demand Jobs and Employment Partnerships**

During this peer exchange, participants will be randomly assigned to one of four breakout rooms. Each exchange will be led by a Tribal TANF or NEW program leader who will share their program's practices in supporting Tribal TANF and/or NEW customers in obtaining in-demand jobs, as well as building partnerships with employers. Participants will also be invited to share their promising, innovative, and best practices.

### *Moderators/Speakers:*

- Breakout Room #1: **Terri Henry**, Director, Tribal Employment Rights Office, and **Ann Blythe**, TANF Director, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Breakout Room #2
- Breakout Room #3: **Delia Smith**, Community Resource and Economic Support Director, Oneida Nation
- Breakout Room #4: **Bernadette Panteah**, Division Director, Education & Training, Pueblo of Zuni

12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. ET  
11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. CT  
10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. MT

### **Break**

1:15 p.m. ET – 1:20 p.m.  
12:15 p.m. CT – 12:20 p.m.  
11:15 a.m. MT – 11:20 a.m.

### **Welcome Back and Transition to "CREATE" Session**

## Wednesday, August 17, 2022: Session Two (4 Hours)

The moderator will briefly introduce the purpose and goals of the next session and invite participants to join breakout rooms based on their regional affiliation.

*Moderator:*

- **Jessica Kendall**, Director, ICF

1:20 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. ET  
12:20 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. CT  
11:20 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. MT

### **Concurrent Breakout Sessions (CREATE): Development Session on the After COVID Economy: In-Demand Jobs and Employment Partnerships**

During this session, participants will select breakout rooms based on their region. Regions IV and VII will be in one breakout room, and Regions V, VI, and VIII will be in others. Participants will be invited to brainstorm common challenges and opportunities to connect customers to in-demand jobs and to build employment partnerships.

*Moderators:*

- Region IV and VII Breakout Room: **Jessica Kendall**, Director, ICF
- Region V Breakout Room: **Shelley Osborn**, Senior Manager, ICF
- Region VI Breakout Room: **Jackie Rhodes**, Senior Manager, ICF
- Region VIII Breakout Room: **Louisa Jones**, Senior Director, ICF

2:15 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. ET  
1:15 p.m. – 1:20 p.m. CT  
12:15 p.m. – 12:20 p.m. MT

### **Transition to Plenary Room**

2:20 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. ET  
1:20 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. CT  
12:20 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. MT

### **Wrap-Up and Closing**

*Speaker:*

- **Jessica Kendall**, Director, ICF

2:30 p.m. ET  
1:30 p.m. CT  
12:30 p.m. MT

### **Adjourn**

## Thursday, August 18, 2022: Session Three (4 Hours)

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. ET  
9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. CT  
8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. MT

### **Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Overview**

During this opening session, the moderator will recap the second day and share an overview of the agenda for the third day. A facilitated icebreaker will ask participants to share one word that describes a support Tribal TANF and NEW programs should provide its customers.

*Speaker:*

- **John Disque**, Region VI TANF Program Specialist, OFA

10:45 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. ET  
9:45 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. CT

### **Plenary Session (LEARN): Getting Back to Work—Offering Supports that Enable Job Attachment and Growth**

## Thursday, August 18, 2022: Session Three (4 Hours)

8:45 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. MT

This session will build upon the previous day’s discussion on employment by focusing on customer supports and needs for engaging in the job market today. Presenters will explore issues of readiness, reluctance, and even fear, but will also share practical resources to help individuals successfully return to the workplace.

*Moderator:*

- **Kisha Russell**, Regions VI and VIII TANF Program Manager, OFA

*Speakers:*

- **Hilary Weaver**, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Professor Emeritus, University of Buffalo School of Social Work
- **Lisa (Blackmon) Fergus**, Senior Tribal Care Specialist, Office of Child Care
- **Karen Hearod**, Director, Office of Tribal Affairs, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

11:50 a.m. – 11:55 a.m. ET  
10:50 a.m. – 10:55 a.m. CT  
9:50 a.m. – 9:55 a.m. MT

**Transition to Breakout Peer Exchanges (2)**

*Moderator:*

- **Jessica Kendall**, Director, ICF

11:55 a.m. – 12:35 p.m. ET  
10:55 a.m. – 11:35 a.m. CT  
9:55 a.m. – 10:35 a.m. MT

**Concurrent Breakout Sessions (DISCUSS): Peer Exchange on Getting Back to Work—Offering Supports that Enable Job Attachment and Growth**

During this peer exchange, participants will meet with their Tribal TANF or NEW program counterparts. Each exchange will be led by two Tribal TANF or two NEW program leaders who will share their programs’ efforts to offer supportive services to Tribal TANF and/or NEW customers. Participants will also be invited to share their promising, innovative, and best practices.

*Moderators/Speakers:*

- Tribal TANF Breakout Room: **Denise Honawa**, Director and **Mark Pendergrass**, Program Manager, Muscogee Creek Nation; and **Sarah Cowan**, Program Manager, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
- NEW Breakout Room: **Terri Conn**, 477 Job Counselor and **Fay Annamitta**, Jobs Counselor, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

12:35 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET  
11:35 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CT  
10:35 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. MT

**Break**

1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. ET  
12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. CT  
11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. MT

**Concurrent Breakout Sessions (CREATE): Development Session Getting Back to Work—Offering Supports that Enable Job Attachment and Growth**

During this session, participants will be assigned to two breakout rooms—one for Tribal TANF programs and one for NEW programs.

## Thursday, August 18, 2022: Session Three (4 Hours)

Participants will brainstorm together about how to engage a hypothetical customer who is reluctant to engage in the workforce.

*Moderators/Scribes:*

- Tribal TANF Breakout Room: **Jessica Kendall**, Director, ICF
- NEW Breakout Room: **Louisa Jones**, Senior Director, ICF

**1:45 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. ET**  
**12:45 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. CT**  
**11:45 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. MT**

### **Transition to Plenary Room**

**1:50 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. ET**  
**12:50 p.m. – 1:20 p.m. CT**  
**11:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. MT**

### **Plenary: Inspiring Motivation and Igniting Your Resilience**

During this closing session, the presenter will reflect on the difficult times staff and programs have faced – especially during COVID – but will also discuss how to inspire motivation and promote lasting resiliency among staff.

*Introduction:*

- **Kisha Russell**, Regions VI and VIII TANF Program Manager, OFA

*Speaker:*

- **Chance Rush**, Founder, Cloudboy Consulting LLC

**2:20 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. ET**  
**1:20 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. CT**  
**12:20 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. MT**

### **Closing Remarks and Prayer**

During this final session, participants will participate in a closing prayer as well as engage in a closing activity where they will be invited to reflect on the meeting and note a fact they took away, an “aha” moment they heard, or an action they may take because of new discoveries.

*Speaker (Closing Remarks):*

- **Kisha Russell**, Regions VI and VIII TANF Program Manager, OFA

*Speaker (Closing Prayer):*

- **Elaine Topsky**, Program Director, Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF

**2:30 p.m. ET**  
**1:30 p.m. CT**  
**12:30 p.m. MT**

### **Adjourn**