

**Region IX
Arizona
Tribal TANF
Technical Assistance Workshop**



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

AZ DES MISSION

The DES Mission is to promote the safety, well-being, and self-sufficiency of children, adults, and families.

AZ DES VISION

Every child, adult, and family in the state of Arizona will be safe and economically secure.

AZ DES GOALS

- Strengthen Individuals and Families;
- Increase Self-Sufficiency;
- Collaborate with Communities to Increase Capacity; and
- Increase Efficiency and Effectiveness through Innovation and Accountability.

History of Tribal TANF in Arizona

- First Tribe to establish a TANF Program in Arizona was in 1997.
- DES has intergovernmental agreements with six Tribes that have established TANF Programs.
- Each tribe has its own TANF plan approved by the federal government.
- The six tribes include: Pascua Yaqui, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, White Mountain Apache, Navajo Nation, Hopi and San Carlos Apache.
- The last Tribe to start up was in May of 2008.

Arizona's Role with Tribal TANF

- Tribal Consultation

1. DES continues a strong commitment to working with ALL of Arizona's 22 tribes. The DES Tribal Consultation Policy demonstrates a fundamental respect for tribal sovereignty and self-determination. DES commits to working in consultation with Native American Tribes to improve the quality, availability and accessibility of human services to children, youth, adults and elders.
2. DES makes available a Tribal TANF Coordination team to each tribe based on their needs. This team is composed of DES Native American Liaison, Division Liaisons, Policy analysts, data systems personnel, financial analysts and computer programmers.

Arizona's Role with Tribal TANF

cont.

3. Arizona uses the financial eligibility criteria, that the Tribes have determined, as the state's standard of need for Tribal benefits from state maintenance of effort funds. Pass-through money is an appropriation from the State Legislature so that the Tribes can operate their own TANF program.
- DES Reports the WPR to the Feds

Technical Assistance with the Tribal TANF Programs

- Assisting with connectivity issues;
- Meeting the WPR;
- Policy or procedural issues;
- Software or hardware issues;
- Assistance with AZTECS; and
- Assistance with JAS.

TANF Plan and Policy Development

- Share “Best Practices”;
- All development is done following federal regulations and approved Tribal Plans;
- Formatting of policy and procedures;
- Policy or notice composition in alignment with approved TANF plans; and
- Matching Tribal work activities to system reporting requirements.

Overview of the TANF State Plan

- The Arizona State Legislature established the Department of Economic Security in 1972 by consolidating the authority, power and duties of five separate state agencies, followed by a sixth in 1974. The intent of the 1972 legislation and subsequent amendments was to provide an integrated approach to human services.
- There are five core values that form the basis for the work that DES does in the fulfillment of its mission:
 1. Collaboration
 2. Accountability
 3. Innovation
 4. Diversity
 5. Respect

Overview of the TANF State Plan

Cont.

- The TANF Program is integral to helping families gain the skills they need to remove barriers that currently prevent them from being self-sufficient and permanently escape the hardships of poverty.
- In 2007, the Arizona State Legislature adopted a bill to allow more families the option to receive Grant Diversion as an alternative to the traditional TANF Cash Assistance Program.
 1. Grant Diversion is one nonrecurring payment of three months of Cash Assistance benefits that can be received ONLY once in a 12 month period.
 2. The applicant must be eligible for at least \$1 of Cash Assistance.
 3. They must meet all other Cash Assistance eligibility criteria.
 4. An adult must be included in the benefit amount .
 5. They are likely to gain full time employment within 90 days.
- Grant Diversion does not apply to Tribal TANF programs

Communication/Improving Communication

- DES Tribal Consultation Policy
- Regularly scheduled meetings with the six Tribal TANF Tribes
- Maintaining a DES Tribal Relations Liaison
- Maintaining Divisional Tribal Liaisons
 - The DES Divisional Liaisons meet monthly to discuss better ways to serve the Tribal TANF programs. Each Liaison shares their individual activities and communication with the Tribes.
- Meeting with individual Tribes as necessary or upon request
- Providing training upon request to the Tribal TANF programs

Updates or Plan/IGA Renewal or Amendment

- The timeframes of the Tribal TANF IGA's and DSA'S are monitored to ensure timely renewal or extension
- New IGA's and DSA's are sent in DRAFT form to the appropriate Tribal TANF Management for review
- IGA's and DSA's are then routed to the appropriate person(s) for signature

WORK PARTICIPATION

- Processes are outlined on HHS website for TANF Plan Development. < <http://www.acf.hhs.gov> >
- Processes for work participation rate are also available on the website.
- Tribal TANF Programs in Arizona have unique work participation activities that are allowable under their federally approved TANF Plans.
- Two of the six Tribes in Arizona use the Jobs Automated System.

WORK PARTICIPATION CONT.

- Two of the Tribes do not contract with Arizona for their eligibility or Jobs Case Management and therefore complete their own reporting to the Feds.
- Four tribes do contract with AZ and report their Jobs activity to the DES, who then reports these numbers to the Feds.
- Two of these four Tribes use their own Jobs case management system.

Arizona's current activity on the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires States to implement Medicaid Expansion and to establish a Health Insurance Exchange to support consumers in obtaining public health coverage or private health insurance. A Health Insurance Exchange (HIX) is a marketplace that offers purchasers of health insurance a variety of plans from different insurance companies, with different benefits, at different prices.

Arizona's current activity on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) - cont.

These Exchanges combine technology and human advocacy through use of electronic, web-based comparative tools, often support online eligibility verification and other mechanisms to connect purchasers with Exchange offerings.

After implementation there will no longer be standalone eligibility systems.

Arizona's current activity on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) - cont.

The State of Arizona is creating a web-based system that completely integrates the following:

- Medicaid
- CHIP (AKA KidsCare)
- Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- The Tax Credit and Cost Sharing Reduction programs
- Commercial coverage for individuals
- Commercial coverage for small businesses
- Local community health programs

Arizona's current activity on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) – cont.

- ACA will provide a Simple, Seamless and Affordable Coverage
- Eligibility is expanded to 133% FPL for all individuals under age 65
- New coverage under the “Adult Group” effective January 1, 2014
- A website that can be used by the following:
 1. Employers
 2. Insurance companies
 3. Employees
 4. Individuals who want to apply for Medicaid, CA and Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) (income < 133%)
 5. Individuals who want to BUY medical insurance (income > 400%)
 6. Individuals who want to apply for a TAX credit (income > 133% but < 400%)

ACA - cont.

The primary goals for building an integrated system for all of the programs listed above include:

- Ensure that all Arizona residents have a single place to go to find health insurance, whether it is no cost, reduced cost, or requires a premium.
- Reduce churn among consumers who have changes in household composition and income by giving consumers access to all publically funded and private coverage before they lose coverage due to a change in their income or their household composition.
- Reduce churn by eliminating much of the current process that contributes to loss of coverage for failure to comply with renewal requirements, to the extent that Arizona can assist consumers by providing electronic verification of their income and household composition.
- Create an integrated system that is simple, streamlined and seamless.