

Tribal TANF and Child Welfare



SYSTEMIC PARTNERSHIP POTENTIAL

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Traditional Indian Family

Refined for millennia and learned from the lessons of the Earth Mother and our four-legged brothers and sisters.

All tribes' family structure reflective of place & environment; and is honed for harmony and balance.

- ***The children are at the center of the family circle:***
- Grandparents –paternal and maternal.
- Parents.
- Aunts and uncles.
- Older cousins.
- Younger cousins.
- Adopted relatives.

Interruptions to Family Order



- Disease and death, starvation.
- Forced movement from traditional place.
- Boarding schools, mission schools.
- Relocation.
- Urban movement.
- Alcohol and drugs.
- Family and community violence.
- Abuse and neglect.
- Poverty.

Child/Family System Response



Classic TANF Child Only

- TANF Child Only Grant:
- Caretaker Relative(s)
- Presumptive eligibility
- Generated by financial need
- Usually voluntary
- Generally informal
- Child Support Enforcement required

Classic Kinship Placement

- Child Welfare Kinship Care Placement:
- Abuse and/or neglect
- Child(ren) removal from home/family
- Court-ordered
- Temporary placement
- Permanency Plan
- ICWA

Kinship Placement Process



- Removal and Court Ordered Placement
- Temporary State/Tribe Custody Order
- Legal State Health/Welfare and Financial Responsibility for child(ren)
- Extended family search for placement
- Foster License and Background Check of all household members
- Medicaid eligibility determination required
- Social Workers and Case Plans
- Monthly stipend up to 3 times child-only

Alternative TANF Case Management Options and Partnerships



- Family Group Conferencing.
- Custom Adoption.
- Custom Law Forums.
- ICWA and local system modifications.
- Model Programs: Denver and Minneapolis.
- Direct IVE Program Models.
- Custom Code Definitions.



Indian Children's Rights

Must be defined.

Must be guaranteed.

Must be codified.

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