

# Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Overview

# Welcome!

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# Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Overview

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# Outline

- Tribal TANF Background
- Purposes of TANF
- Use of TANF Funds
- Starting a TANF Program
- Current Sources of Guidance
- Regional Office Contacts

# Tribal TANF Background

- The “Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996” (PRWORA)
  - Gave Federally-recognized Tribes the authority to operate their own TANF programs
- As of June 1, 2013, there are 68 Tribal TANF programs.
- Current Tribal TANF annual funding: \$181,670,053

# Purposes of TANF

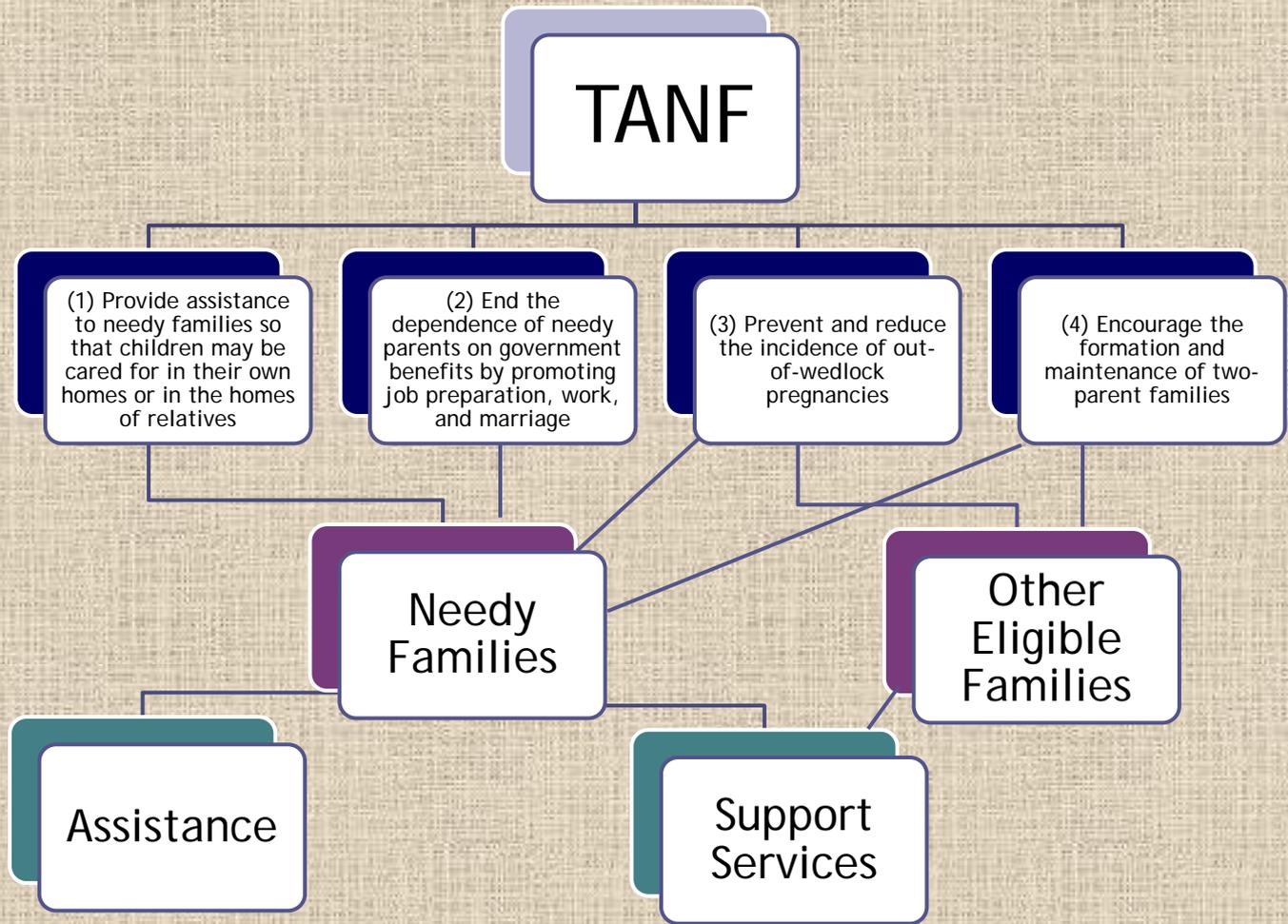
- (1) Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
- (2) End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
- (3) Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
- (4) Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

# Purposes of TANF

4 Purposes

2 Populations

2 Services



# Purposes of TANF

- Two Populations Served by TANF

## (1) Needy Families

- Meet the income and resource limits established by the Tribe in the TANF Plan

## (2) Other Eligible Families

- Meet the other objective criteria (non-financial) established by the Tribe in the TANF Plan

# Use of TANF Funds

## Two Types of Services:

### Assistance

- Includes cash, payments, vouchers, and other forms of benefits designed to meet a family's ongoing basic needs ( *i.e.*, for food, clothing, shelter, utilities); also child care and transportation to unemployed families [Defined at 45 CFR 286.10]
- Needy families only
- Time limits and work requirements

### Support Services

- Needy families and other eligible families

# Use of TANF Funds

## Examples of Support Services:

### Work Supports

- Provide job search and job placement services
- Subsidize wages
- Transitional services

### Pregnancy Prevention and Family Maintenance

- Parenting skills training
- Initiatives to promote responsible fatherhood
- Sex education programs
- After-school programs

### Removal of Barriers to Employment

- Case management
- Transportation
- Child care

### Family and Community Economic Development

- Match contributions for Individual Development Accounts
- Establishing job training programs
- Diversion services

# Use of TANF Funds

## Things to remember:

- All services must meet a statutory purpose of TANF.
- All services must benefit TANF families that meet the eligibility criteria established in the Tribe's TANF Plan.
- All services must be included in the Tribe's TANF Plan.
- TANF funds may not be used to contribute to or subsidize non-TANF programs.
- When in doubt, ACF prior-approval and guidance is available.

# Use of TANF Funds

- TANF funds may not be used for pre-award (start-up) costs.
- TANF funds may not be used in violation of Part IV-A of the Social Security Act.
- TANF funds may not be used for the construction or purchase of facilities, buildings or land.
- Tribes do not have a federal match requirement.
- States are not required to provide MOE funds to Tribes.
- The amount of MOE, if any, provided by the State to the Tribe is subject to a separate agreement between the State and Tribe.

# Starting a TANF Program

Tribes have flexibility in designing their programs, including:

- Defining service area and population
- Defining “Indian” and “Indian family” for the purposes of this program
- Establishing eligibility criteria, including cooperation with child support
- Establishing cash assistance amount
- Establishing time limits
- Defining acceptable work activities\*
- Negotiating work participation rates and required work hours
- Establishing penalties against individuals

*\*Broadening the Scope of Work Activities: Using Cultural Activities in Tribal Communities*

# Starting a TANF Program

## Important considerations:

- **Time Limits:** Eligibility for TANF assistance (as defined at 45 CFR 286.10) is time limited.
  - Any exceptions to time limits must be included in the Tribe's TANF plan.
  - Months are not counted for adults living in Indian Country if unemployment rate is 50% or more.
- **Work Participation:** Negotiation of the Tribal work participation rate is based on economic conditions and resources available.
  - Tribes are held accountable for moving families from welfare to self-sufficiency through work.
  - Tribes are subject to fiscal penalties if they fail to meet the minimum work participation rate.

# Starting a TANF Program

- Tribe submits letter of intent to ACF
- State is contacted for relevant data
  - Data is based on FY1994 expenditures for Native American families
- Tribe and State must agree on data
- Tribal Family Assistance Grant (TFAG) is determined
- Tribe submits an administrative cost cap proposal
  - Maximum limits first 3 years: 35%, 30%, 25% respectively
- Tribe submits a TANF plan for review and approval
- Program is funded

# Starting a TANF Program

Implementation date:	Letter of intent due to ACF and the State:	Formal plan due to ACF:	ACF notification to the State due:
January 1, February 1 or March 1	July 1 of previous year	September 1 of previous year	October 1 of previous year.
April 1, May 1 or June 1	October 1 of previous year	December 1 of previous year	January 1 of same year.
July 1, August 1 or September 1	January 1 of same year	March 1 of same year	April 1 of same year.
October 1, November 1 or December 1	April 1 of same year	June 1 of same year	July 1 of same year.

Source: 45 CFR 286.160

# Starting a TANF Program

## Challenges

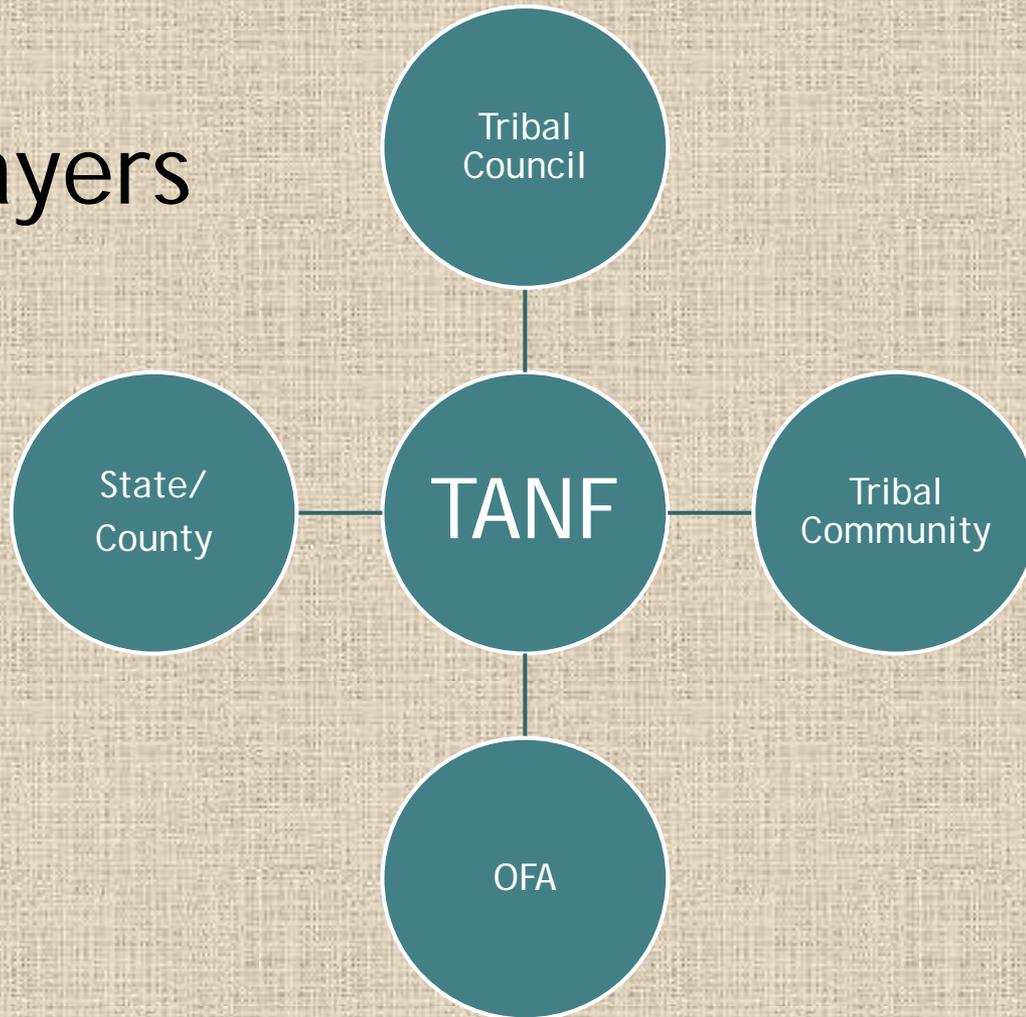
- Developing infrastructure and systems
- No pre-award (start-up) funds
- Dealing with large TANF caseloads
- Hiring and retaining qualified staff
- Coordinating with Tribal, State and Federal programs
- Overcoming reporting barriers

*Operating TANF: Opportunities and Challenges for Tribes and Tribal Consortia*

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/TANF-tribes03/index.htm>

# Starting a TANF Program

## Key Players



# Current Sources of Guidance

- Statute (Law)
  - Title IV of the Social Security Act
- Regulations
  - 45 CFR Part 286: The basic rules and guidelines governing all general aspects of Tribal TANF
  - 2 CFR Part 225: The rules and guidelines governing allowable costs and fiscal management
- Policies
  - Program Instruction (PI): Guidance and/or clarification of regulation and policy
  - Division of Tribal TANF Management, OFA Website: [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/dts/](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/dts/)

# Regional Office Contacts

Region	States & Territories	Manager	Phone Number
I	CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT	Carol Monteiro	(617) 565-2462
II	NJ, NY, PR, VI	Frank Ceruto	(212) 264-2890, ext. 133
III	DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV	Eileen Friedman	(215) 861-4058
IV	AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN	LaMonica Shelton	(404) 562-2938
V	IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI	Thomas Schindler, Acting	(312) 886-9540
VI	AR, LA, NM, OK, TX	Larry Brendel	(214) 767-6236
VII	IA, KS, MO, NE	Gary Allen	(816) 426-2236
VIII	CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY	Larry Brendel, Acting	(214) 767-6236
IX	AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU, MP	Julie Fong	(415) 437-7579
X	AK, ID, OR, WA	Frank Shields	(206) 615-2569

# Questions?



# Thank You!