



# Elaine Topsy, M.Ed.

Program Director

Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) Program

## **Personal vision**

Believe and practice the way of our people by instilling the belief, ways, and values to my 3 daughters, one son, 14 grandchildren, 1 great granddaughter. Success means promoting our education, both in today's world and our culture and language.

# Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) Program

- History:
  - Chippewa Cree Tribal Business Committee approved by resolution the contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services for the Tribal Family Assistance Program on October 21, 2004.
  - Total number of cases meeting the FFY 1994 Indian families funding eligibility criteria for 369 cases with the funding formula block grant of \$1,258,657 federal and \$335,182 state.
  - Program director; 4 case managers; fiscal/admin/IT; intake/office manager; records; work readiness; family activities coordinator; security/quality assurance.
  - Located 30 miles south of Havre, Montana; closest city Great Falls, Montana 100 miles west. The Chippewa Cree Tribe is on the Rocky Boy's Reservation and is the smallest Reservation in Montana. The Canadian border is 40 miles north of Havre.

# Strengthening families through activities, classes, community activities



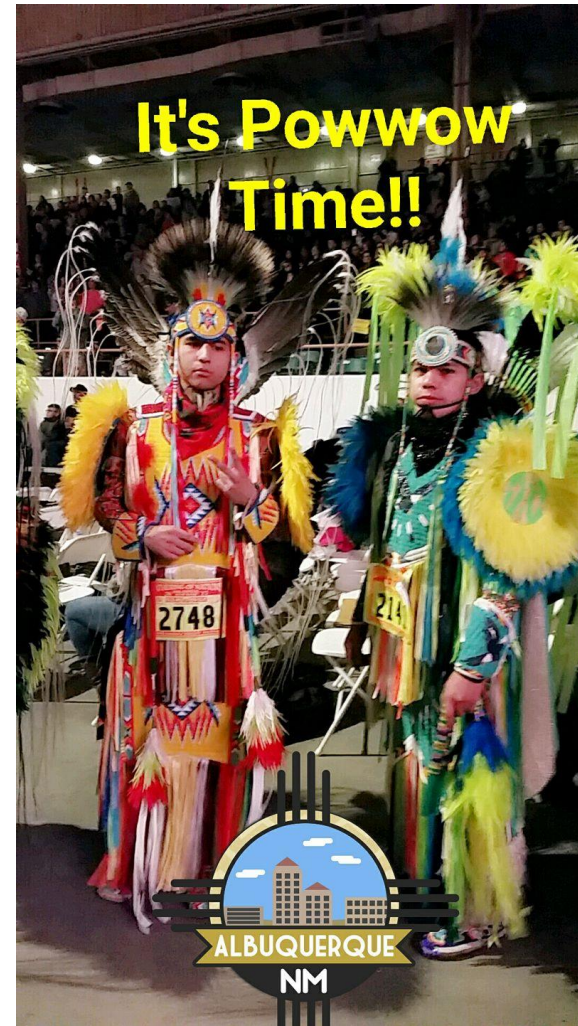
# Cultural activities

Teaching powwow, singing, and drumming to boys

Sewing moccasins, belts, beading, dresses for powwow dancing

Family sessions on female and male traditional roles, traditional teachings, traditional foods, history

Chippewa and Cree language classes



# Grandparents raising grandchildren

## Caretaker cases

*nīmāmā made me*



#Cree101

*but nōhkom raised me.*

- Number of caretaker cases increasing
- Court custody required
- Drug screening required
- Most caretaker cases provide safe environment to children

# TANF Services

## Collaboration with partner agencies



- Employment
- Education and Training
- Family Resource Center
- Community Services
- Job Readiness
- Driver's License Classes
- HiSET/GED
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health
- Transportation
- Childcare
- Medical Issues
- Domestic Violence