



Best Practices in Managing Tribal TANF Programs: Opportunities and Challenges for Tribes in Operating TANF Programs

Presentation by

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Overview

Standard: National Welfare to Work Evaluation

- *Deciding to Operate a TANF Program: A Handbook for Tribes and Tribal Consortia.*
- *Tribal TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) Experience: Problems, Solutions, and Lessons Learned*
- *The Evaluation of the Tribal Welfare-to-Work Grants Program: Initial Implementation Findings*
- *Learning from the tribal experience: The Evaluation of the Tribal Welfare-to-Work Grants Program*

Emerging: Combining TANF, Business Development, & Financing





Deciding to Operate a TANF Program

❑ Positives/Opportunities

- Improve TANF services and outcomes
- Extension of tribal self-determination
- Enhance program coordination—A new Day

❑ Negatives/Challenges

- Costs--infrastructure
- Risks
 - STAFFING
 - Problems with State(s) and counties

❑ Special Challenges for Tribal Consortia

Mitigating Risks

- Broad Consultation with Tribal Stakeholders**
- Consensus Building Activities**
- Input From TANF Participants**
- Consultation With Tribal TANF Grantees**
- Leverage-Leverage-Leverage**
 - Business Development
 - CDFIs
 - NMTCs
 - Navajo Nation





Best Practices in Developing a TANF Plan

- **Substance and Symbolism**
- **Tailor Program to Tribal Needs**
- **Negotiating Terms with State**
 - **Determining tribal 1994 AFDC counts--Bad State Data**
 - **Obtaining MOE and other state support**
- **Determining and Assembling Resources for Planning and Startup**
 - **ANA SEDS, State**
 - **Progressive: USDA RUS, NAHASDA**
 - **Latest: Leverage, Leverage, Leverage**



Program Implementation and Operations

- **Transition Process**
 - **Generally gradual; may be incremental**
 - **Contracting OUT or BACK**
 - **Fine-tuning/revising the plan**
- **Coordination with State Programs**
 - **Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP, Food Stamps/SNAP**
 - **Tanana Chiefs & Port Gamble**
- **Sharing/Renovating Existing Facilities**
- **Program Coordination**



Financial Instruments & Programs

- BIA Loan Guarantee—90%
- New Market Tax Credits—39%
- Community Development Financial Institution--CDFI



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