

Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria

The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR) was restored by the US Congress on December 27, 2000. Today FIGR consists of over 1,400 Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo peoples. Many of our citizens continue to reside within the Tribes ancestral lands of Marin and Southern Sonoma Counties, located one hour north of San Francisco, CA.

In 2008, Tribal TANF of Sonoma and Marin began serving Native families who reside in the Tribes ancestral lands.



In 2015 FIGR/TTSM received a 5-year Office of Family Assistance Tribal TANF Child Welfare Grant to address their identified needs of the at-risk tribal service population. The Tribe developed a comprehensive strategy to achieve better outcomes for tribal children, youth and families in the child welfare system. The strategy had three components, 1) Case Management with an improved Home Visiting component 2) Increasing services and supports for children and youth in out-of-home placements, along with their families and 3) An improved youth prevention program which includes an intensive case management approach with a focus on employment training, leadership skill development, and cultural enrichment.

The Tribe's approach to improving the child and family serving systems included the use of evidence-based practices that have proven to be effective in serving at-risk populations. The Tribe implemented the Strengthening Families Framework using the Five Protective Factors for its home visiting program, training of staff and community on this Wraparound approach, and Trauma Informed Care and System of Care principles for working with families and their community.

2. Inputs

TANF/FIGR Staff
Child Welfare Agencies
County Agencies
Community Members
Financial Resources
Materials
Supplies
Equipment
Technology

3. Activities

Cross System Collaboration
Training Staff, Participants and Community
Improved Case Management Practices
Evidence Based Approaches (wraparound, SOC, Strengthening Families, Trauma Informed Care)
Improved Services

4. Outputs

Sonoma County MOU
Staff Trainings conducted; Trauma Informed Care, Systems of Care, Wrap Around Services, Home Visiting, Decolonizing Social Work
Database upgraded and built
Service Team Meetings and Wrap Around Team Meetings held
Family Nights, NAYAT, ASP, Summer Programs, Credit Recovery Programs provided
Subsidized Employment provided
ICWA Family Meetings/Verifications

5. Outcomes

Ongoing system wide collaboration

- Referral Process
- Database upgrade
- Team Meetings

All TTSM/CWS students are prepared to enter college and the workforce

- NAYAT Youth
- College/Career Readiness

Increased cultural identification, connection for every student and family

- Positive Indian Parenting
- Native Wellness
- GONA
- Family Nights

Self Sufficient and strengthened Native Families

- parents receiving case management
- individuals receiving supports

1. Assumptions

- Coordinated TANF and Child Welfare Services will enable tribal participants to achieve long-term stability and self-sufficiency
- Trained Staff, TANF Participants, Community Members are willing to problem solve, help one another and continue strengthening the tribal community
- Educated and Trained At-Risk Tribal Youth will transition from high school to college to career.

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Proposed Goal 1:

Improve TTSM/CWS Programs with the implementation of cross-system collaboration, strengthening case management practices and using evidence-based home visiting curriculum

Projected Outcome of Goal 1:

80 FIGR TTSM/CWS families will receive comprehensive services that are Trauma Informed, evidence based, well coordinated by TTSM/CWS staff that result in long term stability and self-sufficiency

Assumption of Logic Model:

Coordinated TANF and Child Welfare Services Will Enable Tribal Participants to Achieve Long Term Stability and Self-Sufficiency

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Between 2016 to 2020, our TANF, Wellness and Justice and Youth and Family Programs, utilizing cross system collaboration, served 174 TTSM/CWS Families with support services. These comprehensive services reached 619 Individuals; 196 Adults and 423 Youth. 26 of these cases were out of home placements serving 48 Tribal Youth.

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Coordinated Services between Tribal TANF, Wellness and Justice and Sonoma County Child Welfare Services led to a 367% average monthly increase in participation of Probation, Court and County Meetings between 2016 and 2020.

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Coordinated Services between Tribal TANF, Wellness and Justice and Sonoma County Child Welfare Services led to a 340% average monthly increase in participation in ICWA Family Meetings between 2016 and 2020.

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Coordinated Services between Tribal TANF and Wellness and Justice Services averaged 12 referrals a month between 2017 and 2020. This coordinated referral process was developed and implemented through TTCW Staff trainings. Referrals between the two Graton Rancheria Services focus on, but are not limited to wellness, behavioral health, drug and alcohol counseling, parenting and domestic violence.

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Focusing on Coordinated Services and strengthening Case Management practices was a significant contributor to a 137% increase in unsubsidized employment within our TANF families between 2016 and the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic. This data was very supportive in validating our Logic Model Assumptions.

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Annually, between 2016 and 2020, 22% of TTSM Participants were receiving comprehensive coordinated Education services (GED or Postsecondary). During 2018, 37% of our TANF Families were following a comprehensive Education Plan which was supported in collaboration between at least 2 organizations.

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Between 2016 and the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, 15% of our TANF Cash Aid Families (annually) were moving from monthly Cash Assistance to our Transitional Services program. Transitional Services provide another 24 months of support services and comprehensive case management for those families that no longer financially qualify for Cash Assistance due to excessive earnings (over 175% FPG).

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Proposed Goal 2:

Improve the TTSM Support Services component by increasing service delivery and supports to out of home placements and their families, such as access to childcare, subsidized employment and training to transitional youth, subsidized employment and training for adult caregivers.

Projected Outcome of Goal 2:

25 FIGR TTSM/CWS tribal children in out of home placements and their families will receive coordinated services and supports throughout their time in the CWS system with efforts focused on reunification and permanency.

Assumption of Logic Model:

Trained staff, TANF participants, and community members are willing to problem solve, help one another, and continue to strengthen their Tribal Community.

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Increased and informed service delivery begins with a well-trained staff and participant families. Between 2016 and 2020, 99 FIGR/TTSM staff were trained in Trauma Informed Care, Decolonized Thinking and Mindfulness, Home Visiting, Systems of Care, Family Protective Factors, and Wrap Around Services. 279 Participants were trained in Positive Indian Parenting, Gang Awareness, and School-Based Advocacy.

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To meet the goal of providing coordinated services that would allow the community to help one another and problem solve, we began providing monthly Family Nights to assist in community building, training, and disseminating information. Over the 5-year span of the TTCW grant, we averaged 242 individuals in attendance at Family Nights. During Year 1 of the TTCW Grant, we averaged 103 monthly attendees and 283 monthly attendees pre COVID-19 impacts.

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Proposed Goal 3:

Improve prevention services to Tribal children, youth, and families at risk of abuse and neglect.

Projected Outcome of Goal 3:

100 FIGR TTSM/CWS Tribal Youth will receive employment, job skills, and leadership training, and complete cultural enrichment coursework, receiving a certificate of completion from the Tribal Employment and Education Pathway Program.

Assumption of Logic Model:

Educated and trained at-risk Tribal youth will transition from high school to college to career.

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In 2016, our high school youth created the Native American Youth Action Team (NAYAT). This prevention-based program specifically addressed culturally competent training in leadership, education and job skill acquisition. Between 2016 and 2020, NAYAT served 132 students, all of whom received certificates on completion.

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For college to become a reality, we needed our youth to see campuses and meet their Native Student Body to create a sense of belonging. Between 2016 and COVID-19 impacts, we averaged 3 college tours per year with an average attendance of 68 students per year.

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Of the 132 NAYAT students who completed the program, 93% graduated high school. Of those graduates, 67% went on to pursue post secondary education.