



A Threaded Connection: Weaving the Path to Creative Solutions

2023 OFA Tribal TANF Technical Assistance Meeting

August 21–22, 2023 • River Spirit Casino Resort • Tulsa, Oklahoma

Overview:

The 2023 National Tribal TANF Technical Assistance Meeting has been designed to highlight the power that Tribal TANF programs hold as a community with collective and unique cultural traditions, shared environmental and social issues affecting their clients, and shared visions and ideas to expand support and resources for the families they serve through creative solutions. This year’s meeting offers content-based sessions and opportunities for information sharing on topics affecting Tribal TANF programs, engaging discussion between tribes and their Office of Family Assistance (OFA) partners, and interactive strategies to assist programs in creating customized action plans to immediately bring home to their communities. Welcome to *A Threaded Connection: Weaving the Path to Creative Solutions!*

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Ballrooms 3 & 4	Welcome and Opening Blessing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• David Hill, Principal Chief, Muscogee Creek Nation• Del Beaver, Second Chief, Muscogee Creek Nation• Megan Lowry-Pinasco, Women’s Honor Guard Commander, Muscogee Creek Nation Women Warriors, Este Cate Hoktvke Suletawv
9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Ballrooms 3 & 4	Keynote Presentation Speaker: Heather Sauyaq Jean Kwamboka Gordon, PhD, Research Scientist, Youth Development & Indigenous Children and Families, Child Trends
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.	Tribal TANF Deep Dive Workshops
Ballroom 1	❖ Grants Management and Allowable Costs <i>This session will cover a variety of essential Tribal TANF financial management and compliance topics.</i> Speaker: Deanne Meyer, Grants Officer for OFA Programs, Office of Grants Management
Ballroom 2	❖ Tribal TANF Plan Renewals and Program Flexibilities <i>This session will provide an opportunity for participants to engage in a dialogue about the Tribal TANF Plan renewal process, important considerations for Tribal TANF plan renewals from the OFA perspective, and common challenges in the renewal process and proposed approaches to resolving these challenges.</i>

Speakers:

- Julie Fong, Region IX TANF Program Manager, OFA
- Carrie Greene, Branch Chief, Division of Tribal TANF Management, OFA
- Stan Koutstaal, Division Director, Tribal TANF Management and Regional Operations, OFA

Boardroom 4

❖ **Tribal TANF Essentials for Seasoned Staff**

This session will cover a variety of program administration and requirement topics relevant to Tribal TANF. Participants will work with the session speakers to identify specific elements that they wish to understand more comprehensively. Topics may include Tribal TANF purposes, Tribal TANF plans, work participation requirements, fiscal requirements, and more.

Speakers:

- Mika Smith, Region IX TANF/NEW Program Specialist, OFA
- Kisha Russell, Regions VI & VIII TANF Program Manager, OFA

Boardroom 5

❖ **Tribal TANF Essentials for New Staff**

This session will present a deeper dive into Tribal TANF program administration and requirement essentials that are particularly relevant for new Tribal TANF staff, including Tribal TANF historical background, Tribal TANF governing law and regulations, fiscal requirements, reporting requirements, and elements that contribute to a successful program.

Speakers:

- Karen Beckerman, Regions V & VII TANF Program Manager, OFA
- Jennifer Senechal, Region IX Children and Families Program Specialist, OFA

12:10 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Lunch on Your Own

1:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Creative Solutions Sessions – Issue-Based Groups

These Creative Solutions Sessions are intended to create a space for participants to discuss Tribal TANF program related challenges, brainstorm solutions, and collaborate in developing actionable steps to address these challenges. Participants may choose one of the topics below for this session.

Room TBD

❖ **Creative Solutions to Supporting Customers' Mental Health Challenges**

Participants will explore the challenges that Tribal TANF programs face in identifying and supporting the mental health needs of their customers and discuss solutions that can be implemented as part of a comprehensive approach to improving client/family well-being and employability.

Room TBD

❖ **Creative Solutions to High Wage and Sustainable Careers**

Participants will explore the challenges that Tribal TANF programs face in connecting customers to high wage, sustainable careers in their communities. They will discuss strategies that Tribal TANF programs have implemented to strengthen partnerships with educational and workforce organizations to

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provide integrated strategies for improving customer employability and access to sustainable careers with living wages.

Room TBD

❖ **Creative Solutions to Engaging Customers**

Participants will discuss the challenges and successes they experience in engaging Tribal TANF customers. They will share and hear examples of program innovations in customer engagement, as well as discuss the resources and supports their programs may need to better engage customers.

Room TBD

❖ **Creative Solutions to Collaborating with Community Partners**

Participants will explore challenges Tribal TANF programs face in successfully connecting and collaborating with other organizations to support Tribal TANF customers. They will discuss examples of partnerships already established to help provide holistic and wraparound services to Tribal TANF customers. Participants will also discuss the gaps in community partnerships and strategize on creating and sustaining new community partnerships.

Room TBD

❖ **Creative Solutions to Cultural Integration**

Participants will discuss the challenges and successes of integrating cultural activities and values in their Tribal TANF programs. They will discuss the types of culturally significant activities that fit well within Tribal TANF work participation requirements, the aspects of their programs where more cultural integration is needed, and barriers and pathways to the inclusion of culture in their programs.

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Break

**3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Ballrooms 3 & 4**

Cultural Expression

Participants are invited to share a cultural performance, tell stories, showcase culturally relevant items, or express their culture in any way that is significant to them. The cultural expression is meant to encourage attendees to come together to celebrate the diverse cultures of the tribes represented at the meeting.

**4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Ballrooms 3 & 4**

Day 1 Recap, Closing Remarks, and Closing Prayer

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023

**9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.
Ballrooms 3 & 4**

Day 2 Welcome and Opening Blessing

**9:20 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Ballrooms 3 & 4**

Chat with OFA Director Ann Flagg & Friends

This interactive fireside chat will draw on the experience of federal, state, and tribal leaders as they discuss strategies to build and strengthen partnerships to support the overall economic, social, and cultural well-being of Native families and Indigenous communities. Panelists will discuss best practices, provide examples of success, and offer their insights to develop strong, genuine partnerships in support of the overall economic, social, and cultural well-being of Tribal Nations.

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The following panelists will join Ann Flagg for this discussion:

- Patrice Kunesh, Administration for Native Americans (ANA) Commissioner
- Lee Spoonhunter, ACF Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) Member
- Jocelyn Beard, Arizona Department of Economic Security Tribal Liaison
- Glenn Basconillo, Facilitator, California Tribal TANF Coalition

10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. Break

10:10 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Building Partnerships with ACF

Ballrooms 1, 2, 3 & 4

This session will provide an opportunity for tribal partners, regional offices, and other ACF partners to discuss and exchange ideas about strengthening working partnerships; improving processes, procedures, and practices; and addressing current concerns.

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Concurrent Workshop Sessions

Ballroom 1

❖ **Collaborating with Community Partners to Identify High Wage and Sustainable Careers**

Connecting TANF clients with sustainable, high wage careers can be a challenge. This workshop will outline the importance of collaborating with community partners in workforce development, job skills, and other technical training areas that support participants in acquiring sustainable careers with a high paying living wage, with an emphasis on creative solutions to supporting remote and rural clients.

Speaker: Carl Duncan, Workforce Development Specialist, Division of Indian and Native American Programs, U.S. Department of Labor

Ballroom 2

❖ **Supporting Customers' Mental Health Challenges**

Tribal TANF programs often see customers struggle with the intersection of poverty and mental health. In this workshop, participants will learn about non-clinical strategies that can be used to sensitively support customers with mental health challenges through understanding the signs and symptoms of mental health challenges, best practices for working with customers, and strategies for accessing outside resources to support customers' mental health needs. This workshop will highlight the importance of culture and tradition as a strength when working with customers faced with these challenges.

Speaker: Deidre Yellowhair, Project Director, T.R.I.B.E.S., University of New Mexico Division of Community Behavioral Health

Ballroom 3

❖ **Program Strategies for Strengthening Services and Supports for Diverse Family Types**

Tribal TANF programs serve a variety of customers, including caretaker relatives, non-custodial parents, and child-only cases. In this workshop, participants will learn effective strategies that Tribal TANF programs can implement to strengthen services provided to their diverse family types.

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Speaker: Dr. Terry (Ha-ne-ga-noh) Cross, Director, National Indian Child Welfare Association

Ballroom 4

❖ Organizational Development for Tribal TANF Programs

In this workshop, participants will learn about strategies pertaining to organizational development and its central role to cultural alignment, operational effectiveness/compliance, organizational redesign, planning, and staffing within their Tribal TANF programs.

Speaker: Glenn Basconcillo, President, GNB Consulting, Inc.

Boardroom 4

❖ Common Program Challenges Around Benefits Structure

In this workshop, participants will discuss common program challenges around the benefits structure of Tribal TANF programs and learn strategies for preventing the “benefits cliff” by improving supports and services for transitional cases.

Speaker: Denise Honawa, TANF Compliance Monitor, Cherokee Nation Tribal TANF

12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Lunch on Your Own

1:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Creative Solutions Sessions – Affinity Groups

These Creative Solutions Sessions are intended to create a space for participants to meet with peers from programs that share an important characteristic with their own (aka “affinity groups”) to discuss challenges, develop solutions, and collaborate on creating an action plan to implement their solutions. Participants may choose one of the topics below for this session.

Ballrooms 3 & 4

❖ Serving Rural Areas

Ballroom 1

❖ Serving Urban Areas

Ballroom 2

❖ Small Programs

Boardroom 4

❖ Large Programs & Consortia

Boardroom 5

❖ Alaska Tribal TANF Programs

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Break

3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Closing Keynote Presentation

Ballrooms 3 & 4

Speaker: Kasey Nicholson, Wellness Educator and Motivational Speaker, Rezzalicious

4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Recap, Closing Remarks, and Blessing

Ballrooms 3 & 4