



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**  
Office of Family Assistance



2021 Regions IV-VIII Tribal TANF and NEW Program Virtual Meeting

*Moving Forward: Weaving Stories  
of Perseverance During COVID-19*



March 16–18, 2021

## Day One: Tuesday, March 16, 2021

**9:00 a.m. – Welcome**

**9:25 a.m. – Welcome and Opening Remarks:**  
MT

- LaMonica Shelton, Region IV TANF Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance

***Opening Prayer:***

- Mona “Koko” Lowe, Muscogee Creek Nation

***Introduction of Videos: Weaving the Stories:***

- Denise Edwards (Tuscarora Nation), Branch Chief, Division of Tribal TANF Management, Office of Family Assistance

**9:25 a.m. – Re-envisioning Programs and Moving Forward: Reflections and Motivations**

**9:50 a.m. – Keynote**

MT • Jennifer Rackliff (Cherokee Nation), Impact Strategist, Stratem Consulting

## Day One: Tuesday, March 16, 2021

### 9:50 a.m. – Fireside Chat: Access, Innovation, and Flexibility in Your Administrative Toolkit

MT

Tribal TANF and NEW offices have had to rethink what the “office” means during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the benefits and challenges that come with virtual service provision and by having staff work from home. They will share how they are engaging clients in work activities and other virtual work, training, educational, and cultural activities. Panelists will provide a brief (5-minute) overview of their individual programs’ strategies, tools, and lessons learned in virtually engaging with clients effectively. Then, a facilitated dialogue and Q & A session will provide additional insights into these promising practices that TANF and NEW offices can take when considering how clients can return to offices safely.

#### *Panelists:*

- Ashley Waupekenay, Recruitment and Training Coordinator, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
- Jamie Awonohopay, TANF Case Manager, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
- Delia Smith, Community Economic Support Director, Oneida Tribal TANF and NEW
- George Goggeye, Human Services Director, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

#### *Moderator:*

- Louisa Jones, Senior Director, Workforce Innovations and Poverty Solutions, ICF

### 11:00 a.m. – Break

11:45 a.m. Poll Question #1

MT

#### *Moderator:*

- Janelle Jones, Region VIII TANF Program Specialist, Office of Family Assistance

## Day One: Tuesday, March 16, 2021

### 11:45 a.m. – Exploring Flexibilities to Strengthen Programs

1:00 p.m.  
MT

Federal updates, perspectives on COVID-19, and related flexibilities and requirements for TANF and NEW programs will be shared. Resources and amendment steps will be discussed to assist participants on when an amendment is needed to your TANF or NEW plan. Time will be provided during this session to hear from your peers about currently implemented strategies.

*Speakers:*

- Denise Edwards (Tuscarora Nation), Branch Chief, Division of Tribal TANF Management, Office of Family Assistance
- Sandy Cloer, Division Director, Tribal Child Support Services & TANF, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Katy Ciotti, Director, Morongo Tribal TANF Program, Morongo Band of Mission Indians

*Moderator:*

- Karen Beckerman, Regions V and VII TANF Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance

### 1:00 p.m. Day One Closing

MT

*Speaker:*

- Caprisca Randolph-Robinson, Region V TANF Program Specialist, Office of Family Assistance

## Day Two: Wednesday, March 17, 2021

### 9:00 a.m. – Day Two Opening, Recap, and Video

9:15 a.m.

MT

*Speaker:*

- Alisa Matthews, Region VI TANF Program Specialist, Office of Family Assistance

### 9:15 a.m. – Plenary: Coaching and Motivating Client Engagement in the Time of COVID-19

10:45 a.m.  
MT

In this session, three programs will share how they are engaging clients effectively through coaching and motivational interviewing. Each of the programs will share how their coaching programs were designed and implemented, adaptations and changes they have made during COVID-19, and their plans for advancing this work in their programs.

*Speakers:*

- Samantha Hansen, Senior Manager, Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- Mark Pendergrass, Tribal TANF Program Manager, Muscogee Creek Nation
- Scott Boyle, TANF Director, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria

*Moderator:*

- Melissa Duis, Region IV TANF Program Specialist, Office of Family Assistance

### 10:45 a.m. – Break and Transition to Afternoon Session

11:15 a.m.

MT

Poll Question #2

*Speaker:*

- Janelle Jones, Region VIII TANF Program Specialist, Office of Family Assistance

### 11:15 a.m. – Native Employment Works: Let's Talk Strategies

12:30 p.m.

MT

This session is designed specifically for NEW programs. Session attendees will hear from OFA regional staff to continue the conversation about program flexibilities, including work activity and supportive services flexibilities. Thereafter, attendees will participate in breakout sessions to dialogue with their peers, reflect on practices that have been shared, and explore ways to strengthen their programs and re-envision service coordination.

*Moderators:*

- Kisha Russell, Regions VI and VIII TANF Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance
- Marjorie Hudspeth, Region VIII TANF Program Specialist, Office of Family Assistance

## Day Three: Thursday, March 18, 2021

**9:00 a.m. – Day Three Opening and Recap**

**9:05 a.m.**  
**MT** *Speaker:*

- John Disque, Region VI TANF Program Specialist, Office of Family Assistance

**9:05 a.m. – Strategies for Identifying and Interrupting the Impact of Trauma on  
11:00 a.m. Caseworkers and Managers**

**MT**

In this seminar, participants will first learn the differences between chronic work stress, Secondary Traumatic Stress (STS), compassion fatigue, and burnout. Participants will also learn what emotional labor and secondary resilience mean in practice and will understand how the brain functions after trauma occurs. Resulting from this session, participants will understand the individual, team, and organizational symptoms of trauma, and will be able to identify strategies to intervene at each level of impact (including on individual, team, and organizational levels).

*Speakers:*

- Dr. Nicole Bossard, Consultant, ICF
- Dr. Barbara Pierce, Associate Professor, Indiana University's School of Social Work

*Moderator:*

- LaMonica Shelton, Region IV TANF Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance

**11:00 a.m. –**

**11:30 a.m. Break**

**MT**

## Day Three: Thursday, March 18, 2021

**11:30 a.m. – Bridging the Digital Divide: Developing Internet Technology and Improving  
12:30 p.m. Access**

**MT**

Connecting Tribal communities to dependable and low-cost or no-cost broadband, computer hardware, and WiFi access has never been more critical to delivering services to Tribal communities. Panelists will share how they built infrastructure, partnerships, and access pre- and during the COVID-19 pandemic. They will also highlight resources, partnerships, and tools that Tribal TANF and NEW programs can use in re-envisioning their programs.

*Speakers:*

- Bill Travitz, Technology Director, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Crystal Hottowe, Grants Writer, Makah Tribe
- Jonathan Crittenden, TANF Program Manager, Cherokee Nation Career Services
- Matthew Rantanen, Director of Technology, Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association

*Moderator:*

- Kathryn de Wit, Manager, Broadband Research Initiative, Pew Charitable Trusts

**12:30 p.m. – Meeting Closing, Video, and Prayer**

**12:45 p.m. Closing Remarks:**

**MT**

- LaMonica Shelton, Region IV TANF Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance
- Kisha Russell, Regions VI and VIII TANF Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance
- Karen Beckerman, Regions V and VII TANF Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance

*Closing Prayer:*

- Elaine Topsy, TANF Director, Chippewa Cree Tribe