

Region X Tribal TANF Conference, September 27-29

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Through Asset Building

by

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ASSET The ASSET logo icon, which consists of a stylized figure holding a globe, with the letters 'A', 'S', 'E', and 'T' arranged around it.

Helping Families to Achieve Financial Stability

- Apply for an **AFI grant**.
- Design and implement a comprehensive asset building program.
- Train eligibility screeners and case workers to **refer TANF participants to local organizations** that offer asset building services, including AFI grantees.
- Train case workers to **include asset building activities and goals such as opening a savings account, setting up direct deposit, or paying down debt in participants' individual service plans.**

Helping Families to Achieve Financial Stability

- Conduct outreach about the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** and free tax filing assistance.
- Review TANF participants' eligibility periodically for **other Federal and State benefits**. Online tools such as **Benefits.gov** can help families determine their eligibility for Federal and State benefits.

Helping Families to Achieve Financial Stability

- Offer **credit and debt counseling as “Job Search and Job Readiness” work activities**. Employers now check credit reports as part of their job search, so training TANF participants to address outstanding debt makes participants more competitive in the job market.
- Offer **financial education as a “Job Search and Job Readiness” activity**. Having a good handle on household finances will make TANF participants more likely to retain a job once they are employed. Financial education curricula that reflect Native values and traditional attitudes toward individual and group wealth are available; one example is the **First Nation Oweesta Corporation’s *Building Native Communities: Financial Skills for Families***.

Successful Program

- The **Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma** links participants in the Choctaw Career Development Program to AFI financial education and matched savings opportunities. The combination of workforce training and asset building services sets participants on the path to self-sufficiency.
- For more information on the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, visit **www.choctawnation.com**