



Understanding Tribal Sovereignty Affinity Group Summary

Date

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Attendees

Members of the LASER TLC Site Implementation Teams from the: (1) Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation; (2) Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians; and (3) Yurok Tribe. Representatives from the Office of Family Assistance (OFA); BLH Technologies (BLH); and Mathematica.

Session Goals

- Consider how to more effectively apply authority and rights rooted in tribal sovereignty to the operation of Tribal TANF Programs.
- Acquire deeper knowledge for meeting federal TANF obligations and requirements in administering Tribal TANF Programs.

Issues Identified by the Tribal Site Teams

Program Plan Development and Approval

- Optimizing flexibility in working with the federal partners on plan development and plan approval.
- Maximizing discretion with the flexibility statute and regulations permit.
- Securing and increasing federal support for the inclusion of cultural traditions and practices in the plan.
- Identifying best practices for facilitating plan approval.
- Avoiding miscommunications and misunderstandings about flexibility associated with plan implementation.

Program Operations

- Ensuring quality program operations and supports.

Stigma

- Overcoming community stigma tied to program participation.

Next Steps

The second and third Tribal Affinity Groups will focus on these issues.