



Tribal TANF Program Promising Practices Summary

Date

Thursday, August 4, 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 applying novel practices for negotiating and facilitating TANF plan development and approval.
- Consider implementing new approaches for strengthening and improving their Tribal TANF program operations and supports.

Presenter: Mary Papp, Quinault Indian Nation, TANF Program Manager

Presentation Key Points

- Tribal TANF plans should reflect the needs of the community.
- Tribal TANF program activities should match the local needs stated in the plan.
- Tribal TANF plans should be written to allow for flexibility on the specific tasks required to achieve the approved goals.
- Advocacy and good communication are required for successful plan approval.
- Incorporate the local tribal culture and language into TANF programming to reduce stigma and support motivation.
- Positive TANF-related media messaging can help reduce stigma.
- Stability in the local Tribal TANF program workforce is important; it supports understanding of the local tribal culture and community.
- Cultivate strong leadership in staff. Annual retreat to work on building staff skills in areas of teamwork and leadership.
- Teach staff to go above and beyond active case management.
- Create strong TANF policies and procedures and share them with staff and key stakeholders.
- If you make a mistake, correct it.
- Network with other tribes and see how their services will work with your tribe and vice versa.