Tribal Talking Session - Start-Up & Planning

Moderators - **Gary Allen** – Region 7 TANF Program Manager
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Regulations -

Section 412 of the Social Security Act, Direct funding and administration [of TANF] by Indian tribes
45 CFR §286.20 How Is the amount of a tribal family assistance grant (TFAG) determined?
45 CFR §286.65 How can a Tribe apply to administer a Tribal Temporary Assistance For Needy Families
        (TANF) Program?
45 CFR §286.75 What must be included in the tribal family assistance plan?
45 CFR §286.80 What information on minimum work participation requirements must a Tribe Include in
        Its Tribal Family Assistance Plan?
25 CFR 286.100 Letter of Intent Process
TANF-ACF-PI-2005-03 (Requirements for Tribes and States Concerning Service Areas and Populations for Tribal TANF Programs)

Tribal Suggestions to facilitate TTANF program Startup -

1. Look up the state's TANF plan on their web site for information re: payment amounts, resource limits, etc.
2. Through the RO, request a good model plan. You'll want to focus on your tribe's situation and goals, but a successful model can help ensure that nothing is forgotten. You may also want to send a draft plan to the RO; this can save a lot of time later.
3. Be sure that roles are clear within tribal government, which agency/dept will handle TANF. Also how TANF will interact with other programs such as NEW, economic development, CSE, etc.
4. Be sure to do a Policy Manual based on the TFAP. Remember that the TFAP can be vitally important when a case decision is questioned by the Council or others.
5. Allow plenty of time to get on the Council calendar, probably several times.   Also, remember the 90-day notification for the state.
6. Remember the admin cost agreement with ACF.
7. It's up to you to check out the possibility of state MOE.
8. Maintain close, regular contact with your RO contact. This will help ensure that no one forgets anything.
9. Tribal (and state) TANF programs are dynamic; they change and evolve. Work with your RO to ensure that a proposed change is allowable and that any TFAP amendments can be approved quickly.

Discussion Questions -
1. Did you encounter caseloads that differed from your original estimates? How did you respond to this challenge?
2. Were there infrastructure or systems (e.g., computers, telecommunications, and office space) challenges you encountered during program start-up?
3. What your experience in collaborating with other programs? Did you encounter any cross-program coordination barriers?

4. Did/does anyone use state TANF information systems for data collection and/or reporting? What's been your experience with this type of collaboration?
5. If you developed your own information system, what were some of the most important considerations that went into its development?
6. After implementing your Tribal TANF program, did you elect to contract with states or other service providers for selected TANF services or operations? Long-term basis? Short-term basis?
7. What local community assets and/or partners did you find to be beneficial to the program during start-up?