

TRIBAL TANF CONSULTATION GUIDELINES

Preamble:

- The California Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs (TANF) Administrators and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) affirm and establish these Consultation Guidelines to promote understanding and cooperation between the Tribes, Tribal TANF programs, and CDSS.

Purpose:

- To provide a framework for effective working relationships between the CDSS, the Tribes, and the Tribal TANF Programs.

Principles:

- CDSS recognizes and respects the sovereignty of Indian Tribes; the Tribes and Tribal TANF programs recognize and respect CDSS' role in the administration of social services programs in California.
- CDSS recognizes and respects the unique character of each Tribal government, the Tribal TANF programs they administer, and the diverse Native American population they serve.
- CDSS, the Tribes, and Tribal TANF programs recognize that cooperation, communication and coordination are crucial to providing the highest quality service to all of California's needy families.

Consultation Guidelines:

- CDSS and Tribal TANF programs will regularly meet and consult to ensure that Tribal and State concerns are considered and that equitable and collaborative solutions are of the highest priority when taking actions, making decisions, or implementing policies that affect Tribal TANF programs and resources.
- CDSS and individual Tribal TANF programs will continue to discuss items specific to that particular Tribal TANF program while items affecting all Tribal TANF programs may be discussed with the Tribal TANF Administrators.
- CDSS and Tribal TANF programs will continue to practice open communications with each other, will continue to be receptive to the other's comments, ideas, and concerns and pledge timely, responsive, and accurate communications.
- CDSS and Tribal TANF programs will work to promote collaboration and consensus on Tribal TANF matters at all levels.
- CDSS and Tribal TANF programs will continue to work together to promote understanding and cooperation and to strengthen our positive working relationship.