RESOLUTION OF THE

NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE 23rd NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Fourth Year, 2018

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES; NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; SUPPORTING THE NAVAJO DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES NAVAJO REGIONAL TRIBAL CONSULTATION ON JUNE 25-27, 2018

WHEREAS:

Section One. Authority

- A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council has legislative authority and oversight over all matters related to social services on the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 401 (C) (1).
- B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. Among other duties and responsibilities, it "coordinate[s] all federal, county and state programs with other standing committees and branches of the Navajo Nation government to provide the most efficient delivery of services to the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 701(A)(4).

Section Two: Findings

- A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is in receipt of the Navajo Division of Social Services issue papers to be presented to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at the Navajo Regional Tribal Consultation on June 25-27, 2018. See Exhibit A.
- B. These presentations include discussion of the background, impact and recommendations by the Navajo Division of Social Services in the following subject matter areas:
 - Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System;
 - 2. Title IV-E Program (Foster Care, Guardianship and Adoption Assistance)
 - 3. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program;
 - 4. Community Service Block Grants;

- 5. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- 6. Indian Self-Determination Title I
- 7. Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
- C. The Health, Education and Human Services and the Naabik'íyáti' CommitteeS of the Navajo Nation Council find it to be in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to approve and endorse the positions, as found at Exhibit A, to be presented by the Navajo Division of Social Services at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Navajo Regional Tribal Consultation on June 25-27, 2018.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Health, Education and Human Services Committee and the Naabik'iyati' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council hereby approve, endorse and support the positions to be presented by the Navajo Division of Social Services at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Navajo Regional Tribal Consultation on June 25-27, 2018, as found at **Exhibit A**.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 12 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 13th day of September 2018.

LoRenzo C. Bates, Chairman Naabik'íyáti' Committee

Motioned: Honorable Walter Phelps Second: Honorable Steven Begay

Chairman LoRenzo C. Bates not voting

Department of
Health & Human
Services
Tribal Consultation

Advocacy Papers

APRIL 17, 2018

Terrelene G. Massey, Esq, Executive Director Navajo Division of Social Services





Title: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System

Federal Register/Vol. 38, No. 51 (March 15, 2018), 11449-11450

CFDA Number:

Funding Agency: Administration for Children and Families

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION

BACKGROUND

Section 479 of the Social Security Act mandates that Health and Human Services collect national, uniform, and reliable information on children in state care. Section 474(f) of the Act requires HHS to impose penalties for non-compliant AFCARS data. Section 1102 of the Act instructs the Secretary to promulgate regulations necessary for the effective administration of the functions for which HHS is responsible under the Act.

The Final Rule, which ACF promulgated pursuant to these statutory requirements, will ensure the collection of necessary and comprehensive national data on the status of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) children for whom the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) applies and historical data on children in foster care. Thus, the Final Rule's data collection elements are necessary to ACF's statutory mission under Section 479 of the Act.

Issue #1: II) The Navajo Nation does not support the streamlining or elimination of the 2016 AFCARS-ICWA data elements.

- The Navajo Nation supported, and continues to support, the AFCARS ICWA Data Elements, referred to as 2016 Adoption and Foster Care Automated Reporting System (AFCARS) data elements related to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.
- The Navajo Nation opposes the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) "streamlining" or elimination of ICWA elements pursuant to the *Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*.
- The Navajo Nation does not support ACF's proposal to delay the implementation for 2 years, or the "Compliance date" as proposed under *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking; delay of compliance and effective dates*, Federal Register/Vol. 38, No. 51 (March 15, 2018), 11450-11451.

Reasoning:

- The Navajo Nation is one of the largest AI/AN tribes, according to the U.S. Census.
- Navajo families move off the reservation to seek jobs, education, and other opportunities to
 cities, towns and other parts of the United States. At times, while off the reservation these
 families find themselves in circumstances where their children are removed from their care and
 placed into a state's child welfare systems.

- Although the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services receives proper notice from the states regarding Navajo children in state custody and begins to coordinate with those states. We still believe there are children in the state custody who have not been properly identified as Navajo and thus the Indian Child Welfare Act may not be followed in those cases. Therefore, the Navajo Nation is not able to coordinate or provide recommendations for a case concerning a Navajo child. In addition, this impacts the children and families because of the disconnect from their family and their tribe.
- As of the end of April 2018, the Navajo Nation had 590 ICWA cases that involved 1,173 children in those cases. Case coordination happened with 28 states across the country. This is the Navajo Nation's ICWA data. The concern with some states is that the state child welfare agency does not ask the parents whether they are members of an Indian tribe, whether the parents have their tribal enrollment numbers, and whether the family are domiciled on the Navajo Nation or not, among other relevant questions.
- Navajo children placed in out of home care have unique needs that can be best met and addressed by the Navajo Nation and extended family members, e.g., language and knowledge of cultural oral stories tied to the child's clan; identifying clan relationships and connections; or knowing and identifying community of origin to reconnect to among, etc.
- When the 2016 AFCARS-ICWA data elements are implemented it will help the states, federal and tribal governments to work together on these cases. If these elements are "streamlined" or eliminated, as proposed, the Navajo Nation is concerned that the data to be collected on Navajo children through the states will not be comprehensive and continue to be fragmented. Therefore, as a system, we will not be able to advance the well-being of Navajo children and families. This is what we have today---fragmented data on Indian children that is not comprehensive or specific to Navajo.
- Having specific data elements will allow for ACF and states to identify targeted training needs on the ICWA for their staff. In addition, this will allow for the states to partner with respective tribes in their states on developing training needs that may help state staff on how best to coordinate efforts on ICWA cases.
- Having specific data elements will not only assist ACF in forming future national policies on best practices with tribes on ICWA cases, but it will also benefit tribes in forming their own policies. Furthermore, ACF will benefit overall, as ACF may use the data elements to benefit overall policy development for TANF, Head Start, Childcare, and other DHHS programs.
- In redoing the AFCARS-ICWA data elements the Children's Bureau believes the public did not thoroughly review for burdensome pursuant to Executive Order 13777.
- The Navajo Nation requests that the ACF consider that the burden that has been unfairly placed on AI/AN Tribes and families for generations.
- The federal government has a trust responsibility to Tribes and it is time it removes its traditions of implementing burdensome policies that are detrimental to the tribes and Indian people.
- Moreover, the ACF is saying that they do not have authority over the Indian Child Welfare Act as the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) has that regulatory authority. This argument is not

correct and misplaced. The DOI – through the Bureau of Indian Affairs – does provide funding to tribes for ICWA, not the states. Tribes use this money to fund their tribal social services which supports their cases. The funds are not used by the states. The ACF is not being asked to change that or take over when it implements the 2016 AFCARS – ICWA data elements. ACF is requiring States to collect data concerning Indian children who are in their care. This is a misguided argument. Rather the data should complement one another.

Issue #2: Lack of Tribal Consultation

Like many of the other tribes, the Navajo Nation has requested updates on the implementation of the 2016 AFCARS – ICWA data elements in 2017, at the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) meetings. Finally, after several requests, ACF scheduled the Tribal Consultation on May 15 and May 16. 2018 via teleconference, for 1.5 hours each day.

The Navajo Nation has serious concerns and questions whether this meets the true intent of tribal consultation as this will be conducted by telephone for a limited time period. Most recently, at the May 9-10, 2018 STAC meeting, the Navajo Nation requested for an in-person tribal consultation meeting. However, we have not received this and the Navajo Nation continues to make this request.

Title: Title IV-E Program (Foster Care, Guardianship & Adoption Assistance)

CFDA Number: 93.658; 93.090; 93.659

Funding Agency: Administration for Children and Families/Administration of Youth, Children &

Families/Children's Bureau

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES

BACKGROUND

The main goal of the Department of Family Services (DFS) is to provide specialized human services to children, adults, and elderly who are experiencing abuse, neglect or crisis, by helping maintain healthy and stable families and provide assistance to low-income individuals and households experiencing temporary financial hardship in meeting their short term basic needs, immediate emergency and home energy needs.

DFS was approved for direct funding to administer the Title IV-E Program on October 01, 2014. The Title IV-E is a program that allows for administrative reimbursement at a percentage rate based upon an approved type of activities conducted in the delivery of child welfare related services. In addition, it allows for maintenance payments for children who are in foster care, guardianship and adoption. The intent is to establish a stable and safe environment and assuring permanency for children that are in out of home care either through reunification, foster care, guardianship and/or adoption.

Issue #1: One rate for the Navajo Nation in determining IV-E eligibility of Navajo children.

Navajo Nation is in a unique situation, as the Nation spans across three states Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah therefore subject to utilizing three different 1996 AFDC rates which impacts determining IV-E eligibility of Navajo children. The situation places our Navajo children at a disadvantage as they are eligible for IV-E if another state AFDC rate is applied. There are circumstances where a family home is located in two states; such as families that live close to the state boundaries. An example to illustrate the peculiar situation Navajo Nation encounters; a family living room maybe in one state while the rest of the home is located in another state. A decision has to be made as to where the family receive their mail. Is this a realistic solution in determination based upon where they receive their mail? If a decision is made based upon where the family spends most of their time, there will be questions as to how the Nation determined time spent in a particular area of the home. There is concern about the potential consequences when determining eligibility. We are requesting consideration of considering one rate for the Navajo Nation.

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of one rate for the Navajo Nation as the federal government refers to tribes such as the Navajo Nation as a "state".

Issue #2: Implementation of new rules and program changes to Title IV-E.

Introduction of new rules/changes while in the mist of implementation has affected the Nation's ability to establish a strong stable IV-E Program. Since day one of the Navajo Nation's implementation of IV-E; new sets of rules/changes were made that the Nation has been working on implementing, and the delay of the implementation has led to establishing a PIP and threat of financial consequences. The federal agency does not understand the unique governmental structure of the Navajo Nation. The uniqueness of Indian Country is not recognized; it's the expectation that one size fits all. Although availability/request for technical assistance is offered, in the very same breath it is threatening, very stringent and difficult to obtain.

RECOMMENDATION

There is a continual need to provide training to ACF staff to understand and respect the governmental structure and uniqueness of the Indian Country. Indian Country continues to be pushed into a square peg when it doesn't fit.

Issue #3: Information Technology Infrastructure.

Information Technology is not funded to development an IT infrastructure or to maintain, especially when there is a lot of data required to be transmitted. The Navajo Nation invested its own resources. More technical assistance should be provided to tribes to assist them in preparing for Title IV-E's AFCARS implementation.

RECOMMENDATION

Make available start-up and maintenance funding for Tribal IV-E programs.

Issue #4: OLDC/Grant Solution electric reporting system

Submitting reports on the OLDC/Grant Solution electric reporting system has been a real challenge. Getting authorization to gain access to OLDC/Grant Solution and timeliness of response when requesting assistance through help desk is a difficult. Navigating the system to reach resolution is a frustrating task, especially when the system is design to issues that would arise in a metropolitan area. When we have sought solution, the system indicates "contact your system administrator" which often lead to late reports or reports filed on our behalf by the administrator.

RECOMMENDATION

Remove the obstacles; we strongly request a native liaison to work directly with tribes.

Title: Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

CFDA Number: 93.568

Funding Agency: Administration for Children and Families/Administration of Youth, Children &

Families

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES

BACKGROUND

The Navajo Nation Division of Social Services (NDSS) utilizes the funding for Navajo households to assist in paying for electricity, natural gas bills, purchase fire woods and coal for those with wood stoves, or to pay for bulk propane during the cold Navajo winters. During hot summers funding is used for electricity for cooling purposes. Although majority of funds are used for the winter months. The Navajo Nation also has an Energy Crisis Intervention Program which allows funding to be used for households to do minor repairs for furnace, heater and/or purchase wood stoves. The LIHEAP provides vital services for the Navajo Nation, many of the Navajo people, predominantly our elders, children, the disabled, and the lowest of income utilize this resource to help pay for home heating and cooling costs.

ISSUE #1: Restore Funding Cuts for the LIHEAP

In 2017, the NDSS served 2,013 households. Total funding received for FY17 \$1,559,894. The level of funding has been decreasing since FY13. The economic conditions and job opportunities are limited on the Navajo Nation and this leaves many Navajo households unable to pay for their daily living expenses including keeping their homes warm during the winter and cool during the summer. Many of our elder population are unable to work and do not receive income therefore utilize LIHEAP to meet their heating and cooling needs. It is the difference between life and death for some of our families and urge you to support this important program.

RECOMMENDATION:

Restore funding to exemplify that LIHEAP is a top priority.

Title: Community Service Block Grants

CFDA Number: 93.569

Funding Agency: Administration for Children and Families/Administration of Youth, Children &

Families

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES

BACKGROUND

The CSBG funding that the Navajo Nation receives is spilt between the Navajo Division of Social Services (NDSS), Division of Health (DOH) and the Division of Natural Resources (DNR). All three divisions implement programs to promote and encourage self-sufficiency; however, the program contact is the Division of Social Services. The history of the Navajo people includes farming and growing their own food, but after many years of assimilating the Native people, farming and food production has become scarcer.

ISSUE #1: Restore Funding Cuts for the CSBG

The New Dawn Program under the DOH has been keeping this way of life alive by teaching Navajo families to grow their own food by providing seeds to grow and harvest, workshops and outreach awareness throughout the year including food preservation during the winter months.

The Water Resources Department under DNR has a similar approach to preserving the self-sufficient Navajo way of life, by repairing and constructing water wells for livestock through the Navajo Nation. The Navajo families in very remote location continue to utilize horses as a mode of transportation and produce their own beef from cattle raised on Navajo lands. However, the Navajo Nation has a high percentage of desert conditions and natural water springs are near empty, therefore providing wells are essential to keeping the animals alive and watering crops. Majority of the families do not grow crops to sell, but use it to feed their family.

The Department of Family Services – Financial Assistance Program under NDSS utilizes the funding to assistance help families who are most need to meet their everyday living expenses, individuals who are seeking job training or employment, families who have a medical emergency for expenses that significantly exceeds their source of income and temporary shelter due to displacement. Many times Navajo families are affected with financial hardship.

RECOMMENDATION:

Restore funding for the Community Services Block Grant to exemplify is a top priority.

Contact:

Gladys Ambrose, Department Manager III 928.871.6885

gambrose@navajo-nsn.gov

Title:

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

CFDA Number:

93.558

Funding Agency:

Administration for Children and Families/Office of Family Assistance

DEPARTMENT FOR SELF RELIANCE

BACKGROUND

The Department for Self Reliance (DSR), the Navajo Nation's Tribal TANF Program, utilizes the Navajo concept and teachings of T'áá hwó ájíťéego to empower individuals and families to take responsibility for their lives through the development and implementation of a plan which moves them and their family members toward self-reliance. By administering its own Tribal TANF program, DSR is given the flexibility to incorporate Navajo values and teachings into the program design which is important to the preservation of the Navajo language and culture.

ISSUE #1: Maintaining Tribal TANF Program Flexibility

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) replaced the former Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant Program and authorized Indian tribes to operate their own TANF Programs.

As stated in the Welfare Reform Law, "the best welfare solutions come from those closest to the problems, not the federal government." Congress recognized that tribes are in the best position to serve their identified service population and service area because they recognize and understand the extensive and unique circumstances faced by the families they serve including: remoteness, lack of housing and infrastructure, high unemployment rates, lack of employment opportunities, substance abuse, domestic violence, long-term dependency on welfare and low education levels. As a result, tribes were given flexibility in designing and administering their own Tribal TANF Programs to address the unique circumstances associated with moving the individuals and families they serve toward self-reliance.

The Department for Self Reliance (DSR) has exercised this flexibility in various ways:

- Incorporated traditional values and teachings into the program design, including employment of Navajo staff, speaking the Navajo language in service delivery, use of the traditional concept of T'áá hwó ájí téego (it is up to you), and integration of the Navajo Service Delivery Model, called the Pathway to Self Reliance into the western case management process.
- Promoting change in the public's perception of the program, from a typical "welfare" program to one promoting the teachings of T'áá hwó ájí téego (it is up to you).
- Defining the program's work requirements, including the Work Activities and Work Participation Rate, while considering the factors unique to the service delivery area and population.

- Developing and implementing Quality Assurance, Fraud Prevention and Detection, and Customer Development components although it is not required under current legislation.
- Operating independently of State TANF programs in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

RECOMMENDATION:

When Congress initiates efforts to reauthorize TANF, the Navajo Nation strongly advocates for continued flexibility for Tribes to design and operate their own Tribal TANF programs and to maintain the ideology that "the best welfare solutions come from those closest to the problems, not the federal government."

ISSUE #2: Maintaining Current Funding Level

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) established the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and authorized Indian tribes to operate their own TANF Programs. The Navajo Nation has been receiving annual TANF funding from the Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families (DHHS/ACF), based upon negotiations with the States of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. In accordance with PRWORA, 1994 State TANF caseload data and expenditures were used to negotiate the Navajo Nation's TANF Funding amount.

The Navajo Nation has operated its own TANF Program since October 01, 2000. The Navajo Nation Department for Self Reliance (DSR), provides assistance and services to an average of 2,000 families, comprised of 6,000 adults and children, each month. The DSR's Service Delivery Area includes the Navajo Nation and federally recognized near-reservation communities and extends into three states: Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

In addition to providing assistance and services to eligible needy families, the DSR uses the Tribal Family Assistance Grant (TFAG) for the following:

- Due to the lack of infrastructure and the prohibition of using Tribal Family Assistance Grant (TFAG) funds for construction and purchase of office buildings, the DSR incurs an excessive and increasing cost to lease nine (9) office facilities, with seven (7) located on the Navajo Nation and two (2) located in off-reservation communities (Gallup, NM and Farmington, NM). The average cost per square foot for on-reservation office facilities is approximately \$25 per square foot as opposed to \$12 per square foot at off-reservation communities.
- To ensure data and network security, to manage the volume of data stored and transmitted in the
 department's network infrastructure, and to increase technological capabilities, the DSR has
 made a considerable investment in upgrading its Information Technology infrastructure to
 provide a reliable and efficient data base and network system for the department.
- Providing effective and efficient case management services which move individuals and families toward self-reliance requires staff who possess knowledge and skills in educational and career development. Since the Navajo Nation does not have an adequate number of professionals who are trained, educated, and experienced in these areas, DSR has invested in enhancing and

increasing the proficiency of its staff so quality and effective services can be provided to move families toward self-reliance.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Navajo Nation strongly advocates funding for Tribal TANF Programs, including the Navajo Nation, remain at the current level.

A decrease in funding for Tribal TANF programs would have one or more of the following effects on the adults and children served by the DSR:

- Adjustment of the current payment standard to decrease the monthly assistance payment amount provided to eligible families.
- Eliminate assistance and services to two-parent families. This would affect approximately 600 two-parent families annually.
- Decrease the number and amount of supportive services provided to families. Supportive services, which remove barriers hindering or preventing an adult's participation in authorized work requirements, include transportation, childcare, employment-related expenses, and education-related expenses.
- Reduce and/or eliminate public education and prevention services that limits future dependence
 on government benefits and out-of-wedlock pregnancies, including services to maintain and
 strengthen two-parent families and services to target populations such as youth, fathers,
 grandparents, and caretakers.
- Reduce the DSR's time limit from the federally-mandated maximum of 60 months to 36 or 48 months. This will result in Customers having less time to become educated, employed and self-sufficient. In addition, reduction of the time limit will affect families who return to the Navajo Nation after having received assistance from a State TANF program. Since the DSR must count the months of assistance received from State TANF programs, Navajo families returning to the DSR's Service Delivery Area may be ineligible to receive TANF due to having met the DSR's reduced time limit; or may have a limited number of months of assistance remaining.
- Close one (1) or two (2) offices and laying-off staff due to a decrease in the number of eligible Customers. As a result, some Customers will have to travel a greater distance to receive DSR services.

ISSUE #3: Maintaining Unobligated Funds in Reserve

Prior to the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Tribal TANF programs were allowed to place unobligated funds in reserve without fiscal year limitation, to be used strictly for the provision of assistance to needy families. The ARRA legislation expanded the usage of reserve funds for both provision of assistance to needy families and for administrative costs.

• The Department for Self Reliance (DSR) has been prudent in carrying out each of its three-year Tribal Family Assistance Plans. Although this has resulted in funds being placed in reserve, a wnturn in the national economy and increased costs of living may result in a significant increase

in the caseload, due in part to a large number of Navajo families relocating back to the Navajo Nation. Fortunately, the DSR has the reserve fund available to offset the additional costs associated with an increased caseload.

• Reserve funds allow the DSR to undertake new initiatives (e.g. subsidized adult employment, subsidized youth employment, extended training, work experience, etc.) and enhance services.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Navajo Nation strongly advocates to maintain the current allowance for tribal TANF programs to place unobligated funds in reserve, without fiscal year limitation, for provision of assistance to needy families and for administrative costs.

CONTACT:

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Anthony Dineyazhe, Sr. Programs & Projects Specialist (928) 810-8553 anthony.dineyazhe@nntanf.org **Title:** Indian Self-Determination Title I

CFDA Number: 93.441

Funding Agency: Indian Health Service / Navajo Service Area

NAVAJO TREATMENT CENTER FOR CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES

The Navajo Treatment Center for Children and their Families (NTCCF) is a specialized children's program that provides outpatient therapeutic services to Navajo children and their families who have been victimized and traumatized by child abuse and trauma. The NTCCF Program works with children and families by providing mental health services in their homes or in the school setting. The NTCCF is not an office based service provider nor does it provide medication management such as I.H.S. Mental Health. Additionally, I.H.S. refers patients to NTCCF for mental health services.

NTCCF goals:

- To provide social, behavioral and mental health services to Navajo children and families who are victims of trauma.
- To empower children and their families with dignity and respect.
- To provide a continuum of care services to Navajo children and their families in an outpatient setting.

The NTCCF Program receives IHS Based funding to cover personnel expenses. The Direct Contract Support Costs funding covers program fringe benefits. The Headquarter Tribal Shares funding covers operating and specialized training. The Indirect Costs funding covers payment for indirect cost to the Navajo Nation.

ISSUE #1: Increase in funding to allow the expansion of Mental Health Services for children, youth and families on the Navajo Nation.

The NTCCF Program is responsible for providing outpatient mental health services for children, youth and families. The program provides mental health services to children, youth and families in their homes, school setting or at home. The Program is not an office based service provider nor does it provide medication management such as Indian Health Service (I.H.S.) Mental Health. Additionally, I.H.S. refers children to the Program for mental health services. The NTCCF has received minimal increases in funding for the past years. The funding levels in the past are follows:

FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
\$1,013,412	\$1,075,438	\$885,908	\$963,791	\$987,731

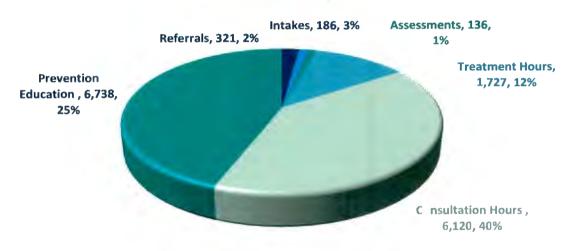
RECOMMENDATION:

Additional funding would allow the program to continue to provide quality psychotherapy, child advocacy and community prevention education to children and families across the Navajo Nation. The program would like to continue to provide services to at risk or high risk children, youth and family members who have been victims of abuse and/or neglect that are currently in the NDSS Child Welfare System. The Program would also like to increase prevention services in providing life skill classes for children and youth to improve their quality of life and strengthening protective factors. This is important

to reduce risk factors and improve mental health across the Navajo Nation.

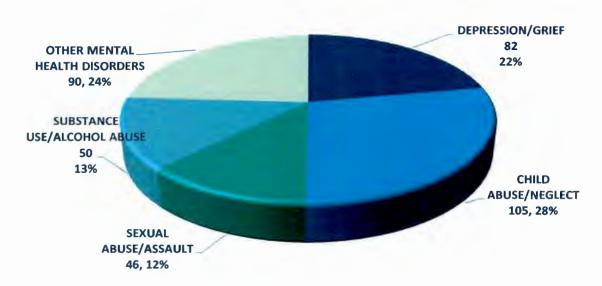
The NTCCF Program served 1,160 children and family members across the Navajo Nation for FY 2017. The NTCCF Program provides quality psychotherapy, and child advocacy. The NTCCF Program completed intake for 186 children however, the number does not include additional family members that are normally included in the treatment process. The NTCCF receives referrals from Department of Family Services and other local entities such as the schools, and Indian Health Service. NTCC also provides community prevention education to children, youth and families across the Navajo Nation. NTCCF provided prevention information to 6,738 individuals on the topics of suicide, methamphetamines and substance abuse, traditional teachings, and psychoeducation to parents and family members. NTCCF provides public information and community awareness through workshops, conferences, trainings, informational materials, and radio/newspaper announcements.

NAVAJO TREATMENT CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES SERVICES FOR 2017



The NTCCF provides treatment services to children and family with a diagnosed Mental Health Disorder. The NTCCF provided therapeutic treatment services to 105 children for abuse and neglect. The parent/guardian and family members are also included in the treatment services. The NTCCF also receives referrals from local entities for children who have been sexually abused or assaulted. NTCCF provided treatment services to 46 individuals and families. The NTCCF continues to see an increased number of youth referred for substance use and/or abuse. NTCCF provided services to 50 individuals with substance use and/or alcohol abuse. The NTCCF also works with children and families with other mental health disorders such as Schizophrenia, Bipolar, Depressive, Disruptive, Impulse-Control, Conduct Disorders and Attention Deficit Hypertensive Disorder, etc. NTCCF provided services to 90 children with other mental health disorders.

NAVAJO TREATMENT CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES FY 2017 SERVICES BY DIAGNOSIS



ISSUE #2: Program experiences difficulty in the recruitment of qualified, licensed individuals to fill professional positions.

The NTCCF Program is responsible for providing mental health services to children, youth and families who have experienced trauma. The lack of funding does not allow the program to compete with local resources in offering competitive salaries. The inability to recruit, hire and retain licensed individuals impacts the delivery of quality therapeutic services. NTCCF works with staff to obtain licensure however, when staff obtain their license, they transfer to local agencies which offer higher salaries.

RECOMMENDATION:

The program would like additional funding to offer competitive salaries to retain professional, licensed staff.

The Navajo Nation salary scale entry level pay for a family therapist is \$52,853.00. The Navajo Nation salaries are not comparable with other off reservation service providers including I.H.S. facilities. This makes it very difficult to complete with local entities as they pay on a higher scale. The average salary for a marriage or family therapist is \$66,404 per year. Marriage and family therapists are professional, compassionate individuals who assist clients in resolving conflicts, manage and overcome mental and emotional disorders. The family therapist work with people who are experiencing emotional or mental trauma.

The highest paid marriage and family therapist professionals work in the metropolitan areas of Vallejo, California, Phoenix, Arizona, and Trenton, New Jersey, Camden, New Jersey and Colorado Springs, Colorado. Their salaries are as follows:

Vallejo, California	\$76,480	
Phoenix, Arizona	\$76,200	
Trenton, New Jersey	\$76,150	
Camden, New Jersey	\$75,230	
Colorado Springs, Colorado	\$74,170	
(money usnews com/careers/hest-johs/marriage-and-family therapist/salam)		

ISSUE #3: Program would like additional funding to support the integration of Western treatment models with Traditional Services for children, youth and families on the Navajo Nation. The NTCCF Program is responsible for providing outpatient mental health therapeutic services to children, youth and families who are a part of the child welfare system. The NTCCF continues to implement and integrate the Western and Traditional models of treatment for the children, youth and families served by the program. The integration of modern and traditional healing is an important concept which promotes holistic treatment when working with children, youth and families. The NTCCF integrates traditional and cultural treatment modalities by complimenting services with Western treatment. The purpose is to promote the nurturing of a healthy body, mind and spirit.

The K'e (relationship) concept in the Navajo culture encourages to improve, build and maintain harmony and to ensure a balanced future for individuals. The program created a traditional practitioner position to work with families and to provide consultation on Traditional practices and ceremonies. The Traditional Practitioner position would also provide prevention information and awareness as it applies to cultural teachings to instill resiliency.

RECOMMENDATION:

The funding sources must embrace and support the integration of culturally appropriate and relevant treatment services for children, youth and families. Increases in funding would allow the program to hire a full time practitioner under the contract.

CONTACT:

Antoinette Miller, Program Manager 928.871.7679 almiller@navajo-nsn.gov

Title: Family Violence Prevention & Services Act

CFDA Number: 93.671

Funding Agency: Administration for Children & Families / Family & Youth Services Bureau

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

As the newly established program, the SFP Plan of Operations was approved by the 23rd Navajo Nation Council Health, Education and Services Committee on September 21, 2016 and the program commenced on October 1, 2016. The Plan of Operations outlines how Navajo Nation Division of Social Services will continue to provide support services to victims of domestic, family and dating violence under the Strengthening Families Program. Services includes crisis intervention, transportation to safety, shelter, court and medical appointments, safety planning, advocacy, and referral services, and shelter services. SFP also provides prevention outreach awareness, and education within the Navajo Nation and continues the collaborative network and build resource capacity in local communities to optimize availability of services to victims. The services to be rendered by SFP includes all victims within the 27,425 square miles of the Navajo Reservation which extends into New Mexico and Utah.

ISSUE #1: Limited Funding.

Limited funds allow SFP to employ a few staff, currently SFP has one Victim & Witness Advocate at each region of the reservation. The average time of travel for one Advocate within their service area could range from 1-3 hours, most times depends on the road conditions and another 2-4 hours to transport a victim to an off reservation shelter. Not all roads are paved, hence, travel can become difficult during inclement weather when staff must make a home visit to pick up a victim to transport to shelter, court or clinic. Having adequate staffing allows for timely response time to emergency calls, whether it's a domestic violence or a domestic violence and child neglect/abuse case to sexual assault, its critical to have timely responses.

RECOMMENDATION:

- Support and strong advocacy to prevent budget cuts to the current funding.
- Increase funding which will allow for additional staff to be hired; ideally having two (2)
 Advocates at each Region would be most effective and efficient in the delivery of services to victims.

ISSUE #2: Infrastructure Issues

Lack of infrastructure on the Navajo Nation limits victims from quick and readily available accessibility to shelter services on the reservation. In an effort to meet this immediate need, NDSS/SFP entered into a lease agreement with Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) continues to limit the Program in providing full shelter services. Currently SFP is leasing an eight (08) bedroom facility from Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) to use for shelter services. SFP is working on correcting deficiencies pursuant to a recent Indian Health Service-Office of Environmental Health findings. SFP is unable to accept clients for overnight shelter services until all findings of the deficiencies have been corrected to meet building

standards. Use funding does not allow for purchase or building of a new facility, therefore, SFP seeks to find other ways to provide shelter services. Currently SFP provides shelter services by contracting with qualified non-profit organization who provide 24/7 shelter services; most of the subcontracts operate off the reservation, with only one operating within the Navajo reservation.

RECOMMENDATION:

• To allow Indian Tribes to utilize funding to purchase or build structures that will meet the needs of the victims who are in need of 24/7 shelter services.

ISSUE #3: Professional Development

Ongoing staff development for all resources is critical to ensure all who work to meet the needs of victims are properly trained to not re-victimize victims. Many victims have experienced negative responses, whereas they have lost confidence in the system and no longer seek help, and yet remain in dangerous relationships that can become fatal for them and their children.

RECOMMENDATION:

 Provide training for Advocates, intake workers (sometimes it's the receptionist or office specialist that take the initial calls), first responders, police officers, etc. Support the additional funding needed to ensure training that will prevent revictimization or provide tribes training opportunities by bringing trainers to the Navajo Reservation.

CONTACT:

Lucy Laughter-Begay, Program Manager II 928-871-7629

Email: llaughterbegay@navajo-nsn.gov

□ RESUBMITTAL

NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DOCUMENT REVIEW REQUEST FORM



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CLIENT TO COMPLETE				
DATE OF REQUEST:	5/21/2018	DIVISION:	Division of Social Services	
CONTACT NAME:	Angela Davidson	DEPARTMENT:	Executive Administration	
PHONE NUMBER:	(928) 871-6851	E-MAIL:	adavidson@navajo-nsn.gov	
TITLE OF DOCUMENT	: Adoption/Foster Care Analysis			
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SECTION 164 REVIEW FORM					
Title of Document: Adoption/Foster Care Analysis	Contact Name: DAVIDS	SON, ANGEL	_A		
Program/Division: DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES					
Email: adavidson@navajo-nsn.gov	Phone Number:	871-685	1		
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Submitted by: The Navajo Nation

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
45 CFR Part 1355
RIN 0970-AC72

Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System Federal Register/Vol. 38, No. 51 (March 15, 2018), 11449-11450

I) Generally

Section 479 of the Social Security Act mandates that Health and Human Services collect national, uniform, and reliable information on children in state care. Section 474(f) of the Act requires HHS to impose penalties for non-compliant AFCARS data. Section 1102 of the Act instructs the Secretary to promulgate regulations necessary for the effective administration of the functions for which HHS is responsible under the Act.

The Final Rule, which ACF promulgated pursuant to these statutory requirements, will ensure the collection of necessary and comprehensive national data on the status of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) children for whom the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) applies and historical data on

children in foster care. Thus, the Final Rule's data collection elements are necessary to ACF's statutory mission under Section 479 of the Act.

II) The Navajo Nation does not support the streamlining or elimination of the 2016 AFCARS-ICWA data elements.

- The Navajo Nation supported, and continues to support, the AFCARS ICWA Data Elements, referred to as 2016 Adoption and Foster Care Automated Reporting System (AFCARS) data elements related to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.
- The Navajo Nation opposes the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) "streamlining" or elimination of ICWA elements pursuant to the *Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*.
- The Navajo Nation does not support ACF's proposal to delay the implementation for 2 years, or the "Compliance date" as proposed under Notice of Proposed Rulemaking; delay of compliance and effective dates, Federal Register/Vol. 38, No. 51 (March 15, 2018), 11450-11451.

Reasoning:

- The Navajo Nation is one of the largest Al/AN tribes, according to the U.S. Census.
- Navajo families move off the reservation to seek jobs, education, and other opportunities to cities, towns and other parts of the United States. At times, while off the reservation these families find themselves in circumstances where their children are removed from their care and placed into a state's child welfare systems.
- Although the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services receives proper notice from the states regarding Navajo children in state custody and begins to coordinate with those states. We still believe there are children in the state custody who have not been properly identified as Navajo and thus the Indian Child Welfare Act may not be followed in those cases. Therefore, the Navajo Nation is not able to coordinate or provide recommendations for a case concerning a Navajo child. In

- addition, this impacts the children and families because of the disconnect from their family and their tribe.
- As of the end of April 2018, the Navajo Nation had 590 ICWA cases that involved 1,173 children in those cases. Case coordination happened with 28 states across the country. This is the Navajo Nation's ICWA data. The concern with some states is that the state child welfare agency does not ask the parents whether they are members of an Indian tribe, whether the parents have their tribal enrollment numbers, and whether the family are domiciled on the Navajo Nation or not, among other relevant questions.
- Navajo children placed in out of home care have unique needs that can be best met and addressed by the Navajo Nation and extended family members, e.g., language and knowledge of cultural oral stories tied to the child's clan; identifying clan relationships and connections; or knowing and identifying community of origin to reconnect to among, etc.
- When the 2016 AFCARS-ICWA data elements are implemented it will help the states, federal and tribal governments to work together on these cases. If these elements are "streamlined" or eliminated, as proposed, the Navajo Nation is concerned that the data to be collected on Navajo children through the states will not be comprehensive and continue to be fragmented. Therefore, as a system, we will not be able to advance the well-being of Navajo children and families. This is what we have today---fragmented data on Indian children that is not comprehensive or specific to Navajo.
- Having specific data elements will allow for ACF and states to identify targeted training needs on the ICWA for their staff. In addition, this will allow for the states to partner with respective tribes in their states on developing training needs that may help state staff on how best to coordinate efforts on ICWA cases.
- Having specific data elements will not only assist ACF in forming future national policies on best practices with tribes on ICWA cases, but it will also benefit tribes in forming their own policies. Furthermore, ACF will benefit overall, as ACF may use the data elements to benefit overall policy development for TANF, Head Start, Childcare, and other DHHS programs.
- In redoing the AFCARS-ICWA data elements the Children's Bureau believes the public did not thoroughly review for burdensome pursuant to Executive Order 13777.

- The Navajo Nation requests that the ACF consider that the burden that has been unfairly placed on AI/AN Tribes and families for generations.
- The federal government has a trust responsibility to Tribes and it is time it removes its traditions of implementing burdensome policies that are detrimental to the tribes and Indian people.
- Moreover, the ACF is saying that they do not have authority over the Indian Child Welfare Act as the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) has that regulatory authority. This argument is not correct and misplaced. The DOI through the Bureau of Indian Affairs does provide funding to tribes for ICWA, not the states. Tribes use this money to fund their tribal social services which supports their cases. The funds are not used by the states. The ACF is not being asked to change that or take over when it implements the 2016 AFCARS ICWA data elements. ACF is requiring States to collect data concerning Indian children who are in their care. This is a misguided argument. Rather the data should complement one another.

III) Lack of Tribal Consultation

Like many of the other tribes, the Navajo Nation has requested updates on the implementation of the 2016 AFCARS – ICWA data elements in 2017, at the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) meetings. Finally, after several requests, ACF scheduled the Tribal Consultation on May 15 and May 16, 2018 via teleconference, for 1.5 hours each day.

The Navajo Nation has serious concerns and questions whether this meets the true intent of tribal consultation as this will be conducted by telephone for a limited time period. Most recently, at the May 9-10, 2018 STAC meeting, the Navajo Nation requested for an in-person tribal consultation meeting. However, we have not received this and the Navajo Nation continues to make this request.

RESUBMITTAL

NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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DATE OF REQUEST:	5/14/2018	DIVISION:	Social Services		
CONTACT NAME:	Rachel Toledo	DEPARTMENT:	Executive Admin		
PHONE NUMBER:	928.871.6851	E-MAIL:	rtoledo@navajo-nsn.gov		
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Email:	rtoledo@navajo-nsn.gov	Phone Number:	871-6848	
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NAVAJO NATION

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MOT Phelps

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Services' Issues & Recommendatns

to be Presented to US DHHS...

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Brown

Chee

Damon **Daniels** Pete Tso

Begay, NM Bennett

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