

The Tribal Child Support Program

Authority: The Child Support program for Tribes and tribal organizations is authorized by section 455(f) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

Regulations: The federal regulations for Tribes are found at 45 CFR Part 310. Tribal child support programs are also subject to 45 CFR Part 92 and OMB Circulars A-87 and A-133.

Eligibility for funding: By law, only federally-recognized Indian tribes and Alaska Native organizations are eligible for child support program funding.

Number of grantees: There currently are 9 Tribal child support program grantees.

Funding: By regulation, Tribes receive 90-percent direct-Federal funding of their program needs for the first three-years. After the third year, Tribes receive 80-percent direct-Federal funding of their program needs. Tribes that are unable to meet the 10-percent or 10-percent non-Federal match may request a waiver under 45 CFR 310.130.

Purpose: The purpose of the child support program is to ensure children receive financial support from both parents and families to become self-sufficient.

Allowable work activities:

- Establishment of paternity including identification of potential fathers and genetic testing;
- Establishment of child support orders (for current support, arrears, re-payment of TANF and other child support related expenses);
- Review and modification of child support orders on a regular basis;
- Location of parents and their assets that can be attached for child support purposes;
- All court activities including the proportionate amount of time contributed by Tribal Judges and Clerks;
- Referral to other agencies for enforcement assistance, as well enforcement assistance provided on the behalf of other child support agencies;
- Collection and distribution of support payments;
- Investigation and prosecution of fraudulent activities;
- Cost associated with obtaining training and technical assistance directly related to operating the program
- Cost associated with providing technical assistance and training to public entities that are directly related to operating the program.

Persons served: As of 10/31/03 the nine Tribal child support programs have serviced over 60,000 tribal members, and an estimated 19,000 non-tribal members through enforcement assistance.