

# OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

An Office of the Administration for Children & Families



## OCSS Commissioner

Tanguler Gray

## Tribal Point of Contact

OCSS.Tribal@acf.hhs.gov






## Tribal Website

[www.acf.hhs.gov/css/child-support-professionals/tribal-agencies](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/css/child-support-professionals/tribal-agencies)

## TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Over 60 tribes and tribal organizations operate comprehensive child support programs. Tribal child support programs provide services to Native American families consistent with tribal values and culture. In FY 2023, tribal programs managed 53,000 cases and collected \$50 million for families.

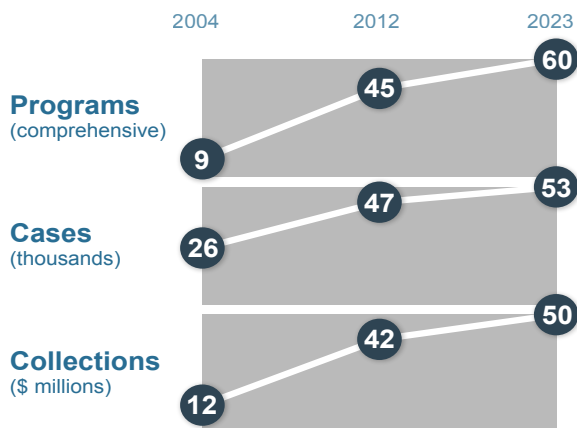
### What a Tribal Child Support Program Does

-  Locates parents
-  Establishes paternity
-  Establishes support obligations
-  Monitors and enforces obligations
-  Disburses and distributes collections

### What OCSS Does

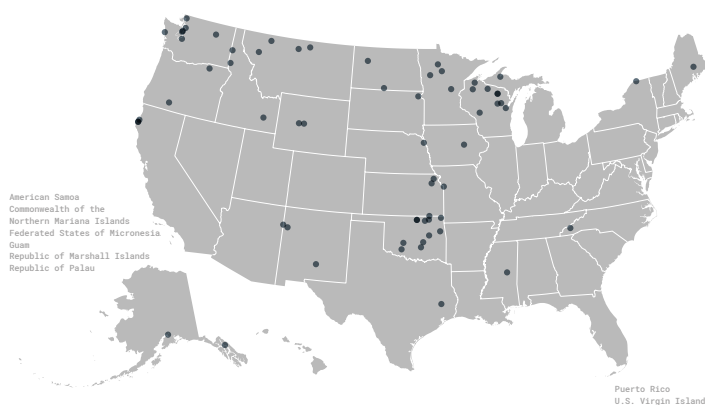
- Conducts site visits
- Hosts regional, state, and tribal meetings
- Reviews state and tribal plans and related legislation
- Shares best practices
- Provides training for specific program areas
- Provides technical assistance
- Promotes efficiency and effectiveness
- Ensures programs adopt and conform to federal laws, regulations, and policies

### Tribal Program Growth



### Tribal Program Locations

(as of September 2024)





## Tribal Child Support Funding

Section 455(f) of the Social Security Act authorizes direct awards to federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal organizations to operate child support programs in accordance with 45 CFR, Parts 309 and 310. Tribes must submit the required information and documents to apply for start-up or comprehensive funding based on their ability to comply with program requirements.

### Start-up Funding

Tribes or tribal organizations that need time to prepare to operate a child support program can apply for start-up funding. The tribal start-up program provides a two-year award, capped at \$500,000, to support activities that demonstrate the tribe can meet regulatory requirements. During this time frame, tribes create a program development plan, draft tribal code or law, develop policies and procedures, and complete other tasks necessary to apply to administer a comprehensive tribal child support program. Visit the OCSS website for more information on how to [apply for start-up funding](#).

### Comprehensive Funding

Tribes or tribal organizations prepared and ready to operate a child support program can apply for comprehensive program funding. After review and approval of a tribal child support program plan, OCSS awards funding on an annual basis. Funding for comprehensive tribal child support programs has no cap, but expenses must be reasonable, necessary, allowable, and allocable for the child support operations. There is no requirement for tribes or tribal organizations to provide a share in the cost of operations as it is 100% federally funded. More than 60 tribes receive funding annually to support their comprehensive tribal child support program.

### Learn More About Tribal Child Support

Email [OCSS.Tribal@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:OCSS.Tribal@acf.hhs.gov) for more information on how to apply for start-up funding and enhance current programs through technical assistance.