



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

June 7, 2013

Dear Tribal Leader:

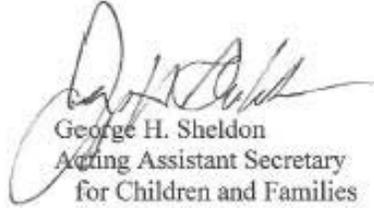
This letter is an invitation to Tribal Leaders to attend a consultation session with Shannon Rudisill, Director of the Office of Child Care (OCC) within the Administration for Children and Families, on the OCC's new proposed regulations. On May 20, 2013, OCC published a proposed regulation to strengthen standards to better promote the health, safety, and school readiness of children in federally funded child care. The proposed rule would apply directly to States, Territories, and Tribes who accept Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funds. More than 500 federally recognized Tribes receive CCDF, either directly or through consortia agreements, and serve more than 30,000 low-income Tribal children.

Under the proposed rule, Tribes would require that all CCDF-funded child care providers: receive health and safety trainings in specific areas; comply with applicable fire, health, and building codes; receive comprehensive background checks (including fingerprinting); and receive on-site monitoring. Recognizing the critical importance of school readiness, OCC is also proposing that all Tribes set-aside 4% of their grants to improve the quality of child care, which modifies current regulations that only require grantees over \$500,000 to spend money on quality. The proposed rule continues to exempt smaller Tribes from operating a certificate program. It provides notice of our intent to raise the threshold for what is considered an exempt Tribe from \$500,000 to \$700,000 and to increase the base amount of funding that each Tribe receives as part of its Discretionary fund award from \$20,000 to \$30,000. OCC is excited to share these changes, which will better support providers, parents, and Tribes as they work together to make sure that children are safe, healthy, and prepared to succeed. The public is encouraged to submit comments at www.regulations.gov until August 5, 2013. More information is available on the OCC website at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/child-care-rule>.

The session will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 PM, Eastern Time, on July 8th at the Aerospace Building, 7th Floor Multipurpose Room, 901 D Street SW, Washington, District of Columbia 20024. You will need to bring a valid picture ID to enter the building. If you are planning to attend, please register or revisit your registration on the ACF Tribal Consultation website at: <http://www.regonline.com/tribalconsult2013>. If you or your designated representative plan to provide testimony at the session, please provide a written copy in advance to Mary Sprague at 370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W., Washington, DC 20447 or mary.sprague@acf.hhs.gov. OCC will provide distance participation options for this session for those Tribal leaders unable to attend in person.

I am committed to effective and meaningful consultation with Tribes. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mary Sprague at (202)-401-4831 or mary.sprague@acf.hhs.gov. Thank you for the important work that you do. I look forward to working with you as we move to strengthen child care programs in Tribal communities across the nation.

Sincerely,



George H. Sheldon
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Children and Families

CC: Tribal CCDF Administrators

Attachments:

Draft Agenda

How the New CCDF Proposed Rule Would Impact Tribes