



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

**Administration for  
Children & Families**

330 C Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

[www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)

January 8, 2016

Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the Office of Child Care (OCC) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), I would like to invite you to attend a consultation session on the announced proposed regulations for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program.

On November 19, 2014, the President signed the bipartisan Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 into law. The law reauthorized the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program for the first time in 18 years and made expansive changes.

More than 525 federally recognized Tribes receive CCDF, either directly or through consortia agreements. The CCDBG Act Reauthorization did not explicitly apply many provisions to Tribes, so the new proposed rule clarifies the extent to which provisions of the Act apply to CCDF Tribal grantees.

The proposed regulations in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) are designed to increase tribal flexibility, while balancing the CCDF dual goals of promoting families' financial stability and fostering healthy child development. Collectively, these changes reflect a new era for child care in Indian country including an opportunity to improve the learning experiences of tribal children.

Under the proposed rule, Tribes shall be subject to the CCDF requirements based on the size of their CCDF allocation. CCDF Tribal allocations vary from less than \$25,000 to over \$12 million. We recognize that Tribes receiving smaller CCDF grants may not have sufficient resources or infrastructure to effectively operate a program that complies with all CCDF requirements. Therefore, we are proposing three categories of CCDF Tribal grants:

- Small allocations (under \$250,000)
- Medium allocations (\$250,000 - \$1,000,000)
- Large allocations (over \$1,000,000)

Each category is paired with different levels of CCDF requirements, with those Tribes receiving the largest allocations expected to meet most CCDF requirements. Tribes receiving smaller allocations are exempt from specific provisions in order to account for the size of the grant awards. More information on the CCDF NPRM is available on the [OCC website](#).



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The consultation session will be held from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. EST on February 11, 2016 at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel (2800 South Potomac Avenue Arlington, Virginia 22202). A block of rooms have been made available at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel for attendees. To register for the consultation, please send an email to RSVP to Alanna Pugliese at [alanna.pugliese@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:alanna.pugliese@acf.hhs.gov). If you or your designated tribal representative plans to provide testimony at the session, please provide a written copy in advance to [alanna.pugliese@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:alanna.pugliese@acf.hhs.gov). Distance participation options for this session will be made available for Tribal leaders who are not able to attend in person.

I want to encourage you and your designated tribal representative to submit comments on the CCDF proposed rule at <https://federalregister.gov/a/2015-31883>. The comment period is open for 60 days. If you have any questions or concerns about the consultation or the CCDF proposed rule, please feel free to contact Mary Sprague at [mary.sprague@acf.hhs.gov](mailto: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,

Rachel Schumacher  
Director, Office of Child Care  
Administration for Children and Families  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

CC: Tribal CCDF Administrators

Attachments:

- 1) Tribal Consultation Agenda
- 2) How the New CCDF Proposed Rule Would Impact Tribes