



# Tribal TANF

## Our Mission

*CITC's Mission is to work in partnership with Our People to develop opportunities that fulfill Our endless potential.*

The Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF) Program helps families become self-sufficient by providing temporary financial and other assistance, while they gain the tools needed to get and keep jobs.



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COUNCIL

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## Eligibility

CITC's Tribal TANF Program serves Alaska Native and American Indian families. In order to be eligible for the program:

- Your family must include a parent or caretaker with verified tribal enrollment or a Certificate of Indian Blood.
- You need to be a resident of the Municipality of Anchorage, and intend to remain in Anchorage.
- Your household monthly gross income must be below 185 percent of the standard for your family size and type.
- Your resources cannot exceed \$2,000.
- You have not previously received more than 60 months of TANF.

## Child Care Assistance

Reliable and safe child care is necessary for parents to be successful in obtaining and maintaining full-time employment. Child care assistance may be provided to Tribal TANF families while they are participating in work-related activities. Child care must be with approved providers and centers. To learn more about child care assistance, please contact your Tribal TANF case manager.

Tribal TANF participants may also be eligible for additional services offered by the State of Alaska Division of Public Assistance such as Food Stamps and Medicaid. Your TANF case manager can help you access such benefits, even when they are provided by other agencies.



## Reporting Changes

Tribal TANF participants must report changes in their household to the CITC Tribal TANF office (by phone, in person, or in writing) within 10 days of the change. These changes include:

- Changes in employment, including beginning or ending a job, a change in wages, or a change in your employment schedule (from part-time to full-time, or from full-time to part-time.)
- If your household has more than \$2,000 in cash (on hand or in bank accounts.)
- If your total unearned income exceeds \$50.00 per month.
- If there is a change in your legal child support obligations.
- If someone moves into or out of your home – children leaving your home must be reported within five days.
- If you move or get a new mailing address.
- If your household acquires a vehicle.

## Child Support Cooperation

The Tribal TANF Program requires that you work with the State of Alaska Child Support Services Division (CSSD) in order to receive Tribal TANF cash assistance. This requires that the parent or caretaker of a Tribal TANF child cooperate with CSSD in the following ways:

- Establishing paternity and establishing, modifying and enforcing a child support order for each dependent child included on the Tribal TANF grant.
- Identifying and locating the child's non-custodial parent.
- Enforcing the child support order for each child.

Tribal TANF participants may request to be exempted from this requirement if they have good cause. You may have good cause if:

- It may result in physical or emotional harm to the Tribal TANF family.
- Efforts to establish paternity or secure support will be harmful to the child.

If you believe you have good cause to be exempted from these CSSD requirements, you should contact your Tribal TANF case manager or eligibility technician.

## The Importance of Following Tribal TANF Guidelines

Participants in the Tribal TANF Program are not permitted: to quit a job or refuse a job offer, be terminated for fault of their own, or voluntarily reduce their hours of employment. Doing so will result in a Job Quit/Job Refusal Penalty, as follows:

- First Time Penalty:  
Case closes for one month.
- Second Time Penalty:  
Case closes for six months.
- Third Time Penalty:  
Case closes for twelve months.

Failure to meet Tribal TANF program requirements will also result in penalties. Penalties are progressive – the longer a participant does not meet program requirements, the greater the penalty becomes. Progressive penalties will reduce your benefit by 40 percent, 75 percent and 100 percent. Examples of failure to meet requirements include:

- Failure to get your children to school regularly.
- Failure to attend Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- Failure to cooperate with Child Support.
- Failure to develop or follow Family Self Sufficiency Plan (FSSP).

## **Maintaining the Integrity of the Tribal TANF Program**

If a Tribal TANF participant knowingly provides false, incorrect or incomplete information to receive, or attempt to receive, Tribal TANF cash assistance for themselves or someone else, they will receive an Intentional Program Violation (IPV) Penalty. You must repay any cash assistance you wrongly receive. IPV Penalties are as follows:

- First Offense: Disqualified for six months.
- Second Offense: Disqualified permanently.

## **Services Beyond Tribal TANF**

Once your eligibility for Tribal TANF services ends, you may still be eligible for other services, such as child care assistance and career support, to help you and your family with employment and self-sufficiency. Contact your Tribal TANF case manager for more information.