

Partnering With Tribal TANF to Create Employment Programs

Tribes may use Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to provide employment services to noncustodial parents.

Comprehensive tribal child support programs can partner with their tribe's TANF program to offer employment and training services to noncustodial parents. This will help them gain the skills and education needed to secure stable, well-paying jobs, and meet their child support obligations.

These TANF services can be tailored to meet the specific needs of noncustodial parents:

- **Job Placement and Retention Services:** resume building, job search support, connections with local employers, subsidized employment, buying work tools and uniforms, transportation, etc.
- **Education and Training:** GED preparation courses, vocational and on-the-job training, and post-secondary education to improve employment prospects and earning potential.
- **Incentives** offered to encourage noncustodial parents to participate in employment and training programs and comply with child support orders.
- **Other Supportive Services:** substance abuse treatment, mental health services, grooming and personal hygiene needs, limited medical expenses related to obtaining employment (e.g., eyeglasses, dentures, tattoo removal), certain driver's license fees, budgeting, financial literacy classes, etc.

Eligibility

- Tribes with a comprehensive tribal child support award and an approved TANF plan are eligible.
- Noncustodial parents must be included in the definition of "needy family" in the tribe's TANF plan.

Next steps

- Interested tribal child support programs should talk to their colleagues in the Tribal TANF program.
- A description of the activities and services provided to noncustodial parents must be included in the Tribal TANF plan.
- Tribal TANF and child support programs that collaborate to develop employment programs for noncustodial parents should support the partnership with clear funding and interagency agreements, policies, and procedures.

Additional resources

Policy guidance is available in [TANF-ACF-IM-2018-01](#) and related [TANF Assistance FAQ #13](#).