



## **2024 Winter Convention Portland, Oregon**

### **RESOLUTION #24 – 11**

#### **“DEFINITION OF ‘NEEDY’ IN TRIBAL TANF”**

##### **PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

**WHEREAS**, The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) was enacted in 1996 (PL-104-193), changing “welfare” as we once knew it, and replacing “Aid to Families with Dependent Children” (AFDC) entitlement program with the “Temporary Assistance to Needy Families” (TANF) program, which is a block grant to States; and

**WHEREAS**, Under the PRWORA, federally recognized Indian tribes are eligible to apply for funding under section 412 of the Social Security Act, as amended by P.L. 104-193, to administer and operate their own TANF programs; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI has, for the past 19 years, maintained vigilance over Tribal TANF through its ATNI TANF Committee, which reports to the General Assembly; and

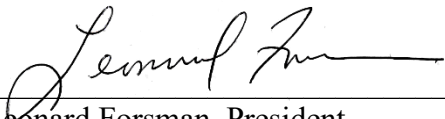
**WHEREAS**, the States and the ACF are already in negotiations on the definition of the term “needy,” it is the conclusion of the ATNI TANF Committee that the definition of “Needy” falls within the authority presented in PRWORA that federally recognized tribes were given the authority to use federal welfare funds “in any manner that is reasonably calculated to accomplish the four purposes of TANF”; now

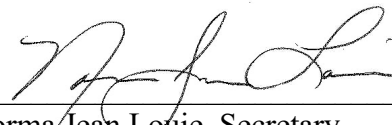
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI calls on the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to recognize, under PRWORA, that each eligible tribe is entitled to define “Needy” when providing TANF Services; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2024 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Hyatt Regency, Portland, OR, January 28 – February 31, 2024, with a quorum present.

  
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Leonard Forsman, President

  
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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary