

2009 Winter Conference Tulalip, Washington

RESOLUTION #09-18

"HHS LIMIT TIME & RULES IN TRIBAL TANF APPLICATION PROCESS"

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 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, the ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians 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 Tribal TANF Programs of the ATNI TANF region are fully authorized programs of our various Tribal Governments, providing "Temporary Assistance to Needy Families" (TANF); and

WHEREAS, the ATNI has consistently called upon the United States Congress and President of the United States to provide sufficient funds to the tribes to fulfill their

social commitment to the well being of their members through Tribal TANF, and to protect the flexibility of the laws and rules of Tribal TANF so that Tribes can dispense assistance to the most difficult and remote cases in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Congress has graciously responded to the needs of our American Indian and Alaska Native peoples by providing for Tribal TANF programs to be eligible for the emergency fund for TANF, and that Tribes will be able to access the fund in the same manner as the States in the provisions of TANF; and

WHEREAS, time is of the essence in that tribes must make application for the emergency contingency fund for fiscal years 2009 and 2010; and

WHEREAS, the administrative rule making can consume valuable time as federal administrative staff often attempt to apply copious rules causing delays in implementation of the law; and

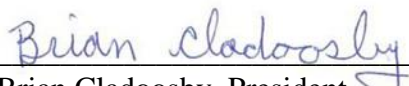
WHEREAS, administrative rules are now in place for State and Tribal TANFs that govern the client loads and eligibility which will generate the amount requested for the emergency contingency fund; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians hereby respectfully requests that the Secretary of Health and Human Services limit the time and rules that shall apply to the application process of the Tribes and Tribal TANFs for the emergency contingency funds provided for TANF; and

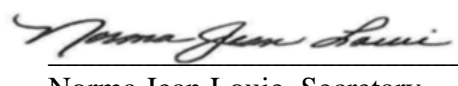
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that full consultation with tribes shall be accorded in the rulemaking process by the Administration for Children and Families, under HHS.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2009 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Tulalip Resort & Casino, Tulalip, Washington on February 19, 2009 with a quorum present.



Brian Cladoosby, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary