



2009 Annual Conference Tacoma, Washington

RESOLUTION #09 - 75

“THE FULL FUNDING OF TRIBAL TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) IN THE REAUTHORIZATION OF TRIBAL TANF IN 2010”

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, 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 Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Programs of the seven states of ATNI provide essential care for our families with (TANF) as authorized by Public Law 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) that authorized Indian Tribes to manage, administer and operate TANF; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI area has among the largest number of Tribal TANF programs in the country and the ATNI TANF Committee reviews TANF activity and provides information on any legislation or policies that impact Tribal TANF programs; and

WHEREAS, ATNI has provided resolutions over the past 5 years encouraging processes by which TANF states that also have Tribal TANF programs, to provide equitable TANF services and assistance to Tribal TANF through various incentives such as a 2% bonus to states that support Tribal TANF programs with their Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding; and

WHEREAS, these proposals and propositions have not been incorporated into any legislation regarding TANF, whether for States or Tribes; and

WHEREAS, there has developed a large deficit and gap of TANF services to tribal citizens of states when compared to services made available to all other citizens through Federal and state MOE funds; and

WHEREAS, there are States that refuse to share MOE funds and States that provide very little MOE funds to Tribal TANF programs, yet negotiate the funding levels of Tribal TANFs that establish federal funding levels; and

WHEREAS, Tribal TANF programs have demonstrated an ability to bring families out of dependency into work and productive life “for the benefit of the child” through flexibility accorded to tribes who serve clients in the most difficult environments of our country, and

WHEREAS, there is a substantial inequity of funding to tribes because of states’ refusal to provide equitable MOE funding to tribal TANF programs; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby request that the United State Congress, in the 2010 Reauthorization of Tribal TANF, provide full funding of Tribal TANF programs at a rate of no less than \$8,000 per Assistance Unit (AU) of Tribal TANF client assistance based on 1994 numbers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI request Congress to examine the States’ reserved and unused portion of federal TANF funds held by the states based on continued 1994 funding, even though state client cases have been substantially reduced and allocating differences to fund the Tribal AU client costs; and

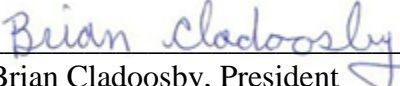
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI request that Congress limit or prohibit states from increasing the federal poverty guideline levels in order to expend TANF funds either directly or by supplanting TANF dollars; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution receive wide distribution to the US Congress and Administration and that the TANF Committee distribute this resolution to appropriate national and regional tribal organizations, Tribal TANFs and federal agencies; and


BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI is instructed to submit this resolution to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) at its next Annual Session for consideration; and

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2009 Annual Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center, Tacoma, Washington on September 21 - 24, 2009 with a quorum present.



Brian Cladoosby, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary