



2009 Annual Conference Tacoma, Washington

RESOLUTION #09 - 76

“TRIBAL TANF ACCESS TO AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) EMERGENCY FUNDS ON A TIMELY BASIS”

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 TANF Programs of the seven states of the ATNI provide essential care for our families with Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) as authorized by Public Law 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity

Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) authorized Indian Tribes to manage, administer and operate Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program; and

WHEREAS, ATNI area has among the largest number of Tribal TANFs 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, Tribal TANFs were accorded the right to access the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) State TANF Funds “in the same manner as the states”; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent by the President, Congress and Administration to flow the ARRA funds as quickly into programs to assist in the employment of citizens and promote economic recovery of our country; and

WHEREAS, in some cases, ACF Regions and national office are making it difficult for our tribes to apply for the funds and are unduly delaying payments to the tribal TANFs that have applied; and

WHEREAS, if the Tribes are not permitted to timely apply for and receive funds from the TANF emergency fund of ARRA, the States could consume the tribal share of the funds; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI requests that the Administration of Children and Families instruct the Regions and National office of ACF to quickly process the Tribal TANF funding requests, as due under the ARRA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ATNI Executive Office and TANF Committee monitor this process through 2010 when the program closes and report quarterly to ATNI; 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