WEBVTT

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BOYER- ***Opening Remarks***
Good afternoon, everyone! My name is Linda Boyer, and I'm the Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Child Support Services. I want to begin by expressing our sincere gratitude for your presence here today. This tribal consultation is not just a formality; it is a cornerstone of our commitment to effective and meaningful partnerships. We believe deeply in the importance of listening, learning, and collaborating directly with tribal nations.

I want to recognize ACF TAC delegate and Chairwoman for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Chairwoman, Amber Caldera. We're grateful for your presence here today and I'm excited to connect with you. Your insights and perspectives are invaluable as we work together.

Consultation is meant to respect the government-to-government relationship by engaging in open, continuous, and meaningful discussions. True consultation leads to information exchange, mutual understanding, and informed decision-making. With that, I'd like to turn it over to Chairwoman Caldera for her comments.

TURN IT OVER TO CHAIRWOMAN CALDERA FOR HER OPENING REMARKS

Good afternoon. My name is Amber Caldera, and I currently serve as Chairwoman of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. Before stepping into this leadership role, I worked for nearly 15 years in our Tribe's Children and Family Services Department as the Lead Case Manager in the Child Support Program. Child support work is close to my heart—it shaped my professional life and remains something I miss dearly. So, it's truly an honor to co-host today's Tribal Consultation.

I'm looking forward to a meaningful exchange of ideas and perspectives. I'm especially eager to hear from other Tribes and see how your experiences align with or differ from my own. Every Tribe is unique, and it's vital that we approach today's dialogue with respect for that diversity—because what works well for one community may not be the right fit for another.

I also want to acknowledge and appreciate Deputy Commissioner Boyer's remarks. Too often, I've attended consultations that felt like a formality—a checked box, rather than a true opportunity for dialogue and partnership.

That doesn't feel like the case today and I'm grateful for that. Thank you for setting a tone that values authenticity, mutual respect, and the understanding that tribes know what is best.

For their child support programs. Since I'm helping host today when the time comes, I yield the floor to Maria Huynh to provide testimony on behalf of our tribe and with that, to begin in a good way, I'd like to ask, Michael Kidder, would you be willing to open our time together with a prayer today.

Michael Kidder
Yes, I would.

AMBER

Thank you. I'll turn it over to you.

MICHAEL
Thank you, Amber, and it's a great honor to say the open prayer today, not.

With that, I'll start off. You know, we ask you to. We'll take care of us as we come to you today.

Guide us along this pathway as we take it. And open up all those parts out there and the decision makers and see, just take care of in that way, and I ask you to watch those families and children out there that we serve your Lord and take care of their worries, take care of anything that they have any issues with their Lord.

Help them along that pathway. We'll watch over them as they go through their days and heal their hearts.

Ask all this in your name, Lord. I know.

ARLENE
Thank you. Michael, for that opening prayer. We really appreciate it. It's a good way to set the tone.

Start our consultation. So, thanks again. Good afternoon. I'm Arlene Danzy and I serve as the Tribal Program Specialist here at OCSS in the Division of Regional Operations.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome. To our tribal leaders and their Designees. Thank you for participating in today's consultation.

I also want to express our gratitude to Deputy Commissioner Boyer and Chairwoman Caldera for their opening remarks.

Chairwoman Caldera and Deputy Commissioner Boyer will introduce one topic at a time as we go through.

To provide testimony, we ask that you please raise your virtual hand and we will call on one person at a time.

We will begin with tribal leaders and then move on to designees. Please start your testimony by announcing your name and tribe for the trial or the transcript.

Excuse me. We will also monitor the chat to answer any questions. The times noted in the agenda.

Are estimates and we will do everything we can stick to those timeframes. Please feel free to take breaks as needed.

Again, we want to ensure that we hear from all tribal leaders and their designees, so we may need to be flexible on the agenda.

Becca can you go to the next slide? You can see the second half of it, please.

Thank you. Lastly, today's consultation will be recorded and transcribed and a final report will be issued by OCSS.

Written comments may be submitted until July 31st, 2025, to our tribal resource mailbox at OCSS.Tribal@acf.hhs.gov.

And we'll drop that email here in the chat in just a second.

Thank you again for attending and I will pass it over to Deputy Commissioner Boyer. To kick us off.

LINDA
Good afternoon to everyone again. Our 1st topic today is the implementation of Public Law 118-258 - Supporting America's Children and Families Act. Enacted on January 4th, 2025, this law contains key provisions that expand access to federal tax information for child support programs. Specifically, it addresses the ability of tribal child support programs, as well as contractors of state, local, and tribal agencies, to access federal tax information.

A significant outcome of this new law is that tribal programs can now participate directly in the federal tax refund offset program through the Office of Child Support Services. Previously, tribal child support programs often had to rely on state agencies for access to this data which could be a cumbersome process.

We are eager to hear your perspectives, insights, and recommendations regarding implementation of these provisions to ensure they effectively support tribal child support programs. And now I will turn it over to Chairwoman Caldera for her remarks.

AMBER
Thank you. In my view, Public Law 118-258 offers both benefits and challenges. For many years, decades even, tribes have asked for direct access to IRS tax refund interceptions. I want to specifically acknowledge and thank the tribes that have worked tirelessly to advocate for this important legislative change.

This is a big step forward, especially for those tribes who have struggled to work effectively with their state counterparts. However, tribes should have the authority to set their own thresholds. A one size fits all federal standard simply doesn't reflect the realities on the ground in our communities.

I'm interested to hear from others. Do you share this perspective?

Thank you.

ARLENE
We are open and ready to take any testimony, commentary, tribal leaders, or their designees. Whenever you're ready.

Just ask that you raise your virtual hand.

AMBER
I see Raegan has her hand up. Hi Raegan.

Thank you.

ARLENE
Hi, Raegan.

RAEGAN
Good morning, good afternoon. I didn't know if I should come in right away, because I was trying to wait for council members to go first.

Again, my name is Raegan Hendrickson, and I'm the manager for the White Earth Nation Tribal Child Support Program and a delegate on behalf of White Earth Nation.

I just want to start off with FTI is a crucial for locating non-custodial parents, determined ability to pay, and enforcing child support orders. Previously, only state and local agencies had access to the information, creating a gap in enforcement power for tribal nations.

With this said, there's a lot of benefits that come out of this, which promotes parity for the tribal nations, improves child support outcomes. Access to FTI allows tribal agencies to locate absent parents, access income and improve collection rates. Ultimately, this helps more children in tribal communities receive the support they're owed.

It also enhances sovereignty and self-governance. By empowering tribal governments to access the same tool as states, the law supports tribal sovereignty and self-determination. It removes the need for tribes to rely on states for data access. Reduces its administrative delays. Without FTI access, tribal programs had to rely on indirect channels, which slowed the enforcement process.

PL 118-258 enables direct access beating up support determination and enforcement actions, supports efficient government operations. Tribal child support programs are held to rigorous standards and accountability. With proper safeguards in place, as the IRS publication 1075, tribes can securely manage that FTI.

Tribal Child Support Enforcement Agencies play a crucial role in ensuring children receive the financial support they deserve. Public Law 118-258 finally gives these programs the same access to

tax data as state agencies, allowing them to be more effective and efficient. The law upholds tribal sovereignty, supports children, and strengthens families across the Indian nation. Therefore, White Earth Nation acknowledges that there are certification requirements that are set to follow for eligibility for federal tax offset refunds in which the nation is in support of. White Earth Nation recommends the allowance for the tribe to set their own requirements when to enforce a federal offset refund. And also, access to enforcement tools such as passport denial, bank account, levies, and insurance matches also have requirements set forth which White Earth Nation acknowledges and supports. White Earth Nation recommends the allowance for tribes to set the Nation's own requirements when to enforce other than following the requirements set by the federal government.

Thank you.

ARLENE
Thank you, Raegan.

TRISTAN
I believe Maria is next.

MARIA
Can you see me okay?

ARLENE
Yes, we can. Okay.

MARIA
Oh, okay, sorry. I have a, the screen is kind of looking funny on the side, but...

Hi, my name is Maria Huynh. I am the program manager, actually I need to change my title. I'm the Children Family Assistant Director now for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. I was recently in this position in January, and I'm still currently the interim program manager for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe Child Support Program, as well.

I wanted to let you guys know, also, I've been here for over 23 years. I've been around for a long time and want to thank all the tribes who work really, really hard, like Chairwoman Caldera said. It's been decades. And so, this has been going on for a long time and we've finally got this passed and we're really excited to see what the future holds.

But I wanted to talk about, mainly is what we agree with. Right now, we agree with using the Child Support online portal and implementing for our future uploads and download capability. I remember in the previous conference call we had there was discussion about whether tribes can upload and download. I think this would be a really important tool for tribes. Especially small tribes like Port Gamble who are probably not being able to do the automated batch exchange. So, I know that one of the other options that OCSE wanted to implement also was the fully automated batch exchange and we are full support of that.

So going forward, I want to make sure that these are not mandated for tribes. It, it's, it's a choice that tribes want to make whether they choose to implement intercepting IRS. Because I think that, implementing IRS without... We, we have to talk about funds, right? What's the cost of this? How much it's going to cost and resources and time. So, I think it's important that we look at not making sure these are mandated and that they remain optional.

The other part is, we currently have an agreement with the state of Washington right now. And they're doing a really great job for us. And looking at number of cases, maybe Port Gamble in the future we want to implement direct access, but right now we wouldn't want to. So, we want to continue to have those state agreements, because it's more cost effective for us and time and resources.

We also want to make sure that we have access to administrative offset and passport denial. I know that currently with the state of Washington it's separate. Like I, like intercepting federal text refund is one and then intercepting IRS is another. I'm an interesting admin offset. So, we want to make sure that continues to remain separate so we can choose which options we want.

Okay, let me see what else.

So, one thing that we do want to point out also is that in the previous discussion we have, there was a discussion on whether or not there's going to be regulations that are going to be implemented to make these change. And I wasn't quite sure on. There was regulations going to need to be altered. And... so, I want to make sure that if that happens that before pen hits paper, we really need to have a discussion with tribal leaders and tribal directors on what those regulation regulations would look like. Similar to how we did the tribal nonfederal share and how we reduce the match. We had, we negotiated that, and we negotiate what rulemaking we're looking at. And that worked out really well and it was, you know, on both ends. So, I think that was really successful that process. So, I want to say that I think to continue this relationship we have, we really need to look at negotiated rulemaking if that's what's going to happen. I'm not sure if that was going to happen, but I just want to make sure I put that out there.

And then, just having a lot of discussions before we write regulations, if that's the case, and there's many opportunities like we did in the past. We, we have meetings at our National Tribal Child Support Directors meeting. We tacked on two meetings at like regional meetings. We had virtual meetings. We even had meeting at the National Tribal Conference a few times. I just think that there and we could have virtual meetings as well. I think that there's many opportunities to learn more from tribes and to have you know meaningful two-way discussions.

That is all I have right now. Thank you.

ARLENE
Maria, really quickly you mentioned, you said at NTCSA, what other meetings did you say?

I didn't catch the other two meetings you said. At NTCSA, that's right?

MARIA
So, NATCSD. Yeah, so in the past we've tacked on to an extra days, because all the directors are already there. And it and if our tribal leaders need to come, then we ask them to come. And it's, it's just cost more cost efficient. And then other meetings we had was at, regional meetings. Well, I don't know how the region meeting is going to happen now. But before, they used to be, because we're in Seattle and we don't have Region 10 anymore. In the past it was cheap, it was cheaper for us to do that as well. I don't know what that cost would be since we haven't flown. Is it Denver where we're at right now? I can't remember. Okay, so.

ARLENE
Okay, thank you.

I saw another hand up. From another leader. Was it Brandy? Did you have your hand up?

BRANDY
I did and then I put it down. But I was just going to make a comment. This is my first meeting here. And I'm here with the Klamath Tribes to support our child support enforcement program. That I'm here to observe and listen to.

So, thank you.

ARLENE
Thank you. Glad to have you.

Give a few more minutes, see anybody else, wants to provide any testimony.

Brandy, you said Klamath Tribes?

Thank you.

BRANDY
Yes.

ARLENE
If there are no other tribal leaders or designees. Is there anyone else who would like to provide testimony, in regards to our first topic, the implementation of Public Law 118-258.

If and when you are ready, you can raise your virtual hand. We will call on you.

Alright, good morning. I think for you, Faith. Good morning. Okay.

FAITH

Hey, good morning. Yes, it's good morning. I'm here in Washington State. I just also wanted to mention that I am here to support and listen as well.

I'm Faith Reese, and I am the program manager for the Suquamish Tribe Child Support Office.

I think this is my first time, I believe, as well. I might won't be able to make it to the whole meeting.

So, when the recording does come out, I would really appreciate a copy of it.

ARLENE
[Unintelligible], thank you for joining us.

Let me just scroll really quickly and make sure I'm not missing any hands.

We will give it another minute. And then we will go on to topic number two.

Rebecca, can you flip the slide for topic number two, please.

Pass it on over to our Deputy Commissioner to introduce, I'm sorry, excuse me, Chairwoman Caldera to introduce topic number two.

AMBER
Thank you, yes.

Topic number two, Federal Parent Locator Service systems and data including the Federal Case Registry.

Full direct access to FPLS will be a game changer for many tribal programs. It not only saves time for tribal case managers, but also alleviates workload on state case workers.

I remember waiting, often pretty impatiently, for responses from my state liaison. I was lucky to have that option though because many tribes had no state liaison or support at all. It's encouraging to see OCSS acknowledge that tribes are just as capable and trustworthy in managing this data directly.

I'll turn it over to Deputy Commissioner Boyer for her for her remarks.

LINDA
Thank you so much Chairwoman Caldera. Alrighty.

Currently, tribal child support programs access FPLS data primarily through the child support portal or via cooperative agreements with states. However, we are pleased to note that there are ongoing discussions about enabling tribal child support programs to submit cases directly to the Federal

Case Registry in the future. This direct submission would significantly expand tribal access to the FPLS is automated data matching capabilities further enhancing the ability to serve families.

Support for FPLS users is available through a dedicated team at the Office of Child Support and various training resources. It's also important to understand that the FPLS operates on a user fee structure, with costs assessed based on system usage to maintain the databases, network infrastructure, and specific data needs.

We invite your testimony and recommendations on how we can continue to strengthen tribal access to and utilization of the FPLS, and potentially the FCR, to improve child support outcomes in your community.

ARLENE
We welcome any testimony on the Federal Parent Locator Service systems and data including the Federal Case Registry.

Do we have any tribal leaders that would like to provide any testimony? You can please raise your virtual hand. We're calling you.

We welcome any directors.

Hi, Raegan.

RAEGAN
Hello. Raegan Hendrickson, White Earth Nation.

I just want to start, tribal child support programs face challenges as state agencies but often with fewer resources. Currently, White Earth Nation Child Support has access to the FPLS. And then, but never have been able to discuss, in the past or come forwards in regards to the Federal Case Registry.

There are a lot of good benefits that come out of the case registry that enables tribal programs to access and share case information with other jurisdictions, reducing duplications in the support. And it improves the interstate and inter-jurisdictional coordination. And becomes a seamless data sharing between travel, state, and federal entities making it easier to enforce orders across all borders and across the nation.

It can also help increase the collections and support for tribal children. This improves the ability to collect payments, issue wage garnishment, and ultimately get money to the children.

And again, as always, supports the tribal sovereignty and self-sufficiency. Direct access to these federal tools reduces dependence on state intermediates and strengthens the capacity of tribal governments to manage child support services independently consistent with their sovereign rights. Therefore, the FCR provides data match to custodial, non-custodial parent cases across the

United States. This would be beneficial to White Earth as it provides data match and locating tool to review multiple cases linked to the NCP so, agencies can establish reasonable orders and preventing duplication of court orders and enhancing collaborative efforts with other agencies.

Currently, the tribes that do not have access to the FPLS do not have access, would not have access, to the FCR system. With us moving forward, and our decision to have the opportunity to upload our cases to the FCR, White Earth recommends the allowance to opt into the FCR system and consideration for tribes to enter limited information to protect the tribal data as a sovereign nation. So, meaning that, you know, we know their standard, standard, private information that would have to go on to the FCR, but we would like to have that, pick and choose what information we put on FCR pertaining to our clients.

Thank you.

ARLENE
Thank you, Raegan.

I just want to make sure I heard this last part. You want to be able to pick and choose the information that you do enter into the FCR if you were able to have access to put cases on the FCR.

~~Let me set up.~~

RAEGAN
Yes, limited, limited information. We know there's information that will need to go on there for, pertaining, you know, pertaining to name and data, birth, and so forth. But we would like to review what information would have to go on to the FCR before we move forward and choose to upload cases to the FCR and decide what information we would like to provide.

ARLENE
Thank you, Raegan. I just wanted to be clear, make sure, and correctly.

RAEGAN
You're welcome.

ARLENE
Hi Maria.

MARIA
Hi, let's see. Okay, hi.

So, I want to say that thank you, Raegan, for your testimony. Port Gamble is in agreement with that as well.

We just would like to add that, currently, we don't know that the Federal Case Registry looked like.

And we haven't had a lot of experience on what is needed to be on the registry. We, we don't have that, we haven't been able to see it. So, I would like to add that prior to us having access to it, we would like some more training on it as well and information sharing on what access may look like for tribes. And to make it optional for tribes. We don't want this to be mandated for tribes to have to use the FCR. I know for states I believe it's mandatory. And so, we, we are asking that this is optional and, and tribes choose what they want to add.

Thank you.

ARLENE
Thank you. Maria.

Anybody else that would like to provide testimony? We have quite a bit of people on this consultation. It can't be just Maria and Raegan.

We welcome, we welcome you to join the conversation. We welcome you to provide testimony. We welcome you to speak in reference to topic number two which is the Federal Parent Locator Services and the Federal Case Registry. Give us a few minutes.

Also, please feel free to drop any comments thoughts in the chat as well.

How does available? (reading from chat) If you don't want to, come off mute.

AMBER
Even if you want to just say my tribe agrees with Maria and Raegan. That'd be great.

ARLENE
Thank you, Lynette. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes will be providing written comments. (reading from chat)

Thank you.

Alright, we do have a section in our agenda for a circle back for any if you're, you're still processing your thoughts and at that time you want to go ahead and speak and provide testimony. So, we're going to move on to topic number three but you will have an opportunity to provide your testimony if you didn't get to do it during the actual time allowed for those topics.

So, I will hand it over to Deputy Commissioner Boyer who provide opening remarks for, not opening remarks, but opening remarks for this topic. Commissioner Boyer.

LINDA

Thank you so much and I just want to take a quick second. To say thank you to all of you that have put you agree or that you're going to be providing comments in the chat. We thank you so much for taking the time to do that.

So, now I'm going to go ahead and proceed with topic number three which is system security and safeguarding.

Our third and final topic today is system security and safeguarding. While this process is specific to states, it may offer useful insights for tribal child support programs that are considering system development or enhancements. Additionally, understanding how states approach system security and data safeguarding may support tribal efforts to protect sensitive program and participant information.

We look forward to your thoughts on how this information might be helpful in the tribal context and where there may be opportunities for collaboration, technical assistance, or future investment.

And at this moment, I'm going to turn it over to Chairwoman Caldera or her remarks.

AMBER
Thank you.

For the majority of my time in child support, we operated without any formal system. My system was a huge file, was huge file cabinets full of heavy case files full of documents, handwritten notes, printed out debt calculations that I had prepared by hand using Microsoft Excel, and our court orders I typed up personally using Microsoft Word.

I remember hearing about the Model Tribal System at every conference I attended but it simply wasn't feasible or appropriate for our tribe. Not just because of how it worked, but because we couldn't afford it.

Reading through the prep materials for this consultation, I was struck by the different standards tribes have been held to compared to states. State agencies have had the ability to develop advanced planning documents, the freedom to choose or hybrid, hybridize their systems, recognizing that all states are not the same and access to federal funds to purchase them.

As frustrating, frustrating to realize tribes weren’t offered the same choices or trust from the start. That said, I'm hopeful that change is finally coming. And while it's long overdue, I'm glad future case managers may have better tools at their disposal. I joked that this will be my version of how I walked walk to school uphill both ways story when I'm an elder. But in all seriousness, I believe access to systems will boost our effectiveness and ultimately improve outcomes for our families and children.

Thank you.

ARLENE
Thank you, Chairwoman Caldera and Deputy Commissioner Boyer.

We will now take testimony for our system security and safeguarding.

How do you walk up a hill backwards?

Thank you. Have no both ways. Okay, remember that.

AMBER
Okay. That's what elders always say. I walk to school up both ways.

ARLENE
Okay, if anybody has, any tribal leader has testimony to provide, please raise your virtual hand. Will drop in the chat.

Hello again, Raegan.

RAEGAN
Hello, Raegan Hendrickson, White Earth Nation. I'm kind of surprised we haven't had a lot more on this because this has been kind of one of those long going ones also, you know along with the FTI and so forth. I just want to start with that.

White Earth Nation, we use the MTS, the Model Tribal System, that was developed by the federal government for the use of the tribal child support programs. And we're very satisfied with the MTS. I know when it comes to other systems and trying to develop a system, it's going to cost a lot of time and money. And I think, you know, that's something that I believe that OCSE is going to have to really sit back and take a look at and see if this was to be an option for a tribe, as to how much funding they were going to, how they would reward that funding to those tribes to develop those. Myself, with White Earth, it just takes too much time and too much money. And like I said, we're satisfied with the MTS. It does what we want it to do.

However, there are some things that I would like to see with the MTS. The federal government built this system that supports tribal child support programs known as the MTS. If this system interfaced with other federal portals, it would allow for timely real-time access to information including higher hits, quarterly wages, and unemployment insurance for example. The states have this interface when they receive a new hire it generates an income with holding order for the employer.

White Earth Nation recommends interfacing capabilities between MTS and other federal hurdles. But that being said, if we were able to have these interfaces, the streamlined access to federal data systems when MTS interfaces with systems like FPLS, FCR, NDHI, it enables real-time data of retrieval, improving the ability to locate parents, verify employment and income, and track interstate cases. It'll improve the efficiency and timelessness. Automated data exchange means less manual work, fewer delays, and faster enforcement actions. Tribal programs can identify case

actions, send documents, and update information with minimal lag. It can also support accurate and compliment case management, ensures tribal programs stay aligned with federal reporting and data accuracy standards, can reduce the risk of errors or missed enforcements due to outdated or soiled data. And then it can enhance interjurisdictional collaborations, facilitate better coordination with state child support programs, other tribes, federal agencies such as SSA and IRS, crucial for handling cross border or off reservation cases, and as always, strengthens the tribal sovereignty and autonomy.

MTS allows tribes to maintain their own systems and data while connecting to essential federal resources, encourages independence from state run systems, and promote self-determination to managing child support. Cost effective and federally supported, MTS is provided free of charge for, to federally recognized tribes operating approved IV-D programs. Interfacing features are built in, reducing the cost of developing separate integrations or custom platforms, and last, better outcomes for the children and families.

When the tribal Model System is connected to key federal programs, it becomes a powerful engine for justice, equity, and efficiency. It puts critical information in the hands of tribal child support workers supporting children honoring sovereignty and bridging systemic gaps.

Thank you.

ARLENE
Thank you, Raegan.

Hi, Maria.

MARIA
Oops. Hello. I guess we're just keep raising our hands. Anybody else wants to join?

Okay.

Oh, so what I wanted to say is that the current tribal regulations, 45 CFR part 10, does not allow tribes to purchase systems for federal funds. It only allows for MTS, office automation, which is like an access database, and maintenance of a tribe, a tribal system.

So, right now, tribes are not even on the same playing fields as states, right? So, this APD process, is it's a little bit confusing for me because we don't get federal funds. So, why would we have an APD process?

So, I don't know what this will look like in the future. But what I want to see is for a tribe like Port Gamble, we're a small tribe, we have like 350 cases. Is it realistic for us to do some type of data match, you know? Because, maybe that cost would be way more than then what, what it is to run a program even. I don't know what, what that would look like. For, I think there needs to be more information on what this data match will look like and what the potential cost is. And what kind of

systems you actually need? Because, can an access database intermatch, and with like, you know, FPLS and all those programs? I don't know. So, I think that having, having those resources and having more discussions on what the cost will be for tribes and is it realistic? Can tribes actually do this? Being such a small program like Port Gamble, and there needs to be more flexibility. We really need to look at the regulations in order to get, this is one of my fights for many years. But we really need to look at the regulations because now we need to modernize, right, try some moving to the future. We're not going to, you know, have that pull out that file cabinet anymore and hope, you know that. I don't know, we can get a bunch of information and data and statistics from it.

We were lucky during COVID to get a waiver. So, we can't get funding for office automation even. So, that's not even a system system, you know. So, we were lucky to get that and and it's moved us forward because now, when clients come in and they said, hey Maria, can I get a deck up? Oh, like done here, 5 minutes. Before we're like, give us a day and we got to update all the Excel spreadsheet and we got to make sure all the payments match and we got to look at this Excel spreadsheet and that.

Yeah. So I think we really need to look at modernizing tribes and really looking at regulations to support federal funds for it. And one of the other things I was thinking is, maybe, you know, looking at different funding sources for different size. Or also allowing, for a long time, Port Gamble wanted to use Eaglesun, because Eaglesun right now incorporates other ACF funding source that we have, TANF. So, TANF is already on this system. Wouldn't it be so much more cost-effective if we were on the same system as TANF? You would think. Or foster care. Foster care is on it as well. And now we're going to get our vulnerable adult on it.

So, I feel like with us not being allowed to even have funding to get a system that we don't necessarily build, but it doesn't allow for proprietorship systems. So, I think it makes it really hard for a small tribe like Port Gamble to share resources. So, I think we really need to look at those waivers and the regulations. Because TANF can do it. They were able to pay for without with federal funds, a system. And they would, and IV- E as well. So, I don't know why our ACF program won't allow child support to do it. So, I think we really need a look at that. And, I think I have all my points.

Thank you.

ARLENE
Thank you. Maria.

Does anybody on our end want to comment on Maria's commenting about the size of the tribe in cases in terms of like the systems?

Or

In the meantime, I'll ask if anybody has any testimony to raise hand.

Hi, Brandi.

BRANDI
Hello there. Since I'm new at this, I just wanted to offer that the Klamath Tribes will put our comments in writing so that we have it on the record. Thank you. Thank you for that.

ARLENE
Thank you. I've dropped the, the email to our tribal resource box in the chat and I'll drop it again a few more times before we get off the call. You're more than welcome to submit your comments to that email box.

BRANDI
Okay, thank you.

ARLENE
Yeah.

Yes, hi Raegan.

RAEGAN
Hello, I just wanted to add a little bit more on with the MTS. I know the MTS can be capable of doing all lot of stuff, you know, when it comes to interfacing. And then I would also like to see, moving forward, a push with doing more enhancements. We're going through the modernization of the MTS right now and it's taken a long, long time. So, we're hopefully we're coming to an end here. And, would really like to push that, you know we start enhancing this system because it has the capabilities to do way much more than what it does now.

ARLENE
Thank you, Raegan. I was having a bit of a conversation on mute here. Thank you.

Thank you.

We will give another few minutes for any thoughts on how system security, data, safeguarding access to systems information might be helpful in the tribal context.

There will be some opportunities for collaboration, technical assistance. We'll give you a few minutes.

DANITA
This is Danita Herrera. Okay, I can't wait. So, I'm with the Klamath Tribal Child Support Enforcement and Danita Herrera is the director. I'm not offering to do testimony, so I just wanted to share comment.

Hmm. And thank you what Maria was talking about. Like all of our tribes are different, you know, White Earth uses MTS.

And I was really thankful that Maria and their tribe got to, you know, even access type of program. And that's what we use, we use Kidder's program.

When I first started 10 years ago, I got to look at Maria's spreadsheet and I got really scared because that was a lot of information you know, in Excel. And I was thinking, oh my goodness, you know, this is really frightening. But that is what, you know, we had if available to us as tribes.

When every tribal program is is very different. We're not the same. So I think, you know, when we were kind of being steered toward everybody needed to use MTS, it really isn't the fit for everybody. We need access to systems that, you know, will be helpful for programs. So we use Kidder. It does what we need, but I really want more.

I know when the state of Oregon was developing their system, I went to a few of their programs. I mean, they're planning meetings, and they didn't they didn't put anything in their system to consider tribes. So now when they are working on tribal intergovernmental cases, there's problems like accidentally, income withholding orders get sent out or there's a no consideration to marked that the case is in the state systems.

So I know that we need something. You need help. Try to need to consider, I mean, states need to consider that there's tribes in there, you know, regions. And there has to be, you know, thought about that. So I just wanted to share that.

Thank you.

ARLENE
Thank you. Danita. We appreciate it.

We'll give another few minutes. Anybody has any testimony or commentary feel free to jump off mute or raise your hand, your virtual hand.

Or you can drop it in the chat if you'd like, if you don't wanna come off mute you can drop in the chat.

Thank you, Pamela, for your commentary, in the chat.

OK, those were our three topics. We now have some time allocated for an open session in case you didn't have an opportunity to either provide any commentary or testimony during the designated topic that you wanted to. So, I guess I will open up the session, the open session now for any additional commentary or if you want to circle back to a prior topic or the opportunity to speak if you weren't designated just wanna make comments.

Also, while you're processing those thoughts, if you take a look in the chat, Jennifer from the Department of Treasury, dropped a plug for the Department of Treasury's Tribal Consultation that

they'll be hosting on July 17 at 1 pm. And I believe she's also drop the link for registration in the chat. So, feel free to scoop that registration link. I don't know.

Okay, so we are in the open session of our consultation. Taking any testimony or commentary. If you did not speak because you weren't designated or not a tribal leader and now it's your opportunity or if you had some additional comments or wanted to make comments on a topic that we already passed and talked about. Now's your time.

I know we don't really like silence, but I'm going to be quiet for a few minutes to give you a chance to formulate any thoughts.

Okay.

Again, we will be taking written comments until July 31st at our tribal box.

I'm gonna drop it in the chat again. Oh, hi Maria.

MARIA
Hello, I just have one question. There was a 4th topic earlier agenda on recession of the employment regulation and that was being rescinded. I just was I just wasn't sure why was on the agenda then was taken off and I guess I just wanted clarification or more information on what happened.

LINDA
Good afternoon. Hi, Maria. I'm happy to, to respond to your question.

So, under the new administration, there are a lot of our final rules are under review by the new administration. And so at this time, we thought we might have an update. And so that was why you saw it added and then removed. And so even as of today, I don't have an update. And so that was why we removed it from the agenda.

MARIA
Okay, great. Thank you. I just wanted clarification on it. Thank you.

LINDA
You're welcome.

ARLENE
Thank you for your question, Maria. I dropped the email for our tribal resource box in the chat again.

Thank you for everyone who's saying they're gonna be providing commentary or providing written comments to our trial box. We look forward to those and we look forward to hearing from you.

I'll give another minute for this open session. We were supposed to go to 4 PM Eastern. It is only 2 PM Eastern. So to have any comments? Any questions? Now is your time. We are more than happy.

And we have a question in the chat from Sis. (reading) Any idea what regulations or the number being reviewed?

When you say number are referring to the number of regular like which regulation number we're reviewing.

Yes. Okay, so the question is any idea on what regulation or which regulation is under review or is being reviewed.

In terms of any of the topics or. Something specific. Like in reference to which topic.

Oh, yay.

LINDA
Well, I can just jump in because and you when a new administration comes in, into office, they review all, regulations that were enacted under the prior administration. So, all the regulations, are being reviewed.

Now what I want to say here, because I think I know where this is going, because I believe I was asked this as well at the NTCSA conference. And so, the regulation about the tribal nonfederal share is not under review. This administration is very committed to maintaining that regulation. And so, that is not under review this time. It's not even been discussed to my knowledge.

ARLENE
It is good news. Thank you to Commissioner Boyer for that clarification. I'm sorry, I didn’t, I didn't mean to jump in.

Oh no. I, oh hi, Raegan.

RAEGAN
Hi. I just want I just want to extend my sincere appreciation for OCSE allowing us to have this time and opportunity to contribute to the value of what we do in our programs and what we want and look forward to doing to enhance our programs. You know, our goal is, you know, the children. And having this opportunity, you know, can help better, better all tribal nations across the US. So I just want to thank you guys for your time and allowing us to share our thoughts, concerns, and our perspectives.

ARLENE
Thank you for that, Raegan.

Maria.

MARIA
Hi. I want to thank you guys as well. I really appreciate having this time, sharing our information, and just having open dialogue. I think it's really important. And especially with the new changes that's happening. I know you guys are under a lot of pressure. And with the new administration change, and, and I thank you for hanging in there. We lost a lot of good people. And I know that there is going to be a learning curve and, both sides. So I just want to make sure that we continue our dialogue and we continue to have communications with each other and just share as much information as we can, I think it's what we should strive for in the future. And, and if there's anything that you need help on, I'm more than willing to help as well. Even though I'm gonna be in a different role. I'll be overseeing the child support program still. So I'll still be around just in a different capacity.

Thank you. Appreciate it.

ARLENE
Thank you. Maria.

Oh, Michael.

MICHAEL
Alright, this is Michael. Hi. Hi. Yeah, after what Raegan and Maria said that It's always good to have open dialogue and talk about things. And I know, a lot of people are just trying to take it in and kinda, you know, just kinda and dwell on it, what's gonna affect their tribe because we all, we're different from each other. But we're the same in ways, so. But, take in dialogue. It's always great to have this discussion and feel comfortable with the discussion. And be able to come to you guys and you guys come to us. I really appreciate that. Appreciate you asking me for prayer today. Say that's a big honor for me. And, and to build address, OCSS in that way. Because it's tribes. We are praying people. We try to take care of our people as best as we can and do the best on their behalf. So that's, that's what I want to say.

Thanks again, Arlene.

ARLENE
Thank you, Michael, and thank you for our opening prayer. We really did appreciate that.

Okay. If we do not have any more testimony or comments or questions?

Going one...

Okay, I'll pass it over. I hand it over to Chairwoman Calder for our closing remarks.

AMBER
Thank you. I just wanna start by saying thank you for inviting me to help co-host today.

And it was really great to see some familiar faces, Michael and Raegan. I miss you guys. Miss, I miss child support a lot.

Anyway, thank you all for showing up with open minds and hearts today. This consultation is about more than policy. It's about justice, equity, and trust. It's about making sure tribal voices are not only heard but respected and valued.

I am honored to stand alongside so many of you who are committed to doing what's best for your communities. The work we do in child support, though sometimes behind the scenes, is life-changing for the families we serve.

As we move forward, may we continue to advocate for solutions that are tailored, thoughtful, and tribally driven. And may today just be one step in a stronger, more respectful partnership between tribes and the Office of Child Support Services.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be here. I'm excited for the future of Tribal Child Support.

Thank you.

LINDA
I want to thank you all myself for attending and providing testimony today during the tribal child support consultation. I want to extend our hardy thank you to Chairwoman Caldera for assisting and facilitating, and also to Mr. Kidder for the prayer. Those things are very important to us as well. And so we thank you so much for collaborating with us today.

Your testimonies will be part of the official record. You can still provide written testimony regarding the topics and discussion that we had today. Please provide written testimony no later than Thursday, July 31st, 2025, to the OCSS Tribal Resource email box. A final report will be based on today's consultation and testimony provided will be prepared and disseminated. And if you see here on the screen, we have the mailbox. So please feel free to send your comments and written testimony to the OCSS.Tribal@acf.hhs.gov mailbox.

And we thank you all for your participation today.

VARIOUS SPEAKERS
Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Have a great day.