



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201 | [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)

April 21, 2023

Dear Colleague:

The Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) and Administration for Native Americans (ANA) value the work accomplished in tribal communities to support children and families. ACF strives to reinforce our commitment to seeking equitable outcomes for children and families we serve, especially those who have been historically underserved. To achieve that goal, we are committed to strengthening our partnerships with tribal governments. We join together to highlight a recently published [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(NPRM\)](#) regarding the non-federal share of child support expenditures for the tribal child support program. The elimination of the non-federal share of program expenditures will expand a tribal child support program's ability to deliver needed services across Native communities.

ACF wants to ensure full support is given to the tribal child support program serving children and families. According to data from the 2015 American Community Survey, nearly one-third of Native Americans living in tribal areas with a child support program lived below the poverty line in 2015 (that year, the poverty line for a family of three was \$20,090).<sup>1</sup> This poverty rate was more than twice the poverty rate for Americans in general (15 percent). Particularly stark is the poverty rate among Native American children living in these areas, which was 40 percent.<sup>2</sup>

ACF recognizes testimony received at several tribal consultations and from the Tribal Advisory Committee around the burden of meeting the non-federal share for the tribal child support programs. This testimony relayed that the non-federal share limits the growth of their program and ability to serve families.

ACF encourages tribes and tribal organizations to submit comments on the Elimination of the Tribal Non-Federal Share Requirement NPRM by June 20, 2023, via [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Submissions must include the agency name and reference RIN 0970-AC99.

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<sup>1</sup> See OCSE Exploring Tribal Demographic Data: Part One at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/css/ocsedatablog/2022/11/exploring-tribal-demographic-data-part-one>

<sup>2</sup> Id.

Together, in partnership with you, we will continue to work hard to find innovative ways to support children and families.

In Partnership,

/s/

Tangler Gray  
OCSE Commissioner

/s/

Patrice H. Kunesh  
ANA Commissioner