Early Childhood National Centers

NATIONAL CENTER ON
Tribal Early Childhood Development

Overview

What Is the National Center on Tribal Early Childhood Development?

The National Center on Tribal Early Childhood Development (NCTECD) provides training and technical assistance (T&TA) to support American Native and Alaska Native (AIAN) Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grantees. We assist with implementation of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 and adoption and implementation of early childhood program best practices, systems, and infrastructure in tribal communities.

As part of the Administration for Children and Families' Early Childhood Training and Technical Assistance System (ECTTAS), NCTECD provides and coordinates T&TA to support AIAN CCDF grantees and their partners in creating early childhood systems that are coordinated, collaborative, and comprehensive in their approach to improving child outcomes and school readiness.

NCTECD T&TA team members are highly qualified native professionals, and the majority are enrolled members of federally recognized Tribes. Our team has experience providing culturally responsive and appropriate resources and materials tailored to the unique needs of tribal communities. We promote high-quality child care for AIAN children and their families.

Resource Development

- Work collaboratively with ECTTAS partners to adapt their resources to meet AIAN needs
- Coordinate with partners to facilitate the development of new resources
- Develop timely resources and tools that are responsive to AIAN CCDF grantee needs

Training and Technical Assistance

- Conduct AIAN T&TA needs assessments through targeted listening sessions
- Offer training, coaching, consultation, and other services based on OCC approved AIAN CCDF Plan goals and T&TA needs
- Provide virtual learning experiences and cluster trainings to support professional development
- Innovate the Peer Learning and Leadership Network by expanding mentor and leadership opportunities
- Provide skill capacity building through new CCDF Administrators' training
- Facilitate implementation of CCDF reauthorization requirements

Coordination and Consultation

- Collaborate on and conduct joint T&TA activities to maximize support and leverage expertise within the ECTTAS
- Strengthen relationships with Administration for Children and Families (ACF) regional offices and regional T&TA leads to establish a comprehensive collaboration framework
- Collaborate with the Tribal Early Childhood Research Center to promote awareness of AIAN early care and education research needs

Conferences and Meetings

- Biennial AIAN Early Childhood Development Conference in 2018 and 2020
- Regional and cluster trainings on CCDF reauthorization implementation and priority topics
- NCTECD events and conferences in conjunction with other ACF and Office of Child Care, national, and regional events

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Child Care and Development Fund Reauthorization

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 provided opportunities to offer flexibility to Tribes in certain areas where their needs are unique. The Final Rule released in September 2016 balances the CCDF's dual goals of promoting families' financial stability and fostering healthy child development, while providing flexibility for tribal communities. The requirements in the Final Rule focus on the importance of health and safety and high-quality child care. The Final Rule is the result of several months of consultation with Tribes on the new law and on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, as well as past consultations and tribal listening sessions.

The CCDBG Act of 2014 did not explicitly apply many provisions to Tribes. The Final Rule clarifies which provisions apply to CCDF tribal grantees. These clarifications include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Establishing three categories of tribal grantee size based on large, medium, and small CCDF allocations, and providing greater flexibility to grantees with lower levels of funding
- Allowing Tribes the flexibility to consider any Indian child in a Tribe's service area eligible for CCDF funds if the Tribe's median income is below 85 percent of the median income in the state in which the Tribe is located

Some Exemptions for All Tribal Lead Agencies

- Exemption from consumer education website
- Exemption from market rate survey and alternative methodology
- Exemption from requirements around increasing access to high-quality care in areas that have significant concentrations of poverty

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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