



Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Alaska Temporary Assistance Work Services

Native Family Assistance Programs

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant funds

- The Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP) which provides cash assistance and Work Services to low-income families with children to help them with basic needs while they work toward becoming self-sufficient.
- Native Family Assistance Programs (NFAP) administered by eligible tribal organizations which provide comparable cash assistance benefits and services designed to support Alaska Native families with basic needs while supporting self-sufficiency and wellness.

ATAP Work Services

Work is required and services are provided to all ATAP families with a parent included in the home.

- Adults are required to go to work, maintain employment, plan for self-sufficiency and exiting the program, and engage in activities that will help them become independent from ATAP. Failure to go to work and participate without good cause results in a reduction in cash assistance, up to and including a “full family sanction” and case closure for the entire family. Twenty-five percent of cases are “child only” with no parent in the home.
- There are two service tracks for two group of families
- Work First – services for families with parents who are able to pursue work and do not have multiple or profound challenges to employment.
 - Activities focus on immediate engagement in job search, maintaining employment, advancing on the job and supportive services to help with transportation, work tools and other items needed to ensure success at work.
 - In September 2014, 1,311 families, 56.7% of the cases with a parent included, Work had received less than 24 months of assistance in their lifetime.
- Families First – services for families with multiple or profound challenges to employment. These families often have involvement with multiple Department of Health and Social Services agencies (such as an open child welfare or juvenile justice case) or have health or behavioral health challenges that prevent them from working full time.
 - Activities focus on coordination with partner agencies, health and wellness activities to increase employability, skills building, specialized employability assessment and job placement, and in some cases pursuit of Social Security benefits for disability.
 - In September 2014, 655 families, 28.3% of cases with a parent included, had received more than 24 months of assistance.

Native Family Assistance Programs

The Department of Health and Social Services provides a supplementary grant to tribal organizations who administer a Tribal TANF Native Family Assistance Program.

- Seven (7) NFAPs serve a specific group of families with dependent children in their service area.
 - Four (4) tribal organizations serve needy Alaska Native families in their service area.
 - Three (3) tribal organizations are “regional” providers serving all needy families in their service area.

- Six (6) eligible tribal organizations have not yet implemented an NFAP, including Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Association, Arctic Slope Native Association, Chugachmiut, Copper River Native Association, Kawerak, Inc., and Metlakatla Indian Community. Of these, Kawerak would have the largest caseload if they implemented, with 158 families in their service area currently receiving ATAP benefits and Work Services (September 2014).

- NFAP Native Employment Work Services have increased flexibility (as compared to the State of Alaska ATAP) in defining work and activities that are recognized by the federal TANF program as allowable and “countable.”
 - Lower program targets for work participation rates in rural areas of high unemployment or due to other challenges.
 - Traditional, subsistence and cultural activities are recognized as “countable” and directly contributing to self-sufficiency for tribal NFAPs. Some NFAPs include activities supporting child welfare and education (such as parent-teacher conferences and parent volunteering) as program activities.

NFAP Caseload and Benefit Issuance		
MONTH of September 2014		
Tribal Organization	Cases	Expenditures
Association of Village Council Presidents*	503	\$342,084
Bristol Bay Native Association*	84	\$60,291
Cook Inlet Tribal Council	553	\$348,784
Kodiak Area Native Association	21	\$11,772
Maniilaq Association*	135	\$75,467
Tanana Chiefs Conference	90	\$54,084
Tlingit and Haida Central Council	210	\$171,877
TOTAL	1,596	\$1,064,359

*Regional Provider