

Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes
Summary of Technical Amendment to TANF Statute

- Tlingit & Haida is a regional, federally-recognized Indian tribe in Southeast Alaska, with over 30,000 tribal members.
- Since 2000, Tlingit & Haida has operated the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program serving Alaska Natives and American Indians in Southeast Alaska, also referred to as Native TANF. Native TANF provides financial assistance to families, while promoting self-sufficiency and independence through services facilitating work participation, education, and family stability.
- TANF was created by the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, commonly known as welfare reform, which allowed Indian tribes or tribal organizations to apply for grants to operate their own programs.
- Native TANF Programs are also operated by the following regional tribal nonprofit corporations: Association of Village Council Presidents, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Bristol Bay Native Association, Kodiak Area Native Association, Maniilaq Association and Tanana Chiefs Conference.
- Federal law specifically authorizes Tlingit & Haida and several regional tribal nonprofit corporations to operate Native TANF Programs at 42 U.S.C. §§ 612(i)(1) and 619(4)(B), as does Alaska Statute 47.27.070. Federal law mistakenly refers to Tlingit & Haida as a regional nonprofit corporation, however, a mistake which was incorporated into the Alaska law.
- Tlingit and Haida is not a corporation; it is a tribal government, carrying out certain regional functions for Southeast Alaska, including operation of the Native TANF Program.
- This anomaly in the statute can be easily remedied by a technical amendment to the statutory language.
- Tlingit & Haida therefore requests your support in pursuing the attached technical amendment to Alaska Statute 47.27.070.

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