

CHIPPEWA CREE TRIBAL TANF

September 1, 2022 to September 30, 2025

Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF Purpose

The intent of the Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF (CCTT) Plan is to provide welfare related services to needy Indian families that include at least one person (excluding stepparents) who is enrolled or eligible for enrollment in a federally recognized tribe, and who need temporary assistance and services {hereinafter, the "service population"}.

The Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF program will provide needy Indian families with job preparation, employment, and supportive services. The program is intended to support needy families to become self-sufficient and not be dependent upon the Chippewa Cree TANF program for assistance. The Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF program will comply with all federal mandates of Public Law 104-193. It is the intent of the Chippewa Cree TANF program that assistance shall be provided promptly with due regard for the preservation of Indian family life.

Designated Agency

The Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy Reservation, in accordance with Section 412 of PRWORA intends to implement a Tribal TANF program. The Chippewa Cree Tribe designates by resolution the Chippewa Cree Tribal Business Committee as the lead to administer the program for the Tribe. The Chippewa Cree Tribal Business Committee will be responsible for the administration of the Tribe's TANF program and will provide for services to the Tribal TANF service population and eligible Indian families living within the designated service area.

Period Covered by the Plan

The Chippewa Cree Tribe intends to implement the program beginning September 1, 2022 through September 30, 2025.

Service Population

The Chippewa Cree TANF program will serve all needy families in Hill County, Montana, that portion of Choteau County, Montana within the exterior boundaries of the Tribe's Reservation, in which persons applying for temporary assistance and services include at least one person that is enrolled or enrollable in a federally recognized tribe.

Service Area

The Chippewa Cree TANF program will serve all needy families, who will include at least one person that is enrolled or enrollable in a federally recognized tribe, who meets the service population definition and who resides within Hill County, Montana, and in that portion of Chouteau County, Montana, within the exterior boundaries of the Rocky Boy Reservation.

Review and Comment on Chippewa Cree TANF Plan

The Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF staff, Business Committee, and partner agencies held work group meetings on the new TANF Plan for June 15, 2022, to July 31, 2022. The community meeting was held at the Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF Conference Room June 15, 2022, with the Business Committee, TANF staff, and partner agencies invited, and the meeting was for review and comment.

Tribal Goals

The Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF Program will provide self-sufficiency goals to needy families with measurable goals with referrals to the chemical dependency center for counseling and treatment services; driver's license classes, HiSet/GED classes. The numbers of clients achieving goals will measure the referrals to each department according to 45 CFR 286.75(a) (5).

Needy Families

The Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF plan defines needy families as families with total family income equal or less (after disregards) than the Tribal benefit level for cash assistance see page 18 of plan. Some supportive services may not require income eligibility for service, i.e., teen pregnancy prevention, and marriage promotion.

Needy families must meet the following:

- A) At least one person (child or caretaker relative who is within the fifth degree of kinship excluding stepparents) that is enrolled or enrollable in a federally recognized tribe, who is living with a caretaker relative.
- B) A woman pregnant with an Indian child in her third trimester or a verifiable high-risk pregnancy.
- C) All school age children are required to attend school full time with regular attendance, verification of enrollment and current status is required.
- D) Minor parent must be living in a home with parents or a TANF approved responsible adult.
- E) A dependent child that is still in high school will be eligible until graduation or their 19th birthday.

Needy Indian Families Moving into the Covered Service Area

Needy Indian families moving into the Chippewa Cree TANF service area will receive the same amount of cash assistance as all other applicants currently within the Chippewa Cree service area.

Tribal TANF Assistance and Services

The Tribal TANF program may provide limited monthly cash assistance for shelter, food, utilities, clothing, and other basic needs. Needy Indian families will be eligible for assistance under the 150% of the poverty line. Cash Assistance and other assistance shall be provided as follows:

- A) Cash Assistance or assistance through a voucher system
- B) Educational activities designed to increase self-sufficiency, job training and work, excluding any expenditure for public or no cost education or training.
- C) Required work activities expenditures with no other funding source.
- D) Tribal TANF will provide to recipients all justified job related or educational costs when cooperating with TANF work participation including but limited to the following: books, uniforms, tuition, educational supplies, childcare, clothing allowance, transportation expenses and any other related cost. AND excluding those costs normally covered by the educational system.

Supportive Services

The Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF program may provide the following services. This list is not all-inclusive and individual families may receive certain services called for in their individual's work/training plan as approved by the TANF case manager and as funding permits.

Supportive Services may be offered by the Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF Program as funding permits. Supportive Services often make the difference between continued unemployment and the participant's ability to gain employment. The need for supportive services must be specific, identified in the Individual Improvement Plan, directly related to an approved activity or employment opportunity, stated as an emergency or nonemergency and other resources are exhausted. Supportive Service payments are not automatic or an entitlement and must assist the family in achieving self-sufficiency. Clients will be eligible automatically for supportive services

- A) Community economic and job development, as funding permits.

- B) Domestic violence services.
- C) Culturally relevant support services.
- D) Childcare and transportation costs for TANF participants engaged in approved work activities.
- E) Teen pregnancy prevention and education
- F) Substance abuse/mental health services aimed at removing barriers to training or work. One-time assistance with payment of traffic fines to retain or recover a driver's license in the context of removing a barrier to training or work.
- G) Emergency assistance in the form of Nonrecurring Short-term Benefits as Defined at in 45 CFR 286.10 (b)(1).
- H) Non-custodial parent may be eligible for support services and educational/training activities, as funding permits, for the purposes of enhancing the parent's ability to provide or increase child support payments to the custodial parent and child(ren).
- I) Two parent family promotion activities, as funding permits
- J) Diversion services for families at risk of welfare dependency. Tribal TANF will provide supportive services to families who are no longer eligible for cash assistance because of a mix of earned/unearned income to assist the family to stay off welfare, as funding permits.
- K) Support services will include transitional services to TANF participants leaving TANF due to employment, as funding permits.
- L) Assistance may be provided to pay defaulted educational loans (non-Federally funded only) to remove a barrier to education, training, or work, as funding permits.

The Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF program may help recipients with defaulted student loans (non-Federal only). The ceiling for this funding will be \$300 and this is for a one-time funding option. The recipient will be expected to follow through with the requirements of the lender(s) of the student loan to come out of default so that they become eligible for other financial aid.

- M) Education Policy: Tribal TANF will fund educational costs, excluding those costs normally covered by the public education system, as a last funding source. TANF recipients will be expected to exhaust all other means of educational

financial aid. Case managers will help recipients locate and apply for other sources of financial aid.

- N) Incentives per funding availability: Incentives will be in the form of a voucher or certificate and will be awarded in recognition for the completion of a high school diploma or HiSet/GED, school attendance, and/or academic achievement. The amount and type of incentive will be dependent upon individual circumstances, and in accordance with the Chippewa Cree Tribal policy manual.

Financial Eligibility Requirements

The Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF program, will determine financial eligibility prospectively. The family's income (earned and unearned) minus the applicable disregards listed below will be tested against the Tribe's TANF benefit standard for the appropriate household size and in effect at the time of the application.

Eligibility for Assistance and Services Based on the Purposes of TANF

Eligibility for TANF assistance and services is as established in the Tribe's approved TANF plan.

Only needy families, as defined in the TANF plan, may receive: (a) any form of Federally funded "assistance" (as defined in 45 CFR 286.10); (b) any benefits or services pursuant to TANF purposes I or 2; regardless of the purpose served. "Needy means financially deprived, according to income and resources (if applicable) criteria established in the TANF plan by the Tribe to receive the particular "assistance," benefit or service.

The Tribe may use segregated Federal Tribal funds to provide services (and related activities) that do not constitute "assistance" (as defined in 45 CFR 286.10) to individuals and family members who are not financially deprived but who need the kind of services that meet TANF purposes 3 or 4. Objective criteria will be established for participation in these programs.

Unless the State instructs otherwise, the Tribe may also use MOE funds to pay for no assistance pro-family activities for individuals or family members, regardless of financial need.

Income disregards

There are two types of disregards.

- 1) Earned — The "earned income disregards" are subtracted from the earnings of each wage earner in the TANF family. Earned income (based on gross income before taxes) disregards are:

➤ \$200 work expenses

- Twenty-five percent (25%) of the balance of earned income, and
 - Up to \$200 per month per child for childcare expenses.
 - There will be 100% pass through for child support payments
 - Wages from employment lasting less than 30 days will be disregarded but will be subject to the \$200 disregard for work expenses if wages are more than \$1,500. This disregard can be used only 1 time in the fiscal year.
- 2) Obligated -- The "obligated income disregard" is subtracted from the balance of countable earned and unearned income. Obligated income disregard is as follows:
- The amount of legally binding child support payments expected to be paid for dependents not living with the family. This disregard applies only if payment is being made on a regular basis.

Individual Improvement Plan

Adult TANF recipients (unless exempted) are required to develop with the TANF case manager an "Individual Improvement Plan". An Individual Improvement Plan (IIP) is a plan to assist the client meet the work activities requirement and address any barriers the client may have that may impede the client's work/training and employability. A contract will be signed by the client acknowledging the requirements, and responsibilities, and penalty, if the client fails to fulfill the contract.

TANF Resources Limitation

The Tribal TANF program will exclude from the resource limit, one vehicle and \$3,000 in resources. All other assets are considered as available assets, unless exempted by federal law.

Educational Assistance

Educational Assistance: All TANF recipients will be encouraged to pursue postsecondary education. Certain grants, scholarships, or awards made to an undergraduate student made for educational purposes under any program administered, funded, or insured under the Title IV Higher Education Act of 1965 or under a Bureau of Indians Affairs student assistance program is NOT counted as income in determining eligibility for TANF. Title IV funding includes the PELL Grant, SEOG, College Work-Study, or Stafford Loans. Bureau of Indian Affairs includes Higher Education Scholarships and Adult Vocational Training (AVT) financial assistance.

Other educational grants and awards: Any grant, scholarship, or other award that is made, funded, or insured from a program administered under Title IV of the Higher Education

Act of 1965 or under a Bureau of Indian Affairs student assistance program will NOT be counted as income to any applicant or recipient if it is made or used "under conditions which preclude its use for current living costs". Under this provision, any educational award from a public or private source that is not exempt will be counted as income only to the extent that it exceeds educational costs.

TANF re-determination for Eligibility

Benefits and eligibility are re-determined as follows.

- A) Monthly based on anticipated changes in the family's situation.
- B) Promptly, after a report is obtained which indicates changes in the family's circumstances that may make the family ineligible.
- C) By conducting a "desk review" of all eligibility requirements at least every three months (90 days) for TANF cash assistance participants in conjunction with the Individual's Improvement Plan.
- D) By conducting a face-to-face review of all eligibility requirements every twelve months for all participants.

Coordination with Other Programs

The Tribal TANF program will coordinate with other Tribal service providers and other welfare related agencies to assist the TANF applicant to obtain services. The Tribal TANF program will coordinate with the state, county, local high schools, community and Tribal colleges, universities, and local Tribal programs for educational needs and to enhance job opportunities.

Childcare

Tribal TANF may provide childcare funding or services to eligible families participating in an approved work/training/education activity. Limited childcare funding/services may be available to families at risk of welfare dependency. Transitional childcare services/funding may be available to families up to 6 months after eligibility for cash assistance ends, as budget allows.

Confidentiality Statement

Tribal TANF will require all Tribal TANF staff to sign a statement that they understand all TANF applicants/recipients have a right to complete and full confidentiality and that any violation of this right could/may result in immediate termination. The Chippewa Cree Tribe has a blanket confidentiality policy that includes all staff and Tribal council members.

Non-Duplication of Services

Applicants will be required to sign the Tribal TANF application certifying that all family members applying for TANF are not receiving cash assistance/TANF from another Tribal or state TANF program. Information will be disclosed to other state and Tribal TANF programs to verify non-duplication of TANF assistance or services if recently moving to the Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF service area in Hill County. Social Security numbers of all members of Tribal TANF households will be exchanged with the county and other Tribal TANF programs to further avoid duplication of services.

Employment Opportunities

The Rocky Boy's Reservation is in a rural area, there is a great distance between the reservation and the nearest small town of Havre, (seventy miles round trip). For many Tribal members ground transportation is limited, and public transportation is inaccessible for most if not completely non-existent. Tribal members must walk or share rides to access programs and health care facilities within the reservation. At times severe weather conditions prevent access to and from the reservation and the local town due to icy road conditions and/or road closure. Further problems in communication and contact are caused by lack of telephone services to many homes in the area.

Cultural differences with non-Indians employers, chronic poverty, high unemployment, lack of basic life skills and lack of jobs in the Tribal communities exacerbate efforts to become gainfully employed.

The nearest town is Havre, which is seventy miles round trip from the Rocky Boy's reservation. Due to the distance and lack of public transportation there are very few Tribal members able to work in this community.

Although, there are some low-wage job opportunities, many TANF recipients lack the financial ability to acquire the training necessary for minimal job skills for entry-level employment.

Because of the high unemployment rate and the difficulties faced by individuals who attempt to gain employment, the Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF Program allows a disregard for those individuals who can attain temporary or one-time employment. This disregard is in addition to the \$200 work expense disregard. This disregard is for employment lasting less than 30 days and for wages less than \$1,500 and only once per fiscal year. The Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF Program allows this disregard because of the high cost of utilities (electricity and propane) in rural areas and to allow individuals to purchase other items needed to provide for their family. Employment opportunities are scarce and oftentimes families are faced with decisions on which necessity to purchase.

Fiscal Accountability

The Chippewa Cree Tribe and Tribal TANF will comply with the fiscal accountability provision of section 5(F) (1) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, (U.S.C. 450c (f) (1) relating to the submission of a single-agency report required by Chapter 75 of Title 31, U.S. CODE.

Tribal Work Activities

A reasonable amount of travel time to and from work/training sites or other required activities outline in the client's Individual Improvement Plan may be counted as time toward meeting required work activities. Generally, it shall not exceed one-hour credit each way. The following list of work activities is not exclusive.

- A) Subsidized Tribal employment
- B) Unsubsidized employment
- C) Subsidized private/public employment
- D) Participation in a NEW/WIAO activity
- E) Work experience
- F) On the job training
- G) Job search/job readiness and basic skill development as per 45 CFR 286.105 (b) and (c)
- H) Community services programs.
- I) Post-secondary education
- J) Vocational education/training
- K) Jobs skills training
- L) Education directly related to employment including verifiable study time. Study time can be given on an hour for hour basis depending on the TANF client's credit load. This means that if a client is carrying 12 credits, the client can earn 12 work participation hours. Verifiable study time can include required lab hours or tutoring hours. All study time hours must be verifiable.
- M) Satisfactory attendance in secondary school or in a course of study leading to a certificate of general equivalence in the case of a recipient who has not completed secondary school or received such a certificate.
- N) The provision of childcare services to an individual who is participating in a community services program.
- O) Domestic violence, substance abuse or mental health counseling, education and/or rehabilitation
- P) Entrepreneurship/small business development.
- Q) Life skills training/education
- R) Culturally relevant work activities that will help lead to self-sufficiency.
- S) Participation in GED preparation/study
- T) Driver's License Training for adult clients
- U) Other work activities

Mandatory Work Requirements

Tribal TANF agrees to satisfy the following minimum participation rates as established by the Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF program and is consistent with economic conditions and resources.

Tribal Work Requirements

| | All Families | |
|-------------|--------------|----------|
| Fiscal Year | | Caseload |
| FY2023 | | 30% |
| FY2024 | | 30% |
| FY2025 | | 30% |

Weekly Work Hour Requirements

| | All Families | |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| Fiscal Year | | Minimum Hours |
| FY2023 | | 25 |
| FY2024 | | 25 |
| FY2025 | | 25 |

Tribal TANF will require both parents to participate in the work activity to meet the minimum requirement. The work hours of both parents will be combined to meet the required minimum hours, but each parent must participate no less than 10 hours. If one parent in a 2-parent family is temporarily exempted from work activities, the other parent must fulfill the minimum requirements.

Limitations and Special Rules

An individual shall be engaged in work by virtue of participation in any approved work activity specified in this plan or approved by the Tribal TANF program in advance.

The Tribal TANF program shall consider participation of an individual in a job search and/or job readiness activity of a minimum of three days per week to be considered as a full week of participation by that individual. Job search and/or job readiness will count for 6 weeks in any fiscal year, unless the Tribe's unemployment rate is at least 50% greater than the United States' total unemployment rate for the fiscal year (e.g. If the annual

unemployment of the country is at 6% and the Tribe's unemployment rate is 9% or higher), then job search and/or readiness will count for 12 weeks. If, however, the job search and/or job readiness activity is an ancillary part of another acceptable work activity, there is no limitation (re: 45 CFR 286.105).

A single parent with a child under six and over one year of age shall be required to participate at a minimum of sixteen hours work activities per week. A single parent with a child under one year of age shall be exempt from the work activity requirement for the first six months after the child is born. This six-month exemption is allowed for only one child in the family.

A teen head of household who maintains satisfactory high school, HiSet/GED or college attendance is meeting the work participation requirement.

Upon certification by a caseworker and approval of the TANF Director the Tribal TANF program will temporarily exempt victims of domestic violence while living in a shelter or other agency home with recipients' children from the work activity requirement up to a maximum of three months. Domestic violence victims will be exempted from cash assistance overpayment while living in a shelter or other agency with recipient's children for up to three months. Upon recommendation of the TANF case manager and approval of the TANF Director the exemption can be extended.

Cash Assistance will not be terminated or reduced if a single parent caring for a child under the age of six refuses or stopped work activities for the following reasons with a written statement.

- Appropriate childcare: The provider meets appropriate state standards of care, or an informal arrangement in which the environment is representative of the quality of care provided to others in the community.
- Reasonable distance: If the family is without either its own (or arranged) transportation, and there is no public transportation, then its home or work site must be no more than five miles from the childcare provider; or if the family has its own (or arranged) transportation, its home or work site is within one-hour travel distance, one-way, from the child care provider.
- Unsuitability of informal care: care that does not meet the health and safety expectations of formal care or is reasonable in negligence or harm to the child. • Affordable childcare arrangements: monthly child care costs or copayments that do not exceed 20% of the client's gross monthly income.

Time Limits

There will be a lifetime limit on benefits under this plan 60 months should the "exemption" status of the Rocky Boy's Reservation change. The exemption status means all recipients residing on the Rocky Boy's Reservation are exempt from a life limit because the rate of not employed on the Reservation is 50% or higher. If the not employed rate

should change and it drops below 50% then the lifetime limit will start. The sixty-month period begins the first day that a TANF family receives assistance, and the exemption has been lifted.

A month does not count toward the 60-month limitation for any of the following:

- At least 50% of the adults living on the Reservation are not employed, as defined by the most reliable data available.
- The beneficiary was a minor child and not the head of a household or married to the head of a household while receiving benefits.

However, as the Rocky Boy's CCTTANF Plan includes not only the Rocky Boy's Reservation, but all of Hill County, two-time clocks will be established. One time clock is established for those who fall under the exemption cited above. The second time clock will be established for all the Service Area outside of the boundaries of the Rocky Boy's Reservation. The sixty-month time clock will either begin for new clients or continue to accrue for continuing clients transferred to the Rocky Boy's TANF rolls.

The Tribal TANF program will count prior months of TANF cash assistance by any State or Tribe funded with TANF block grant funds, except for any month other than what was exempted or disregarded by statute, regulation, or under any experimental, pilot, demonstration project approved under Section 1115 of the ACT.

Hardship Cases

Hardship exemptions are conditions that hamper or inhibit an individual's ability to maintain work or enter work activities. The Tribal TANF program will consider the following categories of cases for exemption from the 60-month time limit:

1. Single parents with numerous children under 12 years of age (4+), and if family does not have access to low-cost childcare,
2. Individuals responsible for the care of elderly relatives, or a disabled child, and verification the relative or child require 24 hour care,
3. Individuals battered or subject to extreme cruelty (proper documentation will be filed and subject to the TANF director's approval) or as deemed appropriate by the Tribal TANF Program.

The Tribal TANF plan may exempt up to 20% of their caseload for FY 2022 through 2025.

SAFETY NET/TIMED OUT CLIENTS

Tribal TANF case managers will inform the program director of families that are close to using the 60-month limitation. When a family has received a total of 60 countable months of cash assistance from a state or Tribal TANF program, eligibility ends unless the family receives an exemption/extension and families will continue with cash assistance.

Adults who are exempted will be removed from the cash grant and the child(ren) will continue to be assisted.

The process for determining exemption/extensions will be case by case and will have limits on extensions. The family will appeal for an exemption/extension in writing with the family's circumstances that will be determined and approved by the program director for eligibility of continued assistance.

Penalties against Individuals

The TANF Program is intended to support needy families to become self-sufficient and not be dependent upon the Chippewa Cree TANF Program for assistance. If an adult in a family receiving cash assistance refuses to comply with the Individual Improvement Plan as required by Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF Program and federal law, and in the absence of good cause, the Tribal TANF program may reduce or terminate cash assistance through the sanction process otherwise payable to the family.

The Tribal TANF Program may provide limited assistance for basic needs for the children only through a voucher system or protective payee for a limited time. The voucher system or protective payee status will follow the time limits established in the penalty process. The voucher system or protective payee will pay for shelter, food, utilities, clothing, and other basic needs.

The adult(s) in sanction will have three months to become compliant with program and federal regulations. While the adult(s) is in the penalty process, they will be referred to Intervention Strategy to assist them and their family out of penalty status. If at the end of three months the individuals are still not in compliance, the case manager will recommend termination (closure) of the family's case. An adult who has not complied within three months is indicating that they are refusing to work towards self-sufficiency.

1. The first month is the warning month. Adequate notice will be given, and time allowed to correct non-compliance. Correction of non-compliance will stop the sanction process. If non-compliance has not been corrected, adequate notice will be given on the action to reduce the next month's grant. Once a client becomes compliant, retroactive payments will not be issued for the time the client was not in compliance.

2. The second month is a sanction month (a reduction in the grant). When the adult(s) has not complied with the IIP in the warning month, adequate notice will be given, and time allowed to correct non-compliance. Correction of noncompliance will stop the sanction process. If non-compliance has not been corrected, adequate notice will be given on the action to reduce the next month's grant. This notice will contain a warning of case closure if the adult(s) do not correct non-compliance. Once a client becomes compliant, retroactive payments will not be issued for the time the client was not in compliance.
3. The third month is a sanction month (a reduction in the grant). When the adult(s) has not complied with the IIP in the first sanction month, adequate notice will be given, and time allowed to correct non-compliance. Correction of non-compliance will stop the sanction process. If non-compliance has not will corrected, adequate notice will be given on the action to terminate (close) the family's case. Once a client becomes compliant, retroactive payments will not be issued for the time the client was not in compliance.

Fraud

Fraud is an intentional action, inaction, making false statements, suppressing facts, or giving information that misrepresents true circumstances for the purposes of obtaining benefits to which he or she is not entitled. These actions are the basis for Intentional Program Violations (IPV).

All temporary assistance applicants and recipients must be informed in writing of the disqualification penalties for fraud and intentional program violations at the time of the initial interview. This information is provided in writing.

Those individuals who do commit fraud to collect benefits will be denied benefits/services for a period of one year. An individual accused of fraud or intentional program violation has the right to appeal.

Appeal Right and Process

The following appeal process shall apply to all Tribal TANF recipients/applicants.

Applicants

During the application process, an applicant will be advised of their right to appeal the denial of their application or any adverse action affecting their assistance benefits and support services. The applicant will not be granted TANF benefits during the appeal. If the appeal decision is granted to the applicant, cash assistance or other benefits shall be pro-rated back to date of the completed application was submitted to the Case Manager.

Recipients

The Tribal TANF program will provide TANF recipients at risk of losing/changing benefits adequate notice before said actions begins. Prior to implementation of said action, recipient shall be advised of their right to appeal a decision to sanction, deny, reduce, terminate or family placement on the voucher system or protective payee status.

All appeals must be in writing and submitted to the case manager. The case manager will review the appeal, decide and notify the applicant/recipient in writing within 10 days.

The applicant/recipient may further appeal the decision to the TANF Director within 10 days after receiving the decision of the case manager. The TANF Director will review; decide within 10 days after receiving the appeal. The TANF Director must respond to the appeal within 10 days in writing.

The recipient/applicant may appeal the Tribal TANF Director's decision to the Appeal Board of Program Directors. The Appeal Board will review within 10 days after receiving the decision of the Tribal TANF Director. The Appeal Board's decision will be final.

Good Cause

Non-exempt TANF recipients may be absent from work activities on a temporary basis. The Tribal TANF program may exempt certain recipients from work activities requirement without penalties for good cause. Temporary work absenteeism can be contributed to several reasons: lack of transportation, until transportation is found, lack of childcare, illness (verified by a doctor's statement) extreme weather, making travel to and from the work, training, or required TANF activity unsafe, or as otherwise deemed appropriate by the Tribal TANF staff.

If the family formerly received Tribal TANF assistance and there is an assignment of support rights to the Tribal Child Support Program and:

1. There is no request for assistance in collecting support from a Tribal or State IVD agency under federal regulation 309.120, the Chippewa Cree Tribal Child

Support Program will distribute collections to the family first for current support and any child support arrearages owed to the family; second to Tribal TANF not to exceed the total amount paid out by Tribal TANF for the family; with third any remaining collections paid to any tribal or state agency to which money is owed.

2. If there is a request for assistance in collecting support from a Tribal or State IVD agency under federal regulations 309.10, the Chippewa Cree Tribal Child

Support Program will send all collected support, as appropriate to the requesting Tribal or State IV-D agency for distribution in accordance with that jurisdiction's governing code.

Tribal Options

- A) No family cap (no limit on number of children in the family)
- B) Will require all school age children to attend school full time with regular attendance, verification of enrollment and status is required. Cash assistance may be reduced/closed until the child returns to school or attend regularly.
- C) Will establish a maximum of one-year denial of benefits to those applicants that commit major fraud to collect benefits.
- D) No deprivation requirement. (Family will not be deprived of what a family's needs)
- E) Will require current immunizations of all children
- F) Will exempt parent(s)/needy caretaker that are 55 years of age or older from the work participation requirements.
- G) Will deny cash assistance benefits to recipients/applicants who are convicted of a felony drug related crime for one year, unless enrolled in a substance abuse treatment program and submit to random drug testing.
- H) Will allow recipients to accumulate assets through a development account to establish a business, buy/build a house, trailer, or vehicle.
- I) Substance Abuse Testing required for all applicants, recipients who are head of household, non-needy caretaker relative, caretaker relatives, and minor children on the grant who are at least 18 years of age.
- J) Will deny cash assistance benefits for 30 days to recipients/applicants when leaving employment without good cause.

- K) HiSet/GED will be required for clients. Clients who do not have their HiSet/GED or HS Diploma will have one year after initial eligibility to obtain HiSet/GED. Clients may be allowed additional time depending on TABE and HiSet/GED test scores.

FAMILY VIOLENCE OPTION

The Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation certifies that the Tribe has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to screen and identify individuals receiving TANF assistance with a history of domestic violence, and while maintaining the confidentiality of such individuals and refer such individuals to counseling and supportive services.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation will comply with Section 408 (c) of the Act, which states that the following provisions of law apply to any program or activity funded with federal TANF funds:

- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and /or American Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968.

CHILD SUPPORT

The Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation will require TANF applicants/recipients to cooperate with child supports efforts as a condition of eligibility for Tribal TANF (Section 286.155). A TANF applicant/client may be excused from cooperating with the child enforcement process or personal appearances in court, such as past harm to the mother of the child caused by another party in the proceedings; situations where rape or incest resulted in the conception of the child; or situations where the mother is considering placing the child for adoption.

RETROCESSION

In the event the Tribe decides to terminate its Tribal TANF Program before the end of its three year plan the Tribe will do so in compliance with regulations at 45 CFR 286.30.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation will comply with all statutory and regulatory TANF reporting requirements.

The Chippewa Cree Tribal TANF program will provide welfare related services to eligible Indian families that meet all TANF requirements in an equitable and fair method according to custom and traditions.

Respectfully submitted

 7.11.19

Harlen Baker

Date signed

Chippewa Cree Tribal Chairman

BENEFIT STANDARDS

Monthly Benefits

| Household Size | Grant Amount | Rent, Water, Utilities (\$50 Rent, \$25Water, \$25 Utilities) |
|----------------|--------------|--|
| 1 | \$400 | \$100 |
| 2 | \$500 | \$100 |
| 3 | \$600 | \$100 |
| 4 | \$700 | \$100 |
| 5 | \$800 | \$100 |
| 6 | \$900 | \$100 |
| 7 | \$1,000 | \$100 |
| 8 | \$1,100 | \$100 |
| 9 | \$1,200 | \$100 |
| 10 | \$1,300 | \$100 |
| 11 | \$1,400 | \$100 |
| 12 | \$1,500 | \$100 |

The Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation TANF Program reserves the right to change these amounts based upon caseload or funding.