

**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF
AMERICAN INDIANS**

RESOLUTION #SPO-01-074

Title: Support For Legislation Language Allowing Tribal Food Stamp Program

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, as part of welfare reform legislation included language for tribal administration of cash assistance services previously provided by counties; and

although Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Programs (TANF) are similar to traditional welfare programs, provisions in the law provided tribal programs the flexibility to meet the specific needs of American Indian clientele; and

215 tribes already participate in the United States Department Agriculture Food Distribution Program (a component of the Food Stamp Program) on Indian Reservation; and

Indian tribes have demonstrated their ability to provide welfare cash assistance programs to their people with great success; and

Tribal TANF recipients must go to two different offices to apply and receive cash assistance (tribal) and food stamps (county welfare offices), passage of tribal language will allow tribes to provide welfare related services within the “one stop shop” concept.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCAI does hereby support congressional language to allow tribes to receive direct funding for the administration of a Tribal Food Stamp Program or the option to determine eligibility for State Food Stamp Programs and waive administration matching fund requirements for Indian tribal grantees and modify or waive Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) requirements; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

58th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001 with a quorum present.

Tex Hall, President

ATTEST:

Colleen Cawston, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 58th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001.