



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians  
Resolution #ABQ-19-080

**TITLE: Tribal TANF Funding Delay**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**PRESIDENT**  
**Fawn R. Sharp**  
*Quinalt Indian Nation*

**FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT**  
**Aaron Payment**  
*Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians*

**RECORDING SECRETARY**  
**Juana Majel-Dixon**  
*Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians*

**TREASURER**  
**Clinton Lageson**  
*Kenaitze Indian Tribe*

**REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS**

**ALASKA**  
**Rob Sanderson, Jr.**  
*Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*

**EASTERN OKLAHOMA**  
**Norman Hildebrand**  
*Wyandotte Nation*

**GREAT PLAINS**  
**Larry Wright, Jr.**  
*Ponca Tribe of Nebraska*

**MIDWEST**  
**Shannon Holsey**  
*Stockbridge Munsee Band of Mohican Indians*

**NORTHEAST**  
**Tina Abrams**  
*Seneca Nation of Indians*

**NORTHWEST**  
**Leonard Forsman**  
*Suquamish Tribe*

**PACIFIC**  
**Erica Mae Macias**  
*Cahuilla Band of Indians*

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN**  
**MARK POLLOCK**  
*Blackfeet Nation*

**SOUTHEAST**  
**Nancy Carney**  
*Ma-Chis Lower Creek Indian Tribe of Alabama*

**SOUTHERN PLAINS**  
**Robert Tippeconnie**  
*Comanche Nation*

**SOUTHWEST**  
**Vacant**

**WESTERN**  
**Alan Mandell**  
*Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**KEVIN ALLIS**  
*Forest County Potawatomi Community*

**NCAI HEADQUARTERS**  
1516 P Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.466.7767  
202.466.7797 fax  
www.ncai.org

**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 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 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**, in 1996, Congress passed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA, P.L. 104-193) also known as “Welfare Reform;” and

**WHEREAS**, a major part of this reform was the recognition and support of tribal nations’ authority to administer their own family support and work readiness programs to serve tribal children and families; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress in this reform also recognized the difficult economic circumstances on many reservations and gave tribal nations the necessary flexibility to create programs, that could tackle their community’s unique needs; and

**WHEREAS**, today, there are 75 Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) grantees serving over 300 American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribal nations and the non-reservation AI/AN populations of over 122 counties, all of which rely on this funding to help their most needy families live at the most basic level; and

**WHEREAS**, Tribal TANF program provides cash assistance and supportive services for over 32,000 recipients nationally; and

**WHEREAS**, combined, all tribal nations/tribal TANF programs annually receive approximately \$200 million dollars in federal funding; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2010, TANF Programs have been funded through short term Continuing Resolutions (CR), most recently through H.R. 4378 which appropriated funds directly to tribal nations beginning with the start of the federal fiscal year until November 21, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, through the use of CR funding, tribal nations have been able to draw down funding at the conclusion of each federal year which has enabled tribal nations to continue TANF programs without significant delay and use of scarce tribal funds; and

**WHEREAS**, due to administrative delays, as of October 20, 2019, the authorized appropriations for tribal TANF funding have not been issued and available to tribal nations; and

**WHEREAS**, this delay in available funds has financially impacted a newly awarded tribal program to initiate services on their mutually agreed upon official start date of October 1, 2019, and puts significant financial burden on existing Tribal TANF tribal grantees to ensure the continuity of benefits and services for tribal families.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) supports the immediate accessibility of FY 2020 funds to Tribal TANF grantee in order to continue providing the necessary financial assistance and services to not compromise the welfare of tribal families; and

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

### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2019 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, October 20-25, 2019, with a quorum present.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Fawn Sharp, President

**ATTEST:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary