



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

February 9, 2011

Dear Colleagues:

The Office of Child Care (OCC) is pleased to announce the Federal Register publication of the Second Notice of the Proposed Information Collection Activity and Comment Request regarding the FY 2012 – 2013 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan for Tribes and Tribal Organizations. A copy of the proposed FY 2012 – 2013 CCDF Plan Preprint is attached to this email along with a copy of the Federal Register announcement. Both the Federal Register Notice and the Plan Preprint can be found on the Office of Child Care's website at:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/law/tribal_topic_application.htm

On behalf of the Office of Child Care, I want to thank all of our commenters for your thoughtful consideration of the Tribal Plan Preprint. Your feedback contributed greatly to the strength and clarity of the second revision of the Plan Preprint. We received comments from 9 entities, including Tribal organizations. We believe the revisions will enable us to ensure the program is being administered in accordance with the CCDF Rules and Regulations while providing Tribes with the flexibility to provide information about the types of services and programs underway in Tribal communities to meet the child care needs of children and families.

At least one commenter asked whether OCC would support electronic submission for the Tribes for this Plan cycle. At OCC, we are committed to pursuing the electronic submission for Tribal Plans for the next biennium (FY 2014 – 2015). We feel the additional time will allow us to better understand the burden associated with the electronic submission for Tribal grantees and iron out any glitches in the system during the rollout of the e-submission for the States and Territories. In the meantime, to be responsive to requests that we make the Tribal Plan information more readily available to the public, we have developed a summary sheet to capture data related to each Tribal program. The completion of this form (Appendix 5 -Tribal Lead Agency Synopsis) is optional, but we hope that Tribes will take the opportunity to summarize key points of the program on this form. We will use the data to generate Tribal profiles and make them publicly available.

Here are some of the highlights of the revisions:

- **CCDF Program Integrity and Accountability (Section 1.6).** Revisions in this section included providing more guidance to clarify why the questions are being asked and to gain a deeper understanding of how Tribes are exercising their options to fulfill their responsibilities for program integrity and accountability.

- **Consultation and Development of the CCDF Plan (Section 2.1) and Coordinating the Delivery of CCDF Services (Section 2.2).** Revisions were made to better differentiate between consultation and coordination. We altered the formatting to make a clearer distinction between required activities versus recommended ones.
- **Child Care Services Offered (Section 3).** Significant revisions were made in light of the many questions regarding the absence of the term “voucher” which is still widely used by many Tribal Grantees. Revisions were made to allow Tribal programs to describe elected limitations for the use of in-home care, to acknowledge the flexibility in how Tribes define specific terms, and to provide examples regarding various ways that tiered reimbursement could be implemented. Great attention was given to the Market Rate Survey and the unique situations facing Tribal programs when trying to answer these questions.
- **How Families Apply for CCDF (Section 4.1).** We streamlined the questions regarding how Tribes document and verify families’ applications by providing a space for narrative, rather than the detailed chart.
- **Activities and Services to Improve the Quality of Child Care (Section 5).** We have provided an option to describe quality activities in a narrative, in lieu of check boxes.
- **Health and Safety (Section 6).** The section was revamped in response to comments desiring recognition of the fact that many tribes utilize their own minimum health and safety standards and to recognize that many have adopted the HHS Minimum Tribal Child Care Standards. The background check question was modified in response to questions from Tribes.

This second Public Comment Period provides an opportunity for you to submit comments to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). A comment is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent directly to the following: Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project, Fax: (202) 395–7285, Attn: Desk Officer for the Administration for Children and Families, or E-mail: OIRA_SUBMISSION@OMB.EOP.GOV

Copies of the proposed collection may be obtained by writing to the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Administration, Office of Information Services, 370 L’Enfant Promenade, S.W., Washington, DC 20447, Attn: ACF Reports Clearance Officer. All requests should be identified by the title of the information collection. E-mail address: infocollection@acf.hhs.gov

Consultation with Tribal CCDF grantees and other interested parties is a priority for us. We will host two conference calls on the Pre-Print with Tribal CCDF Grantees. The first call is scheduled for Tuesday, February 22, 2011 from 3:00 – 4:30p.m., Eastern Daylight Time. The

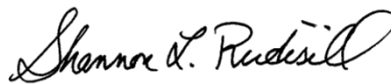
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second conference call is scheduled for Thursday, February 24, 2011 from 3:00 – 4:30p.m., Eastern Daylight Time. Call-in information will be provided prior to the day of the calls.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed preprint, please feel free to contact your Regional Office.

Thanks for your continued commitment to improving the number of high quality choices available to low-income families through CCDF.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shannon L. Rudisill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'S'.

Shannon L. Rudisill
Director
Office of Child Care

Attachments