

Appendix A

Outreach Email for Trusted Contacts

Subject: Next Steps for Tribal TANF Research and Data Study

Dear **[Name]**,

I am writing to let you know about and encourage you to participate in the Next Steps for Tribal TANF Research and Data study. The purpose of this study is to hear directly from American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities about their experiences with Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF). The project team is speaking with Tribal TANF knowledge holders to gather information about what is going well, what is challenging, and recommendations for future directions for Tribal TANF research and data.

The study is being conducted on behalf of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) by MEF Associates (MEF) and Kauffman and Associates (KAI) (the study team). MEF is a small social policy research firm that works to improve the lives of children and families through research and program assistance. KAI is an American Indian-owned consulting firm that supports AIAN people and communities.

You may hear from the study team with an invitation to participate in one of several study activities:

- **Talking Circles** - You may be contacted by email and invited to participate in an in-person or virtual talking circle. Some talking circles will be an opportunity to discuss overall needs and experiences related to Tribal TANF. Some talking circles will be focused on needs and experiences related to Tribal TANF data. Talking circles are expected to take place in 2026 and 2027.
- **Survey** - You may be contacted by email and invited to participate in a survey about Tribal TANF data. The survey is expected to be available in 2027.
- **Knowledge Sharing Visits** – The study team will visit up to five Tribal TANF programs for in-person knowledge sharing visits to gain a deeper understanding of Tribal TANF in a few communities. The study team may

reach out to your program to ask about your interest in hosting a visit, or you may reach out to the study team directly to express interest (see contact information below). Knowledge sharing visits are expected to take place in 2027.

I hope you will consider sharing your knowledge as part of this study. Participating in this study is an opportunity to share your feedback with ACF, potentially shape future directions for Tribal TANF research and data, and build knowledge about how to support current recipients and future generations of AIAN families who may receive TANF assistance.

If you have any questions about the study, or to express interest in participating, you may reach out to MEF Project Director Emily Schmitt (emily.schmitt@mefassociates.com) or KAI Project Director Tyler LaPlaunt (tyler.laplaunt@kauffmaninc.com).

Sincerely,

A government agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The OMB number for this information collection is XXXX-XXXX, expiring XX/XX/XXXX.