Grants for Coordination of Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Child Welfare Services to Tribal Families at Risk of Child Abuse or Neglect

Opportunity number: HHS-2025-ACF-OFA-FN-0015

Contents

Before you begin

If you believe you are a good candidate for this funding opportunity, secure your SAM.gov and Grants.gov registrations now. If you are already registered, make sure your registrations are active and up-to-date.

SAM.gov registration (this can take several weeks)

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply

Grants.gov registration (this can take several days)

You must have an active Grants.gov registration. Doing so requires a Login.gov registration as well.

See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply

Apply by the application due date

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on July 29, 2025.

> To help you find what you need, this NOFO uses internal links. In Adobe Reader, you can go back to where you were by pressing Alt + Left Arrow (Windows) or Command + Left Arrow (Mac) on your keyboard.

Step 1:
Review the Opportunity

In this step

Basic information

Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Office of Family Assistance

Family and Economic Stability Demonstration and Innovation Division

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Creating opportunities to strengthen Tribal TANF and Child Welfare systems to foster well-being of tribal children and families.

Summary

The purpose of these awards is to learn how tribal governments or consortia can best provide services to tribal families at risk of child abuse and neglect. This will mainly be done through coordination between Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and child welfare agencies.

The award must be used for one or more of these purposes:

- For improved case management for families eligible for assistance from a Tribal TANF program.
- For supportive services and assistance to tribal children in out-of-home placements and the tribal families caring for or adopting such children.
- For prevention services and assistance to tribal families at risk of child abuse and neglect.

> **Have questions?**
> See Contacts and Support.

Key facts

Opportunity name:
Grants for Coordination of Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Child Welfare Services to Tribal Families at Risk of Child Abuse or Neglect

Opportunity number:
HHS-2025-ACF-OFA-FN-0015

Announcement type:
Initial

Federal assistance listing:
93.086

Statutory authority number:
42 U.S.C. 603(a)(2)

Key dates

Application submission deadline:
July 29, 2025

Expected project start date:
September 30, 2025

See other submissions for other time frames that may apply to this NOFO.

Funding details

Type: Cooperative agreement
Expected total program funding: $1,720,000
Total expected awards: 8
Minimum award amount for the first budget period (award floor): $215,000
Maximum award amount for the first budget period (award ceiling): $215,000

We plan to fund a five-year project period. Each project period has five one-year budget periods.

We will award non-competing continuation awards each year if your performance is satisfactory. Non-competitive continuation grants will be offered for years 2 through 5 of the project periods, subject to the availability of funds, satisfactory progress toward performance benchmarks, and a determination that continued funding is in the best interest of the federal government.

Awards made under this funding opportunity are subject to federal funds availability.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

These types of organizations are eligible for an award:

- Indian tribes and Alaska Native regional nonprofits that are administering a Tribal TANF program on the date of publication of this NOFO.

- Consortia of two or more Indian tribes. The consortium must administer a Tribal TANF program on behalf of and at the direction of these tribes on the date of publication of this NOFO.

Individuals, including sole proprietorships, and foreign entities are not eligible.

Disqualification factors

We will review your application to make sure it meets these responsiveness requirements.

We won't consider an application that:

- Requests funding above the [award ceiling](#).
- Is submitted after the [deadline](#).
- Is from an individual, including a sole proprietorship, or a foreign entity.
- Is received in paper format that didn't have a previously approved exemption from ACF.

Application limits

If you submit the same application more than once under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), we will only acknowledge the last on-time submission.

Cost sharing

This program has no cost-sharing requirement. If you choose to include cost-sharing funds, we won't consider it during review. However, we will hold you accountable for any funds you add, including through reporting. If you don't provide your promised amount, we may have to decrease your award amount or use other enforcement actions.

Program description

Statutory authority

[Section 403(a)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 603(a)(2))](#)

Purpose

This program funds projects to learn how tribal governments or consortia can best provide services to families at risk of child abuse and neglect. This will mainly be done through coordination between Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and child welfare agencies.

The award must be used for one or more of these purposes:

- For improved case management for families eligible for assistance from a Tribal TANF program.
- For supportive services and assistance to tribal children in out-of-home placements and the tribal families caring for or adopting such children.
- For prevention services and assistance to tribal families at risk of child abuse and neglect.

Background

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program focuses on enhancing the economic self-sufficiency of low-income families with children. The child welfare system focuses on ensuring the safety and permanency of children. Both systems share a common mission of ensuring the well-being of vulnerable children and families, and they often serve the same families.

Families benefit from strengthened communication and coordination between TANF, child welfare, and other relevant agencies and programs. By working together more closely and reexamining the ways that the human, financial, and administrative resources of both systems are used, TANF and child welfare agencies can better meet families' needs. Improved coordination can also help use resources more efficiently and increase participation.

This award is considered a demonstration award. We expect you to share key insights with the wider Tribal TANF and child welfare community.

The overall purpose of the Tribal TANF and Child Welfare (TT-CW) program is to fund projects to coordinate existing child welfare and Tribal TANF services, and other

relevant programs. Tribal governments and consortia operate these projects, which serve families at risk of child abuse and neglect.

This award focuses on better coordinating existing services, rather than adding new ones. It will also create a small learning group where participants can share their experiences and insights with the larger TANF, child welfare, and human services communities.

Please see ACF's [Tribal TANF—Child Welfare Coordination Grants webpage](#) for more background information.

Uses of TT-CW funding

Principle uses of funding

TT-CW awards can be used in three ways, which we have listed here along with examples of activities and services.

- **To improve case management for families eligible for TANF**, coordinating across TANF programs and child welfare agencies. You could:
  - Update standard operating procedures to reflect how referrals are made between programs.
  - Develop procedures for joint case management when a family is served by both TANF and child welfare programs.
  - Change how services are delivered to reduce redundancies between the TANF and child welfare systems.
  - Cross-train TANF and child welfare staff so they better understand how the programs operate.

- **To provide support services and assistance to tribal children in out-of-home placements and the tribal families caring for or adopting such children.** Providing these support services may require coordination among agencies. For example, you could:
  - Look for supportive services provided by programs beyond TANF or the child welfare system. Partners could include home visiting programs, childcare programs, or programs providing employment-related activities and services. You would likely need to establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to formalize the connection and outline the roles and responsibilities of the partners.
  - Carry out a human-centered design process to increase participation, pain points, and bottlenecks that families experience when they try to access services offered by multiple programs.

- **To provide prevention services and assistance to tribal families at risk of child abuse and neglect**. Providing prevention services may require coordination across agencies. You could:
  - Develop a tool to gauge a child's immediate safety and risk of future maltreatment. You can find background on safety and risk assessments, the importance of appropriateness of assessments, and examples of adaptations in the ACF report "[Child Safety and Risk Assessments in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities](#)."
  - Redesign your intake forms so that a family only needs to complete one form to access both TANF and child welfare services. This streamlines the process, enables the family to access services more quickly, and increases the likelihood of maintaining family stability.

You may also coordinate with employment programs, such as Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act-funded programs or Native Employment Works programs. Additionally, you can partner with home-visiting programs, childhood development programs, or childcare programs.

To build more effective partnerships, you can establish business processes, protocols, partnership agreements, referrals, implementation strategies, or MOUs with these programs. You can also commit staff and TT-CW funds to coordinate services with these partners to fulfill TT-CW program objectives.

Other related uses of funding

You may also find other related ways to improve internal processes and programming to strengthen the coordination of TANF and child welfare programs.

For example, you might improve mechanisms for sharing information.

- This might require legal consultation to make sure that informed-consent documents and data-sharing agreements adequately protect personal information and the people being served.
- It might also require enhancing information technology resources, such as by hiring additional staff or investing in infrastructure to improve data systems.

Funds may also be used for community/family engagement. For example, you could propose to conduct specific activities that nurture tribal customs and practices. You would need to hold these activities to accomplish the goals of the program. You would need OFA approval to hold these, unless it's in your approved application.

You may also use funds for tangible support services. However, note that:

- This use of funds should be limited.
- The assistance should be sustainable beyond this grant.
- OFA must approve the plan before it is implemented.

For example, you might provide one-time emergency assistance to a family to promote children's safety, permanency, and well-being. You would need to accompany this assistance with actions to make it sustainable, such as proposing a change in the tribe's plan for using TANF funds. You would need OFA approval before providing the assistance.

General program requirements

Program support and technical assistance

ACF will provide a staff member to directly support you and your program. ACF will also hire a contractor to deliver technical assistance to help you make changes to your programs or systems. You are required to work cooperatively with ACF's staff and technical assistance providers.

Assistance from the staff member and technical provider will be available in person and virtually. In-person activities may include annual meetings and site visits, which may involve observations and interviews with program and partner agencies. Virtual activities may include phone calls, webinars, and videoconferences.

Data tools

You are required to fulfill special data collection requirements or provide additional administrative data on program participants. You will use these tools at least annually:

- Collaboration Assessment Tool (CAT) to assess coordination between Tribal TANF and child welfare programs.
  - See the Tribal TANF—Child Welfare Coordination: Collaboration Assessment Tool [PDF] for a description of the tool.
  - See this interactive Excel version of the tool.
- Logic model.
  - See the TT_CW Sample Logic Model [PDF].
  - See the logic model section in this NOFO.

Consistent with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. §§ 3501-3521), OFA will not conduct or sponsor—and a person is not required to respond to—a collection of information covered by such Act, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. If activities under this cooperative

agreement are subject to PRA, OFA will work with the funding recipient to obtain OMB approval.

Reports

You must ensure that your partners comply with the CAT and logic model requirements.

You will need to submit ongoing assessments and narratives annually as part of regular [progress reports](#).

Annual meetings

You must attend annual TT-CW meetings, which will be held in Washington, DC, or regional locations.

Sustainability

Projects should improve the coordination of Tribal TANF and Child Welfare programs after the federal funding ends. To achieve project sustainability, you may be encouraged to:

- Revise intake and assessment procedures.
- Develop informed-consent documents that will let staff share information across program lines.
- Provide cross-training for TANF and child welfare staff.
- Develop joint case management procedures.
- Develop information technology systems to enhance coordination.

You can find more information in the [Sustainability Planning Workbook for Tribal TANF-Child Welfare Coordination](#).

Consistent with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. §§ 3501-3521), OFA will not conduct or sponsor – and a person is not required to respond to—a collection of information covered by such Act, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. If activities under this cooperative agreement are subject to PRA, OFA will work with the funding recipient to obtain OMB approval.

Cooperative agreement—Description of ACF's involvement

Cooperative agreements require substantial ACF and OFA project involvement after an award is made. There are specific roles for both the recipient and ACF/OFA. Our responsibilities include:

- Assigning a Family Assistance Program Specialist to monitor and collaborate with you to help you achieve project objectives and ensure that you manage federal funds properly.
- Providing significant guidance, consultation, and timely review on all project-related materials and deliverables.
- Reviewing, providing feedback on, and approving the project scope, activities, and work plan, including any changes to key personnel.
- Keeping you informed about expectations for successful performance. This includes discussing noncompliance as soon as possible and providing clear feedback on the conditions necessary for compliance.
- Organizing frequent consultations, meetings, briefings, teleconferences, and webinars to review current and planned activities, share information, and promote national coordination.
- Keeping you informed about OFA, ACF, and HHS priorities.

Funding policies and limitations

General policies

- We will only make awards if this program receives funding. If Congress appropriates funds for this purpose, we will move forward with the review and award process.
- Support beyond the first budget period will depend on:
  - Appropriation of funds.
  - Satisfactory progress in meeting your project's objectives.
  - A decision that continued funding is in the government's best interest.
- If we receive more funding for this program, we will consider:
  - Funding more applicants.
  - Extending the period of performance.
  - Awarding supplemental funding.

ACF does not allow funds awarded under this NOFO to support any costs related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) activities, including research in support of such initiatives, and any other initiatives that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or another protected characteristic. This also includes any diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) initiatives, and any discriminatory equity ideology in violation of a Federal anti-discrimination law. The definition of "discriminatory equity ideology" is in Section 2(b) of Executive Order 14190 of January 29, 2025, which can be found here: 2025-02232.pdf

For guidance on additional types of costs that we restrict or do not allow, see General Provisions for Selected Items of Costs of the Uniform Guidance, 45 CFR part 75 (or, starting October 1, 2025, 2 CFR part 200).

Program-specific limitations and policies

We do not allow the following costs under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO):

- Construction.
- Purchase of real property.
- Major renovation.

Indirect costs

Indirect costs are costs you charge across more than one project and cannot be easily separated by project.

To charge indirect costs you can select one of two methods:

Method 1—Approved rate. You currently have an indirect cost rate approved by your cognizant federal agency.

Method 2—*De minimis* rate. Per 2 CFR 200.414(f), if you **do not** have a current federal negotiated indirect cost rate (including a provisional rate), you may elect to charge a *de minimis* rate. If you choose this method, costs included in the indirect cost pool must not be charged as direct costs. This rate is 15% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). See 2 CFR 200.1 for the definition of MTDC. You can use this rate indefinitely.

Subawards

As the prime recipient, you must maintain a substantive role in the project. We define a substantive role as conducting funded activities and providing services that are necessary and integral to completing the project. Monitoring your subrecipient's activities alone as described in 45 CFR 75.352 (or, starting October 1, 2025, 2 CFR 200.332) is not a substantive role.

We do not fund awards where your role primarily serves as a conduit for passing funds to other organizations unless that arrangement is authorized by statute.

If they do not have one, all subrecipients must obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through the System for Award Management (SAM.gov).

Subrecipients must meet the eligibility requirements of this NOFO.

Salary rate limitation

The salary rate limitation in the current appropriations act applies to this program. You may not use awarded funds to pay a salary at a higher rate than the rate for Executive Level II. For the Executive Level II salary, please see guidance from the Office of Personnel Management on executive and senior level employee pay.

The salary limitation reflects a person's base salary (including any portion of the salary that is paid for with indirect costs). It does not include fringe benefits or any income the person is allowed to earn outside of the duties of the applicant organization. This salary limitation also applies to subawards, contracts, and subcontracts under an ACF grant or cooperative agreement.

Step 2:
Get Ready to Apply

In this step

Get registered

SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier. SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. Begin that process today.

To register, go to SAM.gov Entity Registration and select Get Started. From the same page, you can also select the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.

When you register or update your SAM.gov registration, you must agree to the financial assistance general certifications and representations. You must agree to those for financial assistance specifically, as opposed to contracts, because the two sets of agreements are different. You will have to maintain your registration throughout the life of any award.

Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with Grants.gov. You can see step-by-step instructions at the Grants.gov Quick Start Guide for Applicants.

> **Need help?** See Contacts and Support.

Find the application package

The application package has all the forms you need to apply. You can find it online. Go to Grants Search at Grants.gov and search for opportunity number HHS-2025-ACF-OFA-FN-0015. Then select the Package tab.

After you select the opportunity, we recommend that you select the Subscribe button to get updates.

If you can't use Grants.gov to download application materials, you may request them from the grants management contact.

If you are also unable to apply through Grants.gov, see the section on exemptions for paper submissions.

Learn more

Visit Applying for an ACF Grant Award on the ACF Grants page.

View the webinar

For more information about this opportunity, a prerecorded webinar will be posted on the ACF Tribal TANF–Child Welfare Coordination Grants site.

The goals of this session are to describe the funding opportunity and how to apply. Viewing is voluntary and does not affect eligibility, application scoring, or award selection.

If there is a discrepancy between the NOFO and the presentation and/or presentation materials, the NOFO takes precedence.

Step 3:
Prepare Your Application

In this step

Application contents and format					<u>20</u>

Application contents and format

Application components

You will submit two files plus the standard forms in the application package.

See requirements for other submissions.

Your organization's authorized official must certify your application.

File one

To submit file one, you will use the Project Narrative Attachment form found in the Grants.gov application package for this NOFO.

This file includes:

- Table of contents.
- Project summary, one page.
- Project narrative.
- Line-item budget and budget narrative.

File two

To submit file two, you will use the Other Attachments form found in the Grants.gov application package for this NOFO.

This file includes all attachments.

Standard forms

The Grants.gov application package for this NOFO includes forms beyond those required for file one and file two. Complete all of these forms and submit through Grants.gov.

See the list of standard forms.

Required format

Page limit for file one and file two combined: 50 pages.

File format: Portable Document Format (PDF) is recommended, but not required. ACF supports the following file formats when you attach files to the Project Narrative Attachment form and the Other Attachments form:

Accepted file formats

- Adobe PDF (.pdf)
- Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
- Microsoft Excel (.xls or .xlsx)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt)
- Image formats (.JPG, .GIF, .TIFF, or .BMP only)

Document formats

Paper size: 8 ½ inches x 11 inches
Margins: 1 inch all around
Language: English

If possible, include page numbers.

Do not include external links to information you want reviewers to assess because reviewers will score the application solely on information provided in the application.

Fonts

Font: Times New Roman
Color: Black
Size: 12-point font

Footnotes and text in tables and graphics may be 10-point.

Spacing

Table of contents: Must be single-spaced
Project summary: Must be single-spaced
Project narrative: Must be double-spaced
Line-item budget and budget narrative: Can be single-spaced
Attachments: Can be single-spaced
Tables and footnotes throughout: Can be single-spaced

See disqualification factors to understand what may disqualify your application from consideration.

Table of contents

At the beginning of file one, insert a table of contents that guides a reader through the contents of both files in your application. If possible, include links to the relevant content in file one.

Project summary

Provide a one-page summary of the project description. Do not cross-reference to other parts of your application. The summary must include:

- At the top, the project title, applicant name, address, phone numbers, email addresses, and any website URL.
- A brief description of the project, including the needs and population you will address, and your proposed services.

Project narrative

The project narrative is where you address all your proposed activities. It is a critical section of your application, which we evaluate using the merit review criteria and rank based on application scores. Remember that substance and measurable outcomes are more important than length. We are particularly interested in project narratives that convey strategies for achieving intended performance.

In it, you must:

- Explain how the project will meet the purpose of the NOFO, as described in the program description section.
- Make sure your narrative is clear, concise, and complete.
- Use cross-referencing rather than repetition.
- Be sure to include any required supporting documents noted. You generally provide these in your attachments.
- Use the headings and order of the sections that follow.

Geographic location

Provide the precise physical location of your project and boundaries of the area you will serve. If you will include any subrecipients in your project that will serve specific geographic areas include their locations as well.

Need for assistance

Identify the problems you plan to solve. These problems could be physical, economic, social, financial, institutional, etc. To do so:

- Demonstrate the need, including the nature and scope of the problem.
- Provide, as appropriate, supporting documentation, such as letters of support and testimonials, in your attachments.

- Include any relevant data based on planning studies or needs assessments. You may refer to them in the endnotes or footnotes of your application.
- Use demographic data and participant or beneficiary information where you can.

Objectives

State your main objectives and any sub-objectives. Address how the objectives stated relate to the overall purpose of this program and describe how you will achieve the objectives.

Link these objectives to the [principle uses of funding](#).

Expected outcomes

Identify the outcomes you plan to achieve from the project. Outcomes should relate to the overall program as described in the [program description section](#). If research is part of the proposed work, outcomes must include hypothesized results and implications of the proposed research.

Approach

Outline your action plan. Describe the scope of your proposed project and describe in detail how you will accomplish it. Account for all functions or activities you identify in your application.

Explain potential obstacles and challenges to accomplishing your project goals. Explain the strategies you will use to address them.

Describe your current Tribal TANF and child welfare programs, and the service population's involvement with these systems.

Identify problems faced by these systems, and by the populations that interact with them. Highlight challenges that could be addressed through better collaboration.

Collaboration Assessment Tool (CAT)

Complete the Collaboration Assessment Tool (CAT). The tool assesses progress in eight areas:

- Relationships and communication.
- Information sharing.
- Staff training.
- Screening and assessment.
- Case planning and case management.
- Coordinated delivery of services.

- Information systems.
- Additional indicators.

Each category includes a series of statements related to the area of collaboration. You can use these statements to calculate a numeric score representing the level of collaboration. The higher the score, the greater the collaboration. In addition to providing the numeric scores for each category, you should provide a few sentences of narrative that justify the score. You can use the tool to identify areas for improvement and to track your progress over time.

We expect tribes to have a variety of levels of collaboration, so your current level of collaboration is not as important as how thoroughly you assess and analyze the collaboration.

Specifically, complete tabs "Time 1" and "T1-Scoring" in the CAT Excel workbook, and use the report on the TT-CW CAT webpage for reference. In your application, reproduce the T1-Scoring table, and add a narrative explaining how you arrived at these scores.

After completing the CAT, identify areas that require more attention to strengthen collaboration.

Detailed project description

- Describe the specific activities you will carry out to foster collaboration and coordination between the Tribal TANF and child welfare programs.
- If you are proposing activities to strengthen coordination among other agencies, show how these proposed activities will serve the principle uses of funding.
- Justify the priority areas that your project will focus on, including specific areas within Tribal TANF and/or child welfare. This justification should relate to the findings of the assessment tool and the historical practices of the tribe.
- Address all the program requirements described in the uses of TT-CW funding and general program requirements section and subsections.
- Describe how stakeholders—including Tribal TANF, child welfare, and other programs—will be involved in the project.
- Describe how your activities will change service provision and strengthen the collaboration of Tribal TANF and child welfare programs.
- Identify outputs anticipated from your project, including at least three concrete numerical outputs. These may be outputs from the entire grant, not annual outputs. Outputs could include:
  - Number of meetings held to better coordinate services.
  - Number of families receiving TANF that also receive assistance with child welfare case management.

- Number of children who avoid out-of-home placements.
- Number of trainings for staff.
- Number of community events held.

General program requirements

Write a short statement explicitly affirming your commitment to adhere to the general program requirements related to program support and technical assistance, data tools, reports, annual meetings, and sustainability.

Organizational capacity

Provide the following information for your full project team, including the applicant organization and any cooperating partners, contractors, and subrecipients.

Capacity to carry out activities

- Provide evidence that your team has the relevant experience and expertise needed to carry out your project.
- Describe your team's experience (including any partnering organizations) administering, developing, implementing, managing, and evaluating similar projects.
- Provide evidence that your team, including partnering organizations, has the organizational capability to fulfill their roles and functions effectively.
- You must disclose your plan to enter into subaward agreements. If planning subawards, describe the work each subrecipient will complete.
- Provide some supporting information in the organizational capacity supporting information section of your Attachments.

Project management and staffing

- Provide evidence that your team has the relevant capacity, experience, and expertise to adequately develop, oversee, manage, and staff this project.
- Describe the leadership structure, including identifying the project director, and the experience and qualifications of leadership.
  - The project director should have the expertise and authority to facilitate the coordination of all aspects of the project.
- Identify other staff that will be responsible for:
  - Facilitating staff interaction.
  - Drafting or aligning written procedures with project goals and objectives.
  - Developing and implementing assessment procedures, if applicable.
  - Aligning information technology systems with project goals and objectives.

- Leading the completion of the Collaboration Assessment Tool.
- Updating the logic model.
- Submitting annual program reports.

- As outlined in the [line-item budget and budget narrative](#), describe FTE allocations for all staff assigned to the project, including key project positions.
- Describe your approach to providing staff support, including training plans and refresher training.
- Provide job descriptions for each vacant key position. You will provide some supporting information in the [Attachments](#) section.
- Describe how you will manage the project and how you will make decisions.
- Link the project management and staffing approach to the activities of the logic model and justify how the staffing approach will enable you to achieve your project's objectives and outcomes.

Plan for oversight of federal award funds and activities

You must ensure proper award oversight. The regulation that governs this oversight is [45 CFR part 75](#) (or, starting October 1, 2025, [2 CFR part 200](#)). It includes standards for:

- Financial and program management.
- Property management.
- Procurement.
- Performance and financial monitoring and reporting.
- Subrecipient monitoring and management.
- Record retention and access.
- Remedies for noncompliance.
- Prior written approval.

Describe your framework to make sure that your federal funds and activities have proper oversight. Include:

- A description of the governance, policies and procedures, and systems you use for record keeping and financial management.
- A description of the procedures you use to identify and mitigate risks and issues. These might include audit findings, continuous performance assessment findings, and monitoring.
- The key staff who will be responsible for maintaining oversight of program staff and any partners or subrecipients.

Project performance evaluation plan

Describe a plan for how you will evaluate your project's performance and how it will contribute to continuous quality improvement. This plan must describe:

- How you will monitor ongoing activities and the progress toward the project's goals and objectives.
- The inputs, key activities, and expected outcomes of the funded activities. Inputs might include your collaborative partners, key staff, budget, service processes, or other resources.
- How you will measure the inputs, activities, and outcomes.
- How you will use the resulting information to improve your funded activities.
- Any processes that support overall data quality.
- The organizational systems and processes you will use to track performance outcomes.
- How your organization will collect and manage data in a way that allows for accurate and timely reporting of performance outcomes. This might include assigned skilled staff, data management software, and data integrity.
- Any potential obstacles to implementing the performance evaluation and how you will address them.
- A timeline for how you will review information from the performance evaluation and apply it to your ongoing project.
- How you will support the necessary data systems to collect and monitor data over time.
- Which Collaboration Assessment Tool indicators you will track most closely over time.
- A plan for how Collaboration Assessment Tool data will be collected over time, including the frequency, respondents, and how data across individuals and organizations will be combined or considered together.

Logic model

You must submit a logic model for designing, managing, and evaluating the project. A logic model is a diagram that:

- Presents how inputs drive activities to produce outputs, outcomes, and the ultimate goals of the proposed project.
- Explains the links among project elements.
- Targets the identified objectives and goals of the project.

While there are many versions of logic models, for the purposes of this funding opportunity, the logic model may include the connections between:

- Inputs such as additional resources, organizational profile, collaborative partners, key staff, and budget.

- Service population, such as the people to be served or identified needs.

- Activities, mechanisms, and processes such as evidence-based practices, best practices, approach, key intervention and evaluation components, and continuous quality improvement efforts.

- Outputs, which include the immediate and direct results of program activities.

- Outcomes, which include the expected short- and long-term results of the project you expect to achieve. These are typically described as changes in people or systems.

- Project goals, such as overarching objectives and reasons for proposing the project.

We encourage you to review a [TT-CW report related to logic models](#).

Dissemination plan

Propose a plan to disseminate reports, products, and project outputs to audiences. Include:

- Dissemination goals and objectives.

- Strategies to identify and engage with service population and related audiences.

- How you will allocate enough staff time and budget for dissemination.

- A preliminary plan to evaluate whether service population and audiences receive project information and use it as intended.

- The dissemination timeline.

Line-item budget and budget narrative

The line-item budget and budget justification support the information you provide in the Budget Information Standard Form SF-424A.

HHS now uses the definitions for [equipment](#) and [supplies](#) in 2 CFR 200.1. The new definitions change the threshold for equipment to the lesser of the recipient's capitalization level or $10,000 and the threshold for supplies to below that amount.

Justify the costs you ask for and provide detail, including calculations for the "object class categories" in the Budget Information Standard Form. You will provide this information for the initial budget period only. See information on [funding periods](#).

As you develop your budget, consider:

- If the costs are necessary, reasonable, allocable, and consistent with your project's purpose and activities.

- How you calculate your costs in ways that are clear and repeatable.

- The restrictions on spending funds. See the [funding policies and limitations](#).

Please also review the Standard Form instructions.

To create your line-item budget and justification, see [detailed budget instructions on our website](#).

In general, you must:

- Indicate the method you will use for your indirect cost rate. See the [indirect costs](#) section for further information.

- Include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail necessary for the calculation to be duplicated.

- For any cost sharing, include a detailed listing of any funding sources identified in Block 18 of the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance.

- For applicants planning to use subawards, if your subaward budget is more than 50% of total direct costs, justify why you are subawarding that portion of the project. Explain:

  ◦ How you plan to maintain a substantive role in the project.

  ◦ Why you cannot achieve your goals without the subrecipients' participation.

Make sure to include the following in your budget:

- If needed, include the purchase of equipment that will enable you to participate in video conferences.

- For the annual meetings, you should budget sufficient funds to cover travel, accommodation, and per diem expenses for two individuals for a one-and-a-half-day meeting. To estimate your travel expenses, use the Washington, DC, area as the location for the regional annual meeting. If OFA approves, you may use funds that would have supported travel to the annual TT-CW meeting for another grant-related meeting.

- You may budget for up to two staff members to attend one additional grant-related meeting per year. This trip must be approved by OFA.

- Include expenses for general program requirements and technical assistance activities.

- Include costs for any specific activities that nurture tribal customs and practices, with a goal of promoting family and tribal self-sufficiency.

Proprietary or personally identifiable information

In your application, you may identify salary or other proprietary information or personally identifiable information. We will remove this information from applications before they go to reviewers.

If you have an [exemption for a paper submission](#), you can protect salary information and any proprietary information by placing that information only in the original application. You can remove the information from the copies, keeping summary information.

Attachments

You will upload attachments in Grants.gov using the Other Attachments form. These attachments are included in the overall application page limit, unless it says otherwise in this section.

Indirect cost agreement

If you include indirect costs in your budget using an approved rate, include a copy of your current agreement approved by your [cognizant agency for indirect costs](#). If you use the *de minimis* rate, you do not need to submit this attachment.

See the [indirect costs](#) section for more information.

Organizational capacity supporting information

You must attach the following information to support the information in your [organizational capacity](#) section:

- Organizational charts, including all partners.
- Resumes, biographical sketches, or curricula vitae for all key personnel.
- Job descriptions for each vacant key position.
- Copy or description of your organization's fiscal controls and accountability procedures.
- A brief description of proposed roles and responsibilities under this grant that clearly shows necessary experience and qualifications.

Third-party agreements

You must submit agreements with all third parties involved in the project. Third parties include subrecipients, contractors, and other cooperating entities. Third-party agreements include letters of commitment, memoranda of understanding, and memoranda of agreement. We do not consider general letters of support to be third-party agreements.

Any such agreement must:

- Describe each party's roles and responsibilities for project activities.
- Describe the support and resources that the third party is committing to the proposed project.
- Be signed by the person in the third-party organization with the authority to make such commitments.
- Detail work schedules and estimated compensation with an understanding that the parties will negotiate a final agreement after award.
- Identify the primary applicant and all collaborators responsible for project activities if the agreement is for a collaboration or consortia application.

Intended third-party agreements

You must submit letters from third parties with whom you intend to partner. Third parties include subrecipients, contractors, and other cooperating entities.

These letters do not need to be formal executed agreements, but they should be signed.

Standard forms

You will need to complete some other required standard forms. Upload the following forms at Grants.gov. You can find them in the NOFO application package or review them and their instructions at Grants.gov Forms.

Forms	Submission requirement
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	With the application.
Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)	With the application.
Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)	With the application.
Key Contacts	With the application.
Grants.gov Lobbying Form	With the application or before award.
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	If applicable based on instructions, with the application or before award.
Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	With the application. Cite your primary location and up to 29 additional performance sites.

Important: Public information

When filling out your SF-424 form, pay attention to Box 15: Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project.

We share what you put there with USAspending. This is where the public goes to learn how the federal government spends its money.

Instead of just a title, insert a short description of your project and what it will do.

See instructions and examples.

Step 4:
Learn About Review and Award

In this step

Application review

Initial review

We will review your application to make sure that it meets the responsiveness requirements listed in the disqualification factors section. If your application does not meet these criteria, we will disqualify it and we will not move it to the merit review phase.

We will let you know if your application is disqualified within 30 days of the application deadline. You won't receive any notice from ACF if your application failed Grants.gov validation checks.

If you submit more than two files in addition to your forms, we will remove the extra files. We will let you know if this happens.

We will also remove blurred or illegible pages and any file formats that are not supported.

We will not review any pages that exceed the page limit.

If your application fails to adhere to ACF's NOFO formatting, font, and page limitation requirements, we will adjust your application by removing page(s) from the application. We will remove the pages before the merit review and will not send them to reviewers.

If we do so, we will send you a letter after we make awards to notify you that we amended your application.

Merit review

A panel reviews all applications that pass the initial review. The panel members use the criteria in this section.

Our reviewers typically are not federal employees. See the section on proprietary and personally identifiable information.

Criteria

Criterion	Total number of points = 100
1. Need for assistance	25 points
2. Approach	40 points
3. Organizational capacity	20 points
4. Budget and budget justification	15 points

Need for assistance

Maximum points: 25

The reviewer will assess how well you do the following:

- Comprehensively describe your current Tribal TANF and child welfare programs, and how the service population's interactions with these systems could benefit from increased collaboration.
- Clearly identify problems and challenges faced by these systems, and by the populations that interact with them. Clearly highlight challenges that could be addressed through better collaboration.

Approach

Maximum points: 40

The reviewer will assess how well you do the following.

Objectives and expected outcomes

- Clearly link objectives and expected outcomes to the [principle uses of funding](#).

Approach

- Complete the Collaboration Assessment Tool (CAT), paste the T1-Scoring table in your application, and clearly justify the scores you assigned for each indicator. Clearly identify areas that require more attention to strengthen collaboration between the Tribal TANF and child welfare programs.
- Stemming from the CAT assessment, identify the priority areas for your project, and justify the areas you choose.
- Provide an action plan that clearly and comprehensively describes the activities or strategies you will carry out to foster collaboration and coordination between the Tribal TANF and child welfare programs.
- Provide a clear justification for these activities, based on the CAT assessment.

- Describe how you will involve stakeholders in the project.
- Clearly show how your proposed activities are aimed at improving the current service delivery of these programs and strengthening the collaboration of Tribal TANF and child welfare programs.
- Clearly identify outputs, including three or more numerical outputs.

General program requirements

- Explicitly affirm your commitment to adhere to the general program requirements related to [program support and technical assistance](), [data tools](), [reports](), [annual meetings](), and [sustainability]().

Project performance evaluation plan

- Describe how you will collect data over time and monitor activities and progress, which CAT indicators you will track, and how you will use information to improve funded activities.

Logic model

- Provide a one-page [logic model]() that links activities to anticipated outputs and outcomes.

Dissemination plan

- Identify ways to describe your efforts and successes and inform other tribal entities of them.

Organizational capacity

Maximum points: 20

The reviewer will assess how well you do the following.

Capacity to carry out activities

- Clearly describe your organization, including proposed staff, contractors, and any other partners, in addition to TANF and child welfare staff, and link this to current capacity.
- Demonstrate that you have the organizational capacity necessary to oversee federal grants by clearly describing your organization's governance structure, fiscal controls, and accountability policies and procedures.

Project management and staffing

- Comprehensively describe your capacity, experience, and expertise to successfully develop, oversee, manage, and staff this project.
- Include a clear, comprehensive organizational chart that shows the relationship between all positions, including consultants and subcontractors.

- Clearly describe the leadership structure:
  - Identify the roles, responsibilities, and time commitment of senior staff.
  - Identify a dedicated project director with the appropriate FTE allocation.
  - Show that proposed senior staff has documented experience and qualifications with project management and decision-making, to successfully carry out their roles.
- Clearly describe the roles, responsibilities, and time commitments of other staff, including but not limited to those in the project management and staffing section—those at your organization and at any subcontractors or subrecipients.
  - Describe how these staff have sufficient experience and qualifications to successfully carry out their roles.
- Include resumes for, at a minimum, key staff. Clearly show that resumes document the necessary qualifications. Provide clear job descriptions for any vacant positions.
- Thoroughly describe how you will manage the project and how you will make decisions.
- Link the project management and staffing approach to the activities of the logic model, and justify how the staffing approach will enable you to achieve your project's objectives and outcomes.

Budget and budget justification

Maximum points: 15

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Include a line-item budget and clear and comprehensive budget narrative that:
  - Details the FTE allocations for staff positions.
  - Clearly shows how each line item will be used, and/or explains how the funds will be allocated among the program activities.
  - Includes all required budget items, such as travel to attend annual meetings.
  - Clearly explains and details how the project costs are allowable, reasonable, allocable, and necessary.
  - Aligns with the proposed project activities, services, and proposed objectives.
- Include a strong plan for oversight of federally awarded funds and activities, and a description of the framework (governance, policies and procedures, risk management, systems) to ensure that you properly use, disburse, and account for funds. This must align with the plan for oversight of federal award funds and activities.

We do not consider voluntary cost sharing during merit review.

Risk review

Before making an award, we review the risk that you will mismanage federal funds or fail to complete the project objectives. We need to make sure you've handled any past federal awards well and demonstrated sound business practices. We use SAM.gov [Responsibility/Qualification](#) to check this history for all awards likely to be over $250,000.

If we find a significant risk, we may choose not to fund your application or to place specific conditions on the award.

For more details, see [45 CFR 75.205](#) (or, starting October 1, 2025, [2 CFR 200.206](#)).

Selection process

When making funding decisions, we consider:

- Merit review results. These are key in making decisions but are not the only factor.
- Organizations serving emerging, unserved, or underserved populations.
- The larger portfolio of agency-funded projects by considering geographic distribution.
- The past performance of the applicant.
- The application's compliance with this NOFO's prohibition on using funds awarded under this NOFO to support any costs related to:
  - Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) activities, including research in support of such initiatives,
  - Any other initiatives that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or another protected characteristic, and
  - Any diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) initiatives, and any discriminatory equity ideology in violation of a Federal anti-discrimination law. The definition of "discriminatory equity ideology" is in Section 2(b) of Executive Order 14190 of January 29, 2025, which can be found here: [2025-02232.pdf](#).
- Whether you have received TT-CW funding in the past 10 years and, if so, whether the proposed activities differ from what we funded in the past.

We may:

- Fund applications in whole or in part.
- Fund applications at a lower amount than requested.

- Decide not to allow a prime recipient to subaward if they may not be able to monitor and manage subrecipients properly.

- Choose not to fund applicants with management or financial problems.

- Designate your application as "approved but unfunded" if it was successful but there was not sufficient funding to make an award. You may receive funding if additional funds become available within the fiscal year.

- Choose to fund no applications under this NOFO.

We will not fund:

- A [disqualified application](#).

- An incomplete application.

Award notices

How we make awards

If you are successful, we will email or transmit through our grant systems a Notice of Award (NoA) to your authorized official. We will email you if your application is disqualified or unsuccessful.

The NoA is the only official award document. The NoA tells you about the amount of the award, important dates, and the terms and conditions you need to follow. Until you receive the NoA, you have not received an award. Project costs that you incur before you receive a NoA are at your risk.

By drawing down funds, you accept the terms and conditions of the award. The award incorporates the requirements of the program and funding authorities, the grant regulations, the GPS, and the NOFO.

If you want to know more about NoA contents, go to [Notice of Award at ACF's website](#).

Step 5:
Submit Your Application

In this step

Application submission and deadlines

Deadlines

Application

Due on July 29, 2025.

- For electronic submissions, the due time is 11:59 p.m. ET.
- If you receive an exemption from electronic submission, the due time is 4:30 p.m. ET. See the section on [exemptions for paper submissions](#).

Grants.gov creates a date and time record when it receives the application. If you submit the same application more than once, we will accept only the last on-time submission.

The grants management officer may extend an application due date based on emergency situations such as documented natural disasters or a verifiable widespread disruption of electric or mail service.

Submission methods

Grants.gov

You must submit your application through Grants.gov unless we give you an exemption for a paper submission. See information on [getting registered](#).

For instructions on how to submit in Grants.gov, see the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#). Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks. Do not encrypt, zip, or password protect any files. We encourage you to leave yourself plenty of time to upload documents.

See [Contacts and Support](#) if you need help.

Issues with federal systems

If you experience a systems issue with Grants.gov or SAM.gov, please refer to [ACF's Policy for Applicants Experiencing Federal Systems Issues [PDF]](#).

Exemptions for paper submissions

We need to give you an exemption before you can apply on paper. See the [ACF Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission [PDF]](#). Once we have approved your exemption, download your forms package under the Package tab in Grants.gov.

To submit your application, mail it to:

OFA Operations Center C/O LCG, Inc.
ATTN: HHS-2025-ACF-OFA-FN-0015
6000 Executive Boulevard, Suite 410
Rockville, MD 20852

Follow these requirements when you submit your paper application:

- Print your application and all copies one-sided.
- Submit one original and two copies of the complete application, including all required forms.
- Submit both the original and additional copies in a single package. If you plan to submit more than one application under this NOFO or others, you must submit them separately. Clearly label each package with the NOFO title and funding opportunity number. Your authorized organization official must sign the application. The original application must include an original signature.

Other submissions

Intergovernmental review

This NOFO is not subject to [Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs](#). No action is needed.

Application checklist

Make sure that you have everything you need to apply.

Component	Grants.gov form	Included in page limit?
File one: Narratives	Use the Project Narrative Attachment form.	
☐ Table of contents		Yes
☐ Project summary		Yes
☐ Project narrative		Yes
☐ Line-item budget and budget narrative		Yes
File two: Attachments	Insert each in the Other Attachments form.	
☐ Indirect cost agreement		Yes
☐ Organizational capacity supporting information		Yes
☐ Third-party agreements		
☐ Intended third-party agreements		
Standard forms	Upload using each required form.	
☐ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)		No
☐ Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)		No
☐ Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)		No
☐ Key Contacts		No
☐ Grants.gov Lobbying Form		No
☐ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)		No
☐ Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)		No

Step 6:
Learn What Happens After Award

In this step

Post-award requirements and administration   45

Post-award requirements and administration

Administrative and national policy requirements

There are important rules you'll need to follow if you get an award. You must follow:

- All terms and conditions in the Notice of Award, including the ACF Standard Terms and Conditions and, if applicable, any program-specific terms and conditions. We incorporate this NOFO by reference.

- The rules listed in 45 CFR part 75, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards in effect at the time of award and any updates, or any superseding regulations.

  - Effective October 1, 2024, HHS adopted the following superseding provisions:

    - 2 CFR 200.1, Definitions, Modified Total Direct Cost.
    - 2 CFR 200.1, Definitions, Equipment.
    - 2 CFR 200.1, Definitions, Supplies.
    - 2 CFR 200.313(e), Equipment, Disposition.
    - 2 CFR 200.314(a), Supplies.
    - 2 CFR 200.320, Procurement methods.
    - 2 CFR 200.333, Fixed amount subawards.
    - 2 CFR 200.344, Closeout.
    - 2 CFR 200.414(f), Indirect (F&A) costs.
    - 2 CFR 200.501, Audit requirements.

  - Effective October 1, 2025, HHS will adopt the remaining 2 CFR part 200 provisions and the HHS-specific modifications located in 2 CFR part 300.

- The HHS Grants Policy Statement (GPS) [PDF]. This document has terms and conditions tied to your award. If there are any exceptions to the GPS, they'll be listed in your Notice of Award.

- All federal statutes and regulations relevant to federal financial assistance, including those highlighted in the HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements [PDF] and the ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

- 45 CFR Part 87 Appendix B, Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations.

Reporting

As a recipient, you will have to submit performance and financial reports. To learn more about reporting, see [Reporting at the ACF website](#).

- Performance report form: ACF-OGM-PPR
    - Performance report frequency: Annually
- Financial report form: SF-425 FFR
    - Financial report frequency: Annually

Contacts and Support

In this step

Agency contacts

Program

Seth Chamberlain

OFA@grantreview.org

Grants management

Telina Bennett-Reed

202-401-4609

telina.bennett@acf.hhs.gov

Grants.gov

Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. You can call 1-800-518-4726 or email support@grants.gov. Hold on to your ticket number.

SAM.gov

If you need help, you can call 1-866-606-8220 or live chat with the Federal Service Desk.

Reference websites

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
- Grants.gov
- Applying for an ACF Grant Award
- Grants.gov Accessibility Information
- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
- United States Code (U.S.C.)
- Award Terms and Conditions (see also the [ACF Standard Terms and Conditions [PDF]](ACF Standard Terms and Conditions [PDF]))
- ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements
- ACF Property Guidance
- Tribal TANF-Child Welfare Coordination Grants

Paperwork Reduction Act disclaimer

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521, the public reporting burden for the project description (project narrative, line-item budget, and justification) is estimated to average 60 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering, and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection information. The project description information collection is approved under OMB control number 0970-0139, which expires March 31, 2026. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Modifications

Modification Description	Updated Date