



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.
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UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. USET 97:19

**THE NEW *TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES* PLANS
NEED TRIBAL INPUT**

- WHEREAS,** The United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** The actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors is comprised of delegates from the member tribes leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** The USET Board of Directors is dedicated and committed to the needs of its tribes and members to the goal of preserving the sovereignty, inherent rights, integrity, and stability of our Indian children and families; and
- WHEREAS,** On August 22, 1996, President Clinton signed into law the *Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996*, also known as the “welfare reform” law; this law ends the Aid to Families with Dependent Children [AFDC] program and replaces it with block grants to States for “Temporary Assistance to Needy Families” and further authorizes the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS] to provide direct funding to Tribal governments to operate Temporary Assistance to Needy Families [TANF] programs; and
- WHEREAS,** The law contains strong work requirements, a performance bonus to reward States for moving welfare recipients into jobs, state maintenance of effort requirements, comprehensive child support enforcement, and supports for families moving from welfare to work - including increased funding for child care and guaranteed medical coverage; and
- WHEREAS,** If a Tribe decides not to operate a TANF program, the State must certify that it will provide equal access to assistance for American Indians under the State program; and
- WHEREAS,** The State is required to submit a plan to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and there are States in the Eastern area that have begun to do so without consultation with the Tribes to obtain Tribal TANF program needs and services; therefore, be it

“Because there is strength in Unity”

(USET 97:19)

RESOLVED, That the USET Board of Directors hereby inform the United States Department of Health and Human Services of concerns about the recent enactment of the *Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996* and request the following:

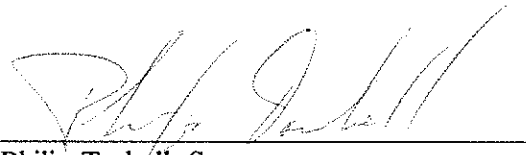
- 1) The State consult with the Tribes in the development of the TANF plan;
- 2) The State does not reduce the level of services available to American Indians
- 3) The State does not reduce the number of State staff in offices located on or near Reservation lands;
- 4) The State certify that it intends to provide Native American families, who are not served by a Tribal program, with equitable access to State TANF services.
- 5) Provide for equitable treatment to American Indians in accessing all sources of funding available to states for the operation of TANF Programs, including but not limited to, incentive funds, federal matching funds, special funds, emergency funds and loans.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Annual Board of Directors meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Myrtle Beach, SC on Thursday, October 31, 1996.



Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Philip Tarbell, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.