



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2007:025

SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING FOR CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) 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 comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), provides funding to American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Tribes through direct or state allocations, i.e. Title XX Social Services Block Grant, Title IV-E Foster Care with Adoption Assistance, Title IV-B Child Welfare Services, Title IV-B Promoting Safe and Stable Families, Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act grants, and Mental Health Substance Abuse block grant, and
- WHEREAS,** due to insufficient set-aside funding received for Indian programs, USET Tribes have experienced limited access to services and resources necessary to provide adequate, stable, and appropriate program activities; and
- WHEREAS,** there have been annual decreases in funding within the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Social Services Division which affect programs necessary to eliminate risks and provide preventive and direct services to Tribal children and families within Tribal communities; and
- WHEREAS,** many Tribes do not have access to alternative funding sources to subsidize existing sources and maintain consistent client services; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports the following recommendations to increase access to adequate, stable, and appropriate social services programs within Tribal communities:
1. Legislation that would enhance Tribal capacity to respond to Tribal needs
 2. Increased funding to assist Tribal Social Service Departments in providing a meaningful and culturally-related response to the demands of Tribal members;
 3. Advocate on behalf of Tribal Social Services Departments to receive timely notification of opportunities for Tribal funding from federal sources;
 4. Establish a collective voice about the ongoing needs of children and families through a strategic public awareness plan that brings attention to the unmet needs experienced by many Tribal communities; and
 5. Collect data from Tribal Social Services Departments on service gaps to be included in BIA Strategic Planning processes.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 15, 2007.

Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Cheryl Downing, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"