



**ACF Tribal Consultation Session
Draft Agenda (8/17/26)**

Mary E. Switzer Federal Building
330 C. Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20201
Conference Center

Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026
Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Virtual: Zoom

ALL TIMES ARE LISTED IN EASTERN TIME (ET)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026

Attendees are encouraged to arrive by **8:00 a.m.** to enjoy hospitality time and to allow sufficient time to clear building security before the meeting begins. Arriving early will help ensure a timely start to the day's agenda.

Reminder: Pursuant to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Tribal Consultation Policy, elected or appointed Tribal leaders will be recognized first to provide comments. Additional comments from Tribal representatives and participants will be accepted as time permits.

9:00 – 9:05 AM

WELCOME AND TRIBAL OPENING

Tribal Moderator

9:05 – 9:15 AM

OPENING REMARKS

Alex Adams, Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Kim Kovol, Deputy Assistant Secretary, ACF and Principal Deputy Director, Administration for Native Americans (ANA)

9:15 – 9:30 AM

TRIBAL LEADER INTRODUCTIONS

At this time, please only provide name, title, and the Tribe being represented.

9:30 – 12:00 PM

CHILD WELFARE

This panel will provide an opportunity for Tribal leaders to discuss key child welfare priorities, challenges, and recommendations affecting Native children, families, and Tribal child welfare systems.



- **A Home for Every Child:** Discuss opportunities and priorities to improve outcomes for Native children in foster care and strengthen foster and kinship care capacity.
- **Child Safety and Systems:** Discuss Plans of Safe Care, assessing child safety and risk related to caregiver substance use, and the implementation of Comprehensive Child Welfare Information Systems (CCWIS).
- **Title IV-E:** Discuss Tribal access to Title IV-E prevention services, barriers to participation, and the process for becoming an approved Title IV-E agency.
- **Tribal Child Support Services:** Discuss the proposal to allow Tribes, at their option, to define “child” to include unborn children, including the use of Title IV-D funding for pregnancy expenses and child support for the period prior to birth.

12:00 – 1:30 PM

LUNCH

1:30 – 3:30 PM

HEAD START

This panel will provide an opportunity for Tribal leaders to provide input on the proposed [Reducing Federal Burden for Head Start Programs](#) rule and its potential impacts on American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start programs.

- **Reducing Federal Burden:** Discuss proposed changes to streamline requirements, reduce administrative burden, and increase flexibility for Tribal Head Start programs.
- **Tribal Program Administration:** Discuss potential impacts on Tribal flexibility, program operations, and the delivery of culturally responsive services to Native children and families.
- **Tribal Priorities:** Identify implementation considerations, concerns, and recommendations to ensure Head Start policies reflect Tribal needs and priorities.

3:30 – 5:00 PM

ONE-ON-ONE TRIBAL-PROGRAM OFFICE MEETINGS

Tribes requesting one-on-one meetings with ACF program offices will be scheduled for dedicated 30-minute sessions during the consultation. These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss Tribe-specific priorities, program needs, technical assistance, and policy recommendations directly with ACF leadership and program staff. Sessions will be held in reserved meeting spaces throughout the Switzer Building, with virtual options available for Tribes participating remotely.

One-on-One Meetings: One-on-one meetings with ACF program offices are separate from the official ACF Annual Tribal Consultation. These sessions provide an opportunity to discuss



program-specific priorities, ask questions, and identify opportunities for technical assistance and collaboration. Discussions during these meetings are not part of the official Tribal Consultation record. Formal testimony must be provided during designated consultation sessions or submitted in writing.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026

Attendees are encouraged to arrive by **8:00 a.m.** to enjoy hospitality time and to allow sufficient time to clear building security before the meeting begins. Arriving early will help ensure a timely start to the day's agenda.

Reminder: Pursuant to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Tribal Consultation Policy, elected or appointed Tribal leaders will be recognized first to provide comments. Additional comments from Tribal representatives and participants will be accepted as time permits.

9:00 – 9:15 AM

WELCOME AND TRIBAL OPENING

Tribal Moderator

9:15 – 10:45 AM

ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN REDUCTION

This panel will provide an opportunity for Tribal leaders to discuss priorities, challenges, and recommendations for reducing administrative and regulatory burdens, improving program efficiency and flexibility, and strengthening Tribal self-determination.

- **Administrative and Regulatory Burden:** Discuss opportunities to streamline federal requirements, reduce barriers to effective service delivery, and increase flexibility for Tribal human services programs.
- **Program Integrity:** Discuss approaches to strengthen accountability and responsible stewardship of federal resources, including efforts to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.
- **Payment Administration:** Discuss challenges related to delayed payments and administrative processes and opportunities to improve timely access to federal funding.

10:45 – 11:00 AM

Break

11:00 – 12:00 PM

DATA COLLECTION

Discussion of ongoing efforts to strengthen Tribal data collection and reporting practices. The discussion will explore opportunities to improve data quality, reduce reporting burden, enhance data sharing and coordination, and support informed decision-making while respecting Tribal data sovereignty and promoting more effective program administration.



12:00 – 1:30 PM

LUNCH

1:30 – 3:00PM

PUBLIC LAW 102-477 MODERNIZATION

Consultation discussions will focus on ACF's ongoing efforts to modernize and transition implementation responsibilities under Public Law 102-477. Topics will include opportunities to reduce administrative burden, improve service delivery, and strengthen Tribal self-determination through more coordinated program administration.

3:00 – 4:00 PM

ACF PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

4:00 PM

TRIBAL CLOSING

One-on-One Meetings: One-on-one meetings with ACF program offices are separate from the official ACF Annual Tribal Consultation. These sessions provide an opportunity to discuss program-specific priorities, ask questions, and identify opportunities for technical assistance and collaboration. Discussions during these meetings are not part of the official Tribal Consultation record. Formal testimony must be provided during designated consultation sessions or submitted in writing.