

 Bipartisan Policy Center

# Commission on Native Children

Linda K. Smith

November 18, 2022



# Overview of Testimony

1

**Introduction - BPC and our work**

2

**Major early care and education programs.**

3

**Eligibility and funding – barriers for families.**

4

**What we have learned from our work.**

5

**Summary and Recommendations.**



# Programs that Support Early Care and Education

- **Spread Across Four Federal Agencies (HHS, Education, USDA, Interior)**
  - Child Care and Development Block Grant
  - Head Start & Early Head Start
  - Child and Adult Care Food Program
  - Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)
  - Maternal , Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)
  - Preschool Development Grants
  - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
  - Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS)
  - Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (Parts B & C)
  - Family and Child Education (FACES)
- **Funding levels vary greatly – CCDBG is the largest source**
- **Eligibility requirements vary and are impediment to children getting services**
  - **Limit efforts to build collaborations**



- **Programs Tribes are Ineligible to Receive or Apply For Directly**

- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B**
- **IDEA – Part C is limited to Tribes with BIE Schools.**
- **Preschool (Section 619 ) Grants**
- **Preschool Development Grants**
- **Child & Adult Care Food Program – no direct funding to Tribes**
- **State Grants un Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act**
- **CCAMPIS – Tribal Colleges or Universities are eligible – no grants have been awarded in last three years.**



## Federal Funding Across Early Learning Programs for Tribes<sup>30</sup>

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022 CR
<b>HHS</b>			
<b>CCDF</b> <sup>31</sup>	CCDBG States: \$5.35 Billion CCDBG Tribes: \$335 Million  CCE States: \$1.78 Billion CCE Match: \$1.68 Billion CCE Tribes: \$58.3 Million	CCDBG States: \$5.40 Billion CCDBG Tribes: \$340 Million  CCE States: \$1.78 Billion CCE Match: \$2.16 Billion CCE Tribes: \$100 Million	CCDBG States: \$5.42 Billion CCDBG Tribes: \$354 Million  CCE States: \$1.78 Billion CCE Match: \$2.16 Billion CCE Tribes: \$100 Million
<b>Head Start</b> <sup>32</sup>	Grantees: \$9.06 Billion Tribes: \$313 Million	Grantees: \$9.33 Billion Tribes: \$309 Million	Grantees: \$9.24 Billion Tribes: \$309 Million
<b>ESSA - PDG</b> <sup>33</sup>	States: \$275 Million Tribes: \$0	States: \$275 Million Tribes: \$0	States: \$275 Million Tribes: \$0
<b>CAPTA — Community Based Grants</b> <sup>34</sup>	States: \$52.53 Million Tribes: \$392 K	States: \$57.53 Million Tribes: \$606 K	States: \$57.41 Million Tribes: \$606 K
<b>TANF</b> <sup>35</sup>	States: \$17.35 Billion Tribes: \$208 Million	States: \$16.23 Billion Tribes: \$207.98 Million	States: \$16.23 Billion Tribes: \$207.98 Million
<b>MIECHV</b> <sup>36</sup>	States: \$341 Million Tribes: \$12 Million	States: \$341 Million Tribes: \$12 Million	States: \$341 Million Tribes: \$12 Million



**Federal Funding Across Early Learning Programs for Tribes<sup>30</sup>**

	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022 CR</b>
<b>USDA</b>			
<b>CACFP<sup>37</sup></b>	States: \$2.67 Billion	States: \$4.0 Billion	States: \$4.35 Billion



## Federal Funding Across Early Learning Programs for Tribes<sup>30</sup>

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022 CR
<b>ED</b>			
<b>IDEA Part B, Preschool (619)</b> <sup>38</sup>	States: \$394.12 Million Tribes: \$0	States: \$397.62 Million Tribes: \$0	States: \$397.62 Million Tribes: \$0
<b>IDEA Part B (age 5-21)</b> <sup>39</sup>	States: \$12.61 Billion Tribes: \$99 M	States: \$12.78 Billion Tribes: \$100 M	States: \$12.78 Billion Tribes: \$100 M
<b>IDEA Part C (infants and toddlers)</b> <sup>40</sup>	States: \$464.92 Million Tribes: \$5.9 Million	States: \$469 Million Tribes: \$5.9 Million	States: \$469 Million Tribes: \$5.9 Million
<b>ESSA — Indian Education</b> <sup>41</sup>	\$180.23 Million	\$181.2 Million	\$181.2 Million
<b>HEA - CCAMPIS</b> <sup>42</sup>	IHEs: \$53 Million TCUs: \$0	IHEs: \$55 Million TCUs: \$0	IHEs: \$55 Million TCUs: \$0
<b>ESSA - Promise Neighborhoods</b> <sup>43</sup>	Grantees: \$80 Million	Grantees: \$81 Million	Grantees: \$81 Million
<b>ESSA - Comprehensive Literacy Development Grants</b> <sup>44</sup>	States: \$187 Million Tribes: \$950 K	States: \$187 Million Tribes: \$960 K	States: \$187 Million Tribes: \$960 K



**Federal Funding Across Early Learning Programs for Tribes<sup>30</sup>**

	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022 CR</b>
<b>BIE</b>			
<b>Family and Child Education<sup>45</sup></b>	\$18.8 Million	\$18.8 Million	\$21 Million





# CCDBG: Biggest ECE Funding Source for Tribes

**Studied 184 Tribal Plans (serve as application for funds) and 477 Tribes.**

**We learned there is:**

- a lack of coordination between tribal and state agencies and between tribal child care and tribal Head Start Programs.
- large gaps in information completed in the plans.
- large gaps and inconsistencies in comprehensive services provided.
- confusion over “service areas” when consortiums are involved
- inconsistencies between Census, DoI, HHS and BIA data.

***“Lack of reliable data hinders policymakers at all levels and contributes to inequitable federal funding.”***



## Average Annual Funding per Child, Based on CCDF Allocations and Child Count Data

*According to the latest SIPP data the median spent per week on child care in the U.S. is \$275.*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Average CCDF Funds</b>	<b>Average Funding per Child</b>
<b>All tribes</b>	\$225,643,732	\$1,226,325	\$520.73
<b>Small tribes</b>	\$17,381,182	\$197,513	\$580.92
<b>Medium tribes</b>	\$22,850,192	\$544,052	\$535.48
<b>Large tribes</b>	\$185,412,358	\$3,433,562	\$514



# Parents – What we have learned

**Conducted site visits, parent focus groups, individual interviews, national parent survey:**

- **There is a significant need for supportive services.**
- **Families prefer services provided by Tribes.**
- **Parents want a single source of services available and a single application process.**
- **Varying eligibility requirements between programs are confusing and frustrating – especially between Tribal and State programs.**
- **Families are concerned about health and safety.**

***Trust is the single most important factor for parents***



# NATIVE AMERICAN PARENTS NOT LIVING ON TRIBAL LAND

## PROFILE SUMMARY OF SURVEYED NATIVE AMERICAN PARENTS NOT LIVING ON TRIBAL LAND\*

- Two in three (66%) have received financial assistance over the past 6 months, including 36% who received food stamps. Additionally, 12% receive government assistance for child care expenses.
- Over 3 in 5 live within 10 miles of a child care program (64%) and elementary school (78%), including 56% who live within 5 miles of an elementary school.
- Most likely to say they or their spouse/partner are providing child care for their youngest child (32%), while about 1 in 5 are using a tribally-operated (18%), non-tribally operated (21%), or relative (20%) as their child care provider. A third (37%) need child care in non-traditional work hours.
- Tribally-operated child care is the preferred arrangement; 39% say if child care were free they would most prefer this type of arrangement, while 22% would prefer a non-tribally operated arrangement, and a fifth would prefer a parent (20%) or relative (15%) to provide child care.

## CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

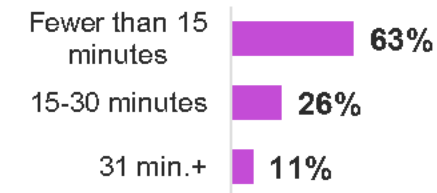
### Child Care Needs



### Current Child Care Provider

Tribally-Operated Prov.	18%
Non-Tribally Operated Prov.	21%
Parent Care	32%
Relative Care	20%

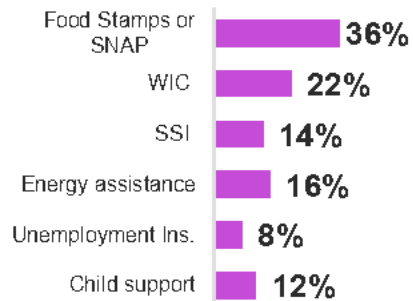
### Distance to Child Care Arrangement



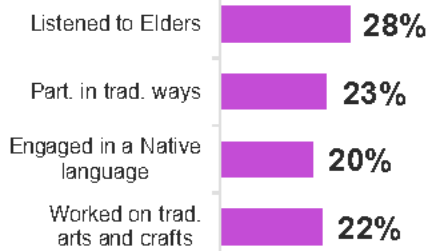
### Preferred Child Care Provider

Tribally-Operated Prov.	39%
Non-Tribally Operated Prov.	22%
Parent Care	20%
Relative Care	15%

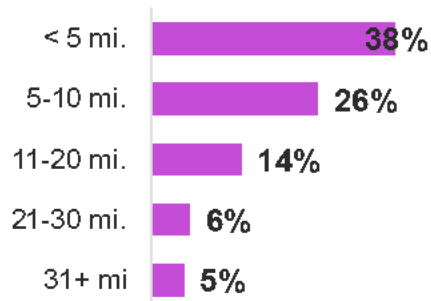
### ASSISTANCE RECEIVED IN PAST 6 MONTHS



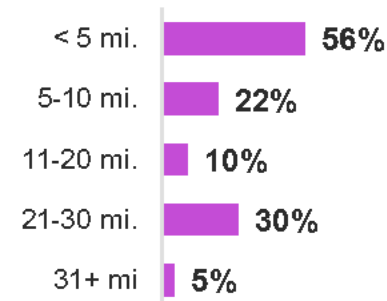
### CHILD PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



### DISTANCE TO CHILD CARE PROGRAMS



### DISTANCE TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



\*Results are among Native American parents living on tribal land, n=200. Data from sample surveyed is unweighted, data is directional not representative.

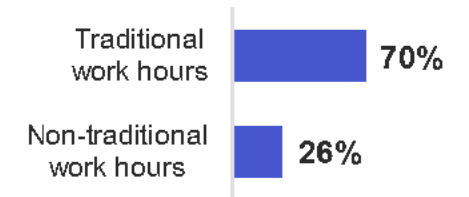
# NATIVE AMERICAN PARENTS LIVING ON TRIBAL LAND

## PROFILE SUMMARY OF SURVEYED NATIVE AMERICAN PARENTS LIVING ON TRIBAL LAND\*

- Seven in ten (72%) have received financial assistance over the past 6 months, including 36% who received food stamps and 34% who received WIC. Additionally, 15% receive government assistance for child care expenses.
- About 2 in 3 live within 10 miles of a child care program (66%) and elementary school (72%).
- Most likely to be relying on relatives (34%) or a tribally-operated child care provider (32%) for child care. A quarter (26%) need child care in non-traditional work hours.
- Tribally-operated child care is the preferred arrangement; 54% say if child care were free they would most prefer this type of arrangement, while 16% would prefer a parent or relative (15%) to provide child care.
- Nine times more likely to prefer a tribally-operated child care provider over a non-tribally operated child care provider.

## CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

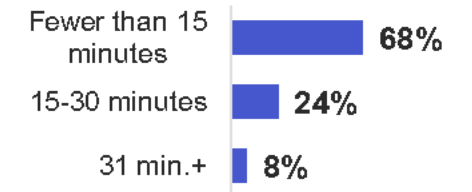
### Child Care Needs



### Current Child Care Provider

Tribally-Operated Prov.	32%
Non-Tribally Operated Prov.	12%
Parent Care	26%
Relative Care	34%

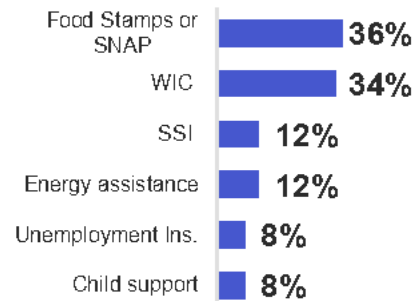
### Distance to Child Care Arrangement



### Preferred Child Care Provider

Tribally-Operated Prov.	54%
Non-Tribally Operated Prov.	6%
Parent Care	16%
Relative Care	16%

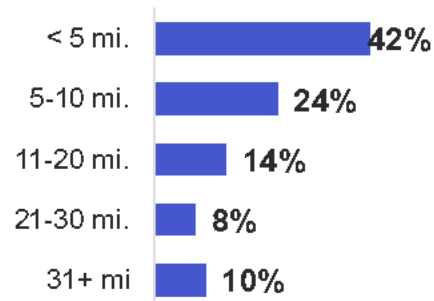
### ASSISTANCE RECEIVED IN PAST 6 MONTHS



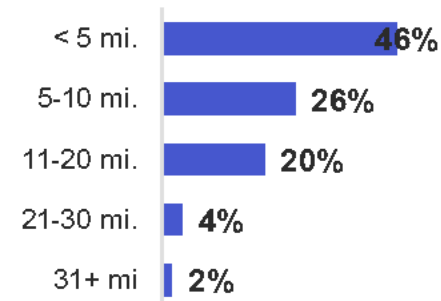
### CHILD PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



### DISTANCE TO CHILD CARE PROGRAMS



### DISTANCE TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



\*Results are among Native American parents living on tribal land, n=50. Data from sample surveyed is unweighted, data is directional not representative.

# Other Lessons Learned

**Interviews with Tribal Leadership, Program Directors, Staff show need for:**

- **leadership involvement and support for coordination between Tribally-managed programs, especially between child care and Head Start.**
- **better data beginning with the need for services**
- **a comprehensive plan that identifies barriers and supports change**
- **coordination with State-run programs.**

***Tribal Leadership and Involvement is Critical***



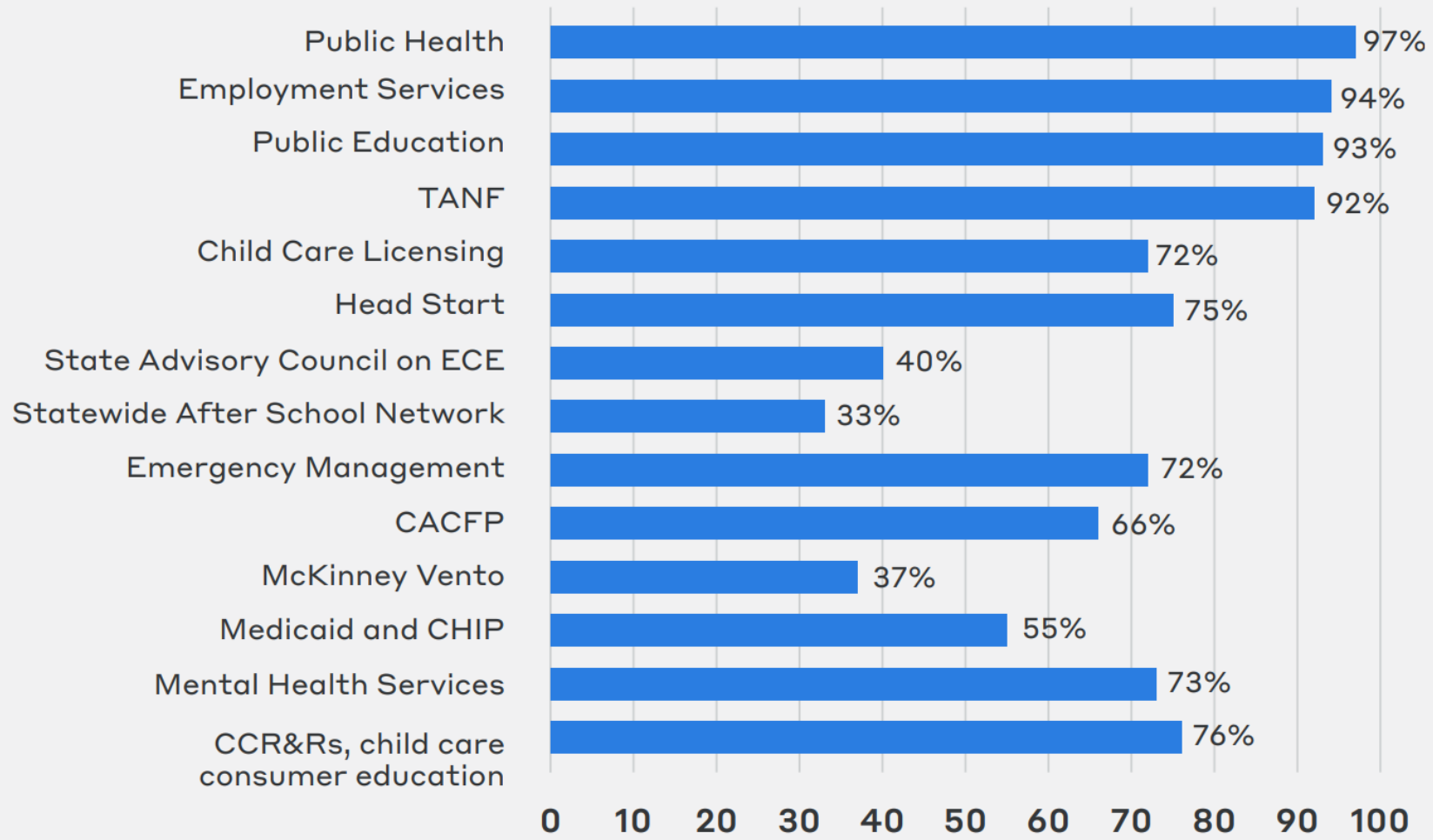
## Types of Public Assistance Received by AI/AN Parents in the Past Six Months

	Percentage of All AI/AN Parents	Percentage of AI/AN Parents on Tribal Lands
<b>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</b>	36%	36%
<b>Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)</b>	25%	34%
<b>Energy assistance</b>	15%	12%
<b>Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Retirement, Disability, or Survivor's Benefits</b>	14%	12%
<b>Child support</b>	12%	8%
<b>Unemployment insurance</b>	8%	8%
<b>Financial assistance for child care</b>	21%	15%



# Coordinating Services

## Percent of Tribes that Coordinate with External Services





# Change will require leadership involvement :

**Interviews with Tribal Leadership, Program Directors, State Staff show need for:**

- **A comprehensive approach to identifying need and development of a plan to meet the need.**
- **Leadership support for collaboration between tribally-managed programs, especially between child care and Head Start.**
- **Data to support expanded services**
- **Identification of barriers to comprehensive services and plan for change**
- **Coordination with State-run programs.**



# Tribal-State Relationships are Important:

**Needs of many families living off tribal lands or outside service areas go unaddressed.**

- **Confusion over service areas are common.**
- **Need tribal representation in state advisory committees, policy conversations and advocacy.**
- **Training for state bureau chiefs on sovereignty and consultations.**
  - **Most States ECE Offices are genuinely interested but need help.**
- **States need Tribal input into state programs such as MIECHV and CAPTA**



# Summary

***Creating equitable early childhood services in the United States means ensuring that American Indian, Alaska Native families and children have access to high quality, culturally appropriate, comprehensive services that support their healthy growth and development. This includes families living off tribal lands or tribal services areas.***

***To date, efforts to ensure this have fallen short. Tribes are ineligible to receive or apply for several major federal programs dedicated to early learning and development. When they are eligible for funding, the funding available is not calculated based on any reasonable assessment of need.***

***BPC has published four reports with accompanying recommendations for Congress, Federal Agencies, States and Tribes. We urge the commission to review these findings and recommendations in hopes that we can truly right a wrong and provide more equitable support for our American Indian and Alaska Native children.***

# Resources

---

- [BPC Tribal Early Childhood Resource Hub](#)
- [Righting a Wrong: Advancing Equity in Child Care Funding for American Indian & Alaska Native Families](#)
- [The Impact of Federal Early Care and Education Programs on Tribes](#)
- [Data and Funding Gaps in Tribal Early Care and Education](#)





## Bipartisan Policy Center

1225 Eye Street NW, Suite  
1000 Washington, D.C. 20005

**IDEAS. ACTION. RESULTS.**