



CTFC WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Latest News From California Tribal Families Coalition

Letters of Support Needed for AB 873

AB 873 is a bill that seeks to improve compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and remediate inequities in the child welfare system by bringing California law into compliance with federal mandates that the State negotiate agreements with Tribes so that federal child welfare funding can be drawn down to support tribal child welfare systems.

AB 873 is common sense legislation that bring federal funds to the state and addresses the #1 recommendation of Tribes in the California ICWA Compliance Task Force Report - securing legal counsel for Tribes in state court ICWA cases. AB 873 faces its last committee hearing on August 16th. Many Tribes have already come out in support of this bill, but we need this last committee to receive as many tribal letters of support as possible- this a critical hearing. Please review and submit the [model AB 873 support letter](#). Support letters get submitted by uploading the signed version through the a secure link [HERE](#). If you are having difficulty uploading your letter of support to the portal, please send your support letter to [Laura Svoboda](#), by Wednesday, August 11 by 5 PM, and CTFC will upload the letter on your behalf.

Model Support Letter

TRIBAL FOSTER YOUTH: PROTECT YOUR EXTENDED FOSTER CARE BENEFITS

Are you a tribal youth in foster care who has lost access to extended foster care benefits, or do you know a tribal youth who is? CTFC wants to help!

Tribal youth in extended foster care are wrongly losing their access to critically-needed extended foster care benefits, including housing and monthly foster care maintenance payments. State officials have decided some tribal youth are ineligible for these benefits when they begin receiving tribal trust fund distributions at the ages of 18 and 21. The California Tribal Families Coalition has found evidence that this practice is incorrect and has raised this issue with the California Department of Social Services.

If you or a tribal youth you know has been impacted by this policy, CTFC would like to know! Please fill out the contact form [HERE](#) or email [Blair Kreuzer](#).

Are you a Native American Youth that has been in foster care? Are you over 18?

Have you lost access to extended foster care benefits like housing or monthly payments after receiving your tribal 18 monies?

CTFC would like to ensure tribal youth are able to access benefits they are entitled to and is gathering information to determine next steps.

If you are an affected youth or know an affected youth, please contact **Blair Kreuzer** at contact@caltribalfamilies.org or fill out the form at: <https://caltribalfamilies.org/efcbenefits/>



At previous Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings, the TAC recommended California Department of Social Services (CDSS) develop an ICWA Compliance Hotline to handle concerns and complaints of ICWA compliance throughout the State. CDSS has included the ICWA Compliance Hotline as part of the ICWA State Plan and has sought tribal input on the development of the Hotline at the ICWA State Plan Work Session on April 16, 2021.

Additionally, at the 28th Annual Statewide ICWA Conference, CDSS reported that they would soon be seeking to fill an ICWA Analyst Position in the Children's Services Inquiry and Response Unit to focus on the ICWA Compliance Hotline.

On Friday, CDSS released the job posting for an Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA) in the Children and Family Services Division who will be responsible for developing and implementing policies and procedures for handling concerns regarding ICWA compliance and responding to concerns received through the ICWA Compliance Hotline. We encourage tribal individuals to apply as this role will be important in shaping policies and procedures surrounding ICWA compliance at the State level. To apply, click [HERE](#).



Image from [Twitter](#).

Call for Nominations for Not Invisible Act Joint Commission on Reducing Violent Crime Against Indians

In October 2020, Congress passed the [Not Invisible Act](#) to address the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous peoples. On August 4, the U.S. Departments of Interior and Justice released [solicitations for nominations](#) for members of the Joint Commission, who will focus on consultation with Tribal leaders about addressing the missing and murdered Indigenous person crisis and implementation of the Act. The Joint Commission must be composed of at least 28 federal and non-federal members with diverse experiences, background, and geographies to develop recommendations. **Nominations are due September 20, 2021.** More information available at the [Not Invisible Act website](#).

UPCOMING DATES & DEADLINES

- **August 18 (10:30 AM - 12:30 PM)- CDSS Southern Regional RFA Consultation Session**
- **September 20 - Nominations for the Not Invisible Joint Commission**
- **September 22 - Annual CDSS Tribal Consultation Summit**
- **September 22 - SAVE THE DATE! CTFC Annual Dinner in downtown Sacramento.**

Read past Weekly Highlights.

