



CTFC WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Latest News From California Tribal Families Coalition

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](mailto: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/>

CDSS RFA Southern Regional Consultation Session August 18 (10:30 am - 12:30 pm)

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will continue regional consultation with tribes on the application of tribal cultural and social standards in Resource Family Approval (RFA), the state foster care licensing process. *Please be aware that CDSS has invited County staff and Foster Family Agencies to participate in the Regional Consultation Sessions.* In preparation, CTFC wanted to share thoughts for tribal representative to consider going into these consultation sessions.

CTFC believes it is critical for tribes to remind CDSS that the social and cultural standards of the tribe cannot be written into any regulations as they are tribally and family specific. The only way to apply these standards is to invite the child's tribal representative to participate in all aspects of the assessment and approval process, which is requirement that should be written into the state regulations. If tribal advocates would like more information about these consultations, please contact Blair Kreuzer at blair.kreuzer@caltribalfamilies.org.

Family First Prevention Services Act and California Guaranteed Income Pilot Signed into Law

Two measures that CTFC have been tracking include trailer bill language implementing the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and SB 739 (Cortese) - California Universal Basic Income for Transition-Age Youth pilot project were signed into law by Governor Newsom on July 16, 2021 through AB 153 (Committee on Budget).

As signed into law, FFPSA provisions are effective on October 1, 2021. These provisions include changes to the placement of children in short-term residential therapeutic programs (STRTP) and prevention services for a child who is a candidate for foster care and their parent or caregiver and pregnant or parenting youth. In March, CTFC recorded a webinar with Alliance for Children's

Rights and California Department of Social Services (CDSS) - Office of Tribal Affairs to explain how the Indian Child Welfare Act and FFPSA interact. The recording can be found [HERE](#). CTFC expects CDSS to issue guidance for counties on the implementation of FFPSA provisions and CTFC endeavors to alert Tribes for requests for tribal feedback on any new guidance.

The California Guaranteed Income Pilot will provide unconditional and direct cash assistance of \$1,000 a month to youth aging out of the Extended Foster Care Program. Regarding its passage, Senator Cortese stated, "The first-of-its kind pilot we championed in Santa Clara County is only one example of guaranteed basic income working successfully to improve lives and lift people out of poverty. I'd like to thank my colleagues for partnering with me on this important work and investing in this concept that will uplift the lives of so many. I'm excited that 40 million Californians will now get a chance to see how guaranteed income works in their own communities" The press release from Senator Cortese can be found [HERE](#).



ICWA Specialist Certification Training Program Final Evaluation Report Complete

Check out the [Final Evaluation Report for the ICWA Specialist Certification Training Program](#) that the California Tribal Families Coalition (CTFC), with the support of California Department of Social Services (CDSS), piloted from March-June 2021. The pilot project was and continues to be intended to build a specialized workforce to serve in Indian Specialty Units, liaison positions, and other specially designated tribal service positions within county child welfare agencies.



Based on what we have learned and developed from the pilot project, CTFC now looks forward to working with UC Davis Resource Center for Family Focused Practice to provide a dynamic ICWA Specialist Certification Training Program throughout the state of California. Stay tuned.

Click [HERE](#) for the Evaluation Report.

Join CTFC Legal Director at the Virtual Conference Hosted by Mitchell Hamline School of Law

On September 30, CTFC Legal Director Kimberly Cluff will be presenting at Mitchell Hamline School of Law's annual conference. This year's conference title is *A Critical Look at the Indian Child Welfare Act: Revisiting its History and Recognizing its Relevance to Current Practice*. Ms. Cluff will be on the "Challenges to the Indian Child Welfare Act: U.S. Supreme Court Cases" panel in the afternoon. As the host is located in Minnesota, please note the two-hour time difference when registering. Registration is \$50. More information and registration can be found [HERE](#).



UPCOMING DATES & DEADLINES

- **Wednesday, 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.
- **September 30** - *A Critical Look at the Indian Child Welfare Act: Revisiting its History and Recognizing its Relevance to Current Practice* (virtual conference)

Read past Weekly Highlights.

