



August 23, 2021

Vol. 7

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. Your tribe can also help to ensure this passes by following these 3 steps using our [model AB 873 support letter](#):

- 1.) Insert name of Tribe or Organization
- 2.) Put on letterhead and
- 3.) Sign (digital signatures are accepted).

Support letters get submitted by uploading the signed version through the secure link [HERE](#) or by sending them to CTFC legal director, Kimberly Cluff, at kimberly.cluff@caltribalfamilies.org by August 31st.

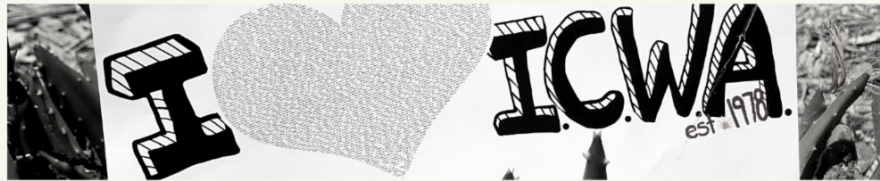


SAVE THE DATE

CTFC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER

MIX DOWNTOWN | 1525 L ST., SACRAMENTO

EMCEE- JAMUL CHAIRWOMAN ERICA PINTO



SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 | STARTS AT 6:00PM

CTFC MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS ONLY

RSVP TO SEASON.GOODPASTURE@CALTRIBALFAMILIES.ORG

We are so proud of all the work we have accomplished together this year, and what better way to celebrate than at our CTFC Annual Dinner! This year it will be at The Mix in Downtown Sacramento and we will have Jamul Chairwoman, Erica Pinto, as our emcee!

We are so excited to bring our board members and delegates together as we look back on the past year's accomplishments and sharing what exciting projects and legislation CTFC will be focusing on this next year!



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@caltribalfamilies.org).



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/>

UPCOMING DATES & DEADLINES

- **September 20** - Nominations for the Not Invisible Joint Commission (see our Weekly Highlight from August 9 for more information).
- **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.

