



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families



Tribal Family Services Program (FSP) Annual Report Summary

Report for Federal Fiscal Year 2024

Prepared by:

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
Division of Management Services
Bureau of Regional Operations

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Executive Summary

Fiscal Year 2024 Family Services Program At-a-Glance

- **An estimated 14,589 individuals received support services.**

The program continues to provide necessary and relevant supports to the target population, with far-reaching impacts across all eleven federally recognized Tribal Nations in Wisconsin.

- **85% of available funding was spent in fiscal year 2024.**

Some Tribal Nations spent 100% of the funding available to them. Additional support may be needed for other Tribal Nations to identify additional allowable services and achieve the DCF target of 90% utilization of available funding.

- **All outcome or service category were used; there was no single outcome or service category that was utilized by every Tribal Nation.**

Tribal Nations are identifying needs and applying funding in each of the areas, ranging from six to 10 Tribal Nations using funds in each category. Tribal Nations are utilizing these funds for the unique needs of their communities across many areas, and the program should continue to maximize flexibility and individualize application of the funds.

- **Most participants were served through DCF Outcome 5: Youth Services**

The program is a vital resource for tribal youth, with wide reaching services. Seven of the eleven Tribal Nations used FSP funding for these services.

- **The second-highest number of participants were served through DCF Outcome 3: Preventing the Removal of Children**

The program continues to meet DCF's strategic priority of safely transforming the child welfare and youth justice system to dramatically increase the proportion of children supported in their homes and communities.

Overview of the Family Services Program

The Family Services Program (FSP) is jointly administered by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). Tribal Nations receive a separate FSP allocation and contract from both departments. The two departments collaborate to allow Tribal Nations to operate integrated FSP programs using funds from both departments.

Funding Sources and Allowable Services

The DCF FSP allocation includes funds from state Tribal Gaming Revenue, the federal Preserving Safe and Stable Families Grant, and the federal Community Services Block Grant, Wis. Stats. s.49.32(11m) authorizes DCF to consolidate the multiple funding sources for the FSP program into a single allocation. The consolidated allocation is designed to give Tribal Nations flexibility in how FSP funds can be used within a wide range of support services. Specific activities are detailed in the [FSP Program Guidelines and Service Requirements](#). Tribal Nations must indicate the specific services they will provide each federal fiscal year (FY) in their annual FSP application.

The DCF FSP program concentrates services into six **outcomes**, or service delivery models:

1. Domestic abuse services
2. Permanency for children in out-of-home care
3. Family preservation and support services
4. Assisting low-income individuals, families, and communities to be self-sufficient
5. Youth services
6. Child care, respite care, and other services to improve family functioning and outcomes for children

Services between programs must be integrated to the maximum extent possible. Integration occurs when multiple services work together to address common needs in areas such as:

- Providing access to services
- Advocacy, case management, and program coordination
- Community education
- Crisis intervention and direct services
- Prevention activities
- Professional development







Progress Reporting

Tribal Nations submit an annual progress report to DCF identifying the number of persons served and outcomes achieved for the FSP program. The progress report includes the service areas defined in the FSP grant application and data using the data sources defined in the FSP grant application. The estimated total number of people served in the following charts may contain duplicate individuals or other variations as the numbers submitted in the annual progress report are not documented consistently across all FSP activities. For example, some Tribal Nations report participant counts per event, which may mean individuals who attend multiple events are counted multiple times.

In addition, each month Tribal Nations submit their current expense reports to DCF, providing additional information and detail regarding their spending trends for FSP.

Table 1: Federal Fiscal Year 2024 (FFY2024) Services Report Summary

Federal Fiscal Year 2024 (FFY2024) began October 1, 2023, and ended September 30, 2024. All eleven federally recognized Tribal Nations in Wisconsin applied for, received and utilized funding in FFY2024.

	Outcome	Number of Tribal Nations Selecting Outcome	Estimated Total Number of People Served
	DCF Outcome 1: Domestic Abuse Services	9	2,113
	DCF Outcome 2: Permanency for Children	9	403
	DCF Outcome 3: Preventing Removal of Children	10	4,220
	DCF Outcome 4: Self-Sufficiency Services	9	2,735
	DCF Outcome 5: Youth Services	8	4,676
	DCF Outcome 6: Child Care, Respite Care, and Other Services	6	442
	Estimated People Served in FY2024	14,589	

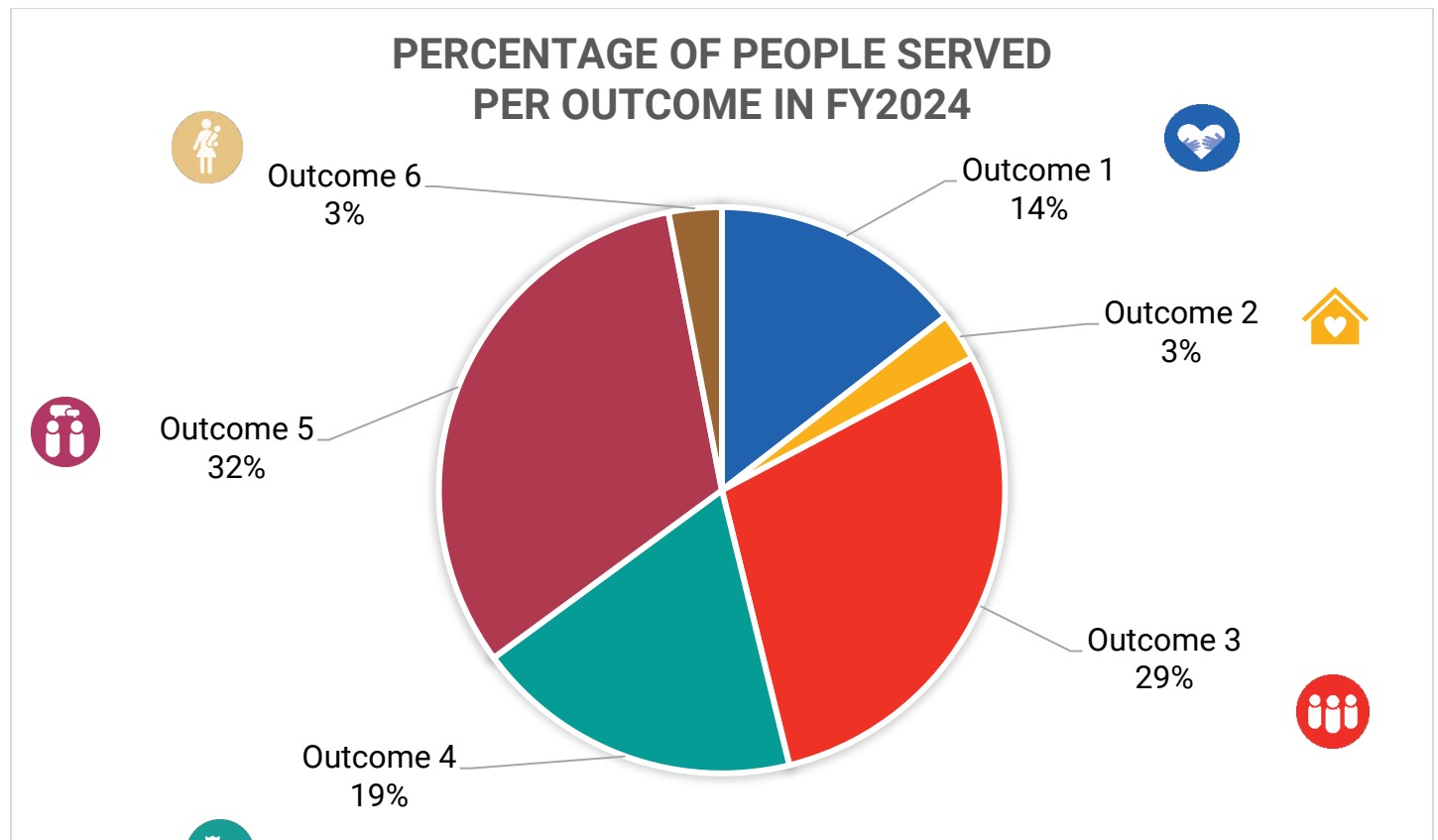
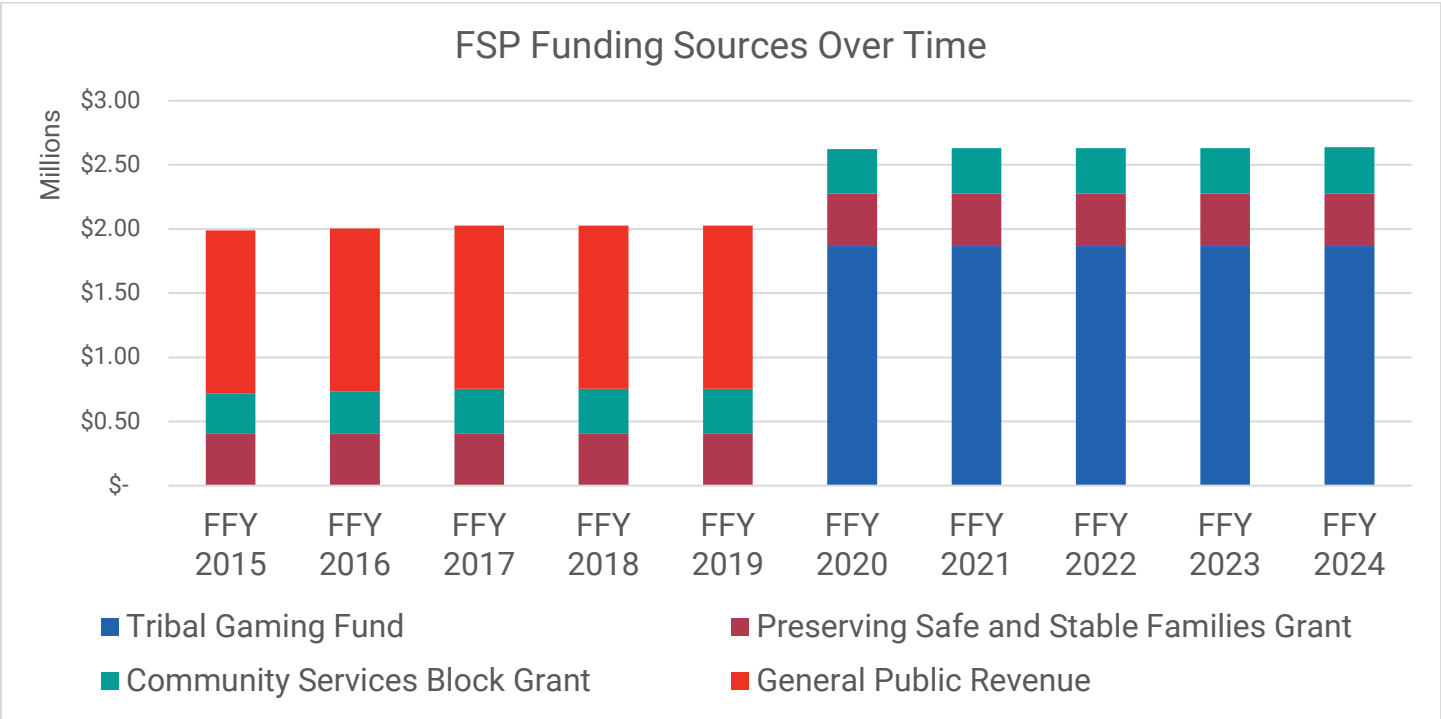
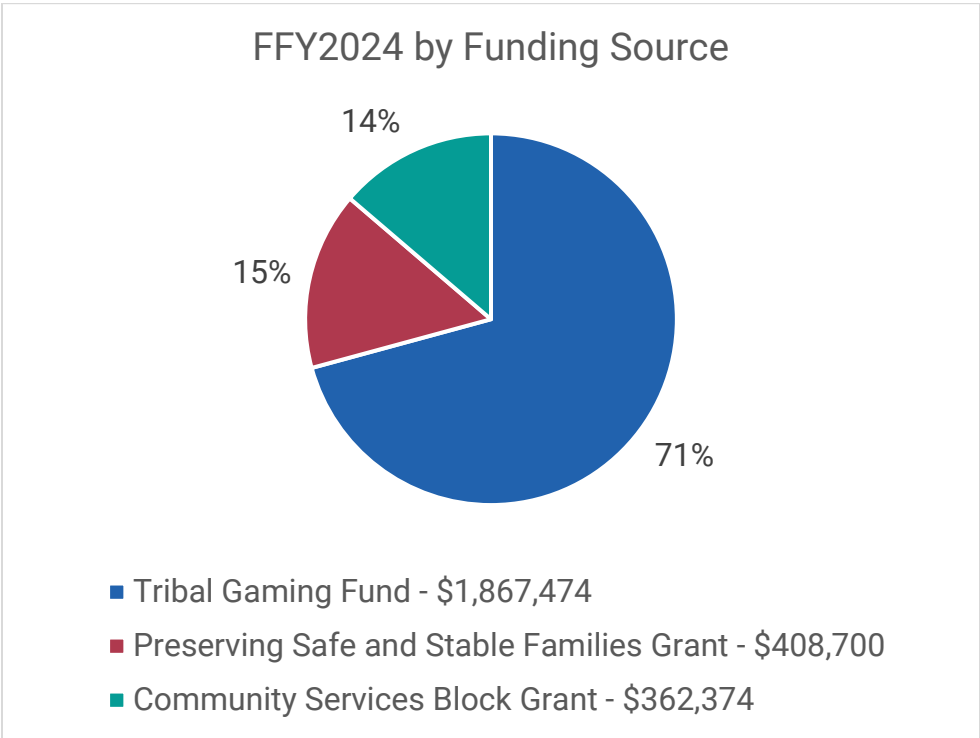
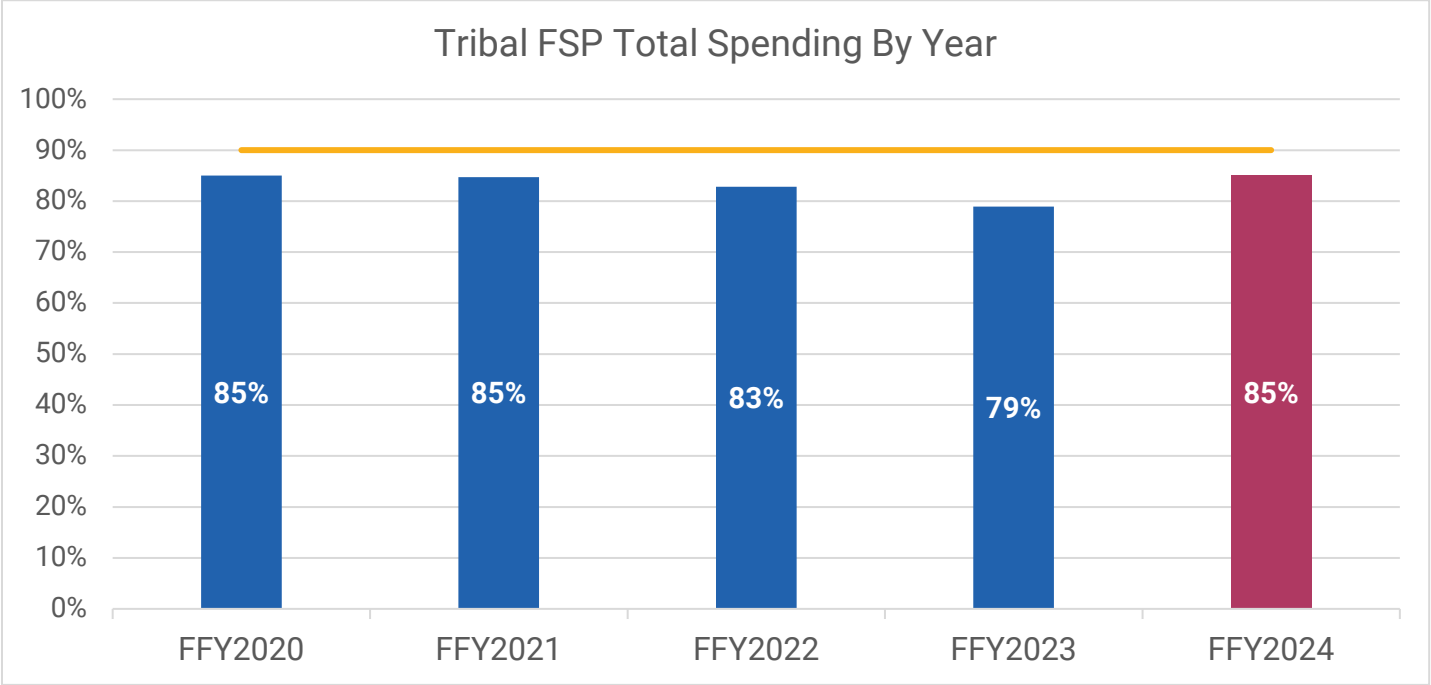


Table 2: Fiscal Spending on Family Service Program

The total amount allocated to the program across all Tribal Nations for FFY 2024 was \$2.6 million, from a combination of Tribal Gaming Funds, federal Preserving Safe and Stable Families Grant, and the federal Community Services Block Grant. The funding amount has remained stable since 2020, when General Purpose Revenue was removed, and Tribal Gaming Funds were added to FSP.



In FFY 2024, Tribal Nations spent **\$2.2 million**, about **85%** of the total funding. This is an increase of 6% from FFY 2023, consistent with prior years, and slightly less than the targeted 90% spending goal.



DCF Outcome 1: Domestic Abuse Services



Outcome	Outcome Indicators	Number of Tribal Nations Selecting Outcome Indicator	Estimated Total Number of People Served
DCF Outcome 1: Domestic Abuse Services	1 - Victims and survivors will have strategies for enhancing their safety.	4	2,113
	2 - Victims and survivors will have knowledge of available community resources.	4	
	3 - Victims and survivors will receive advocacy, counselling or supportive services.	4	
	4 - Victims and survivors will receive crisis intervention or shelter services.	3	
	5 - The community will be educated on the causes and impacts of domestic abuse.	4	

Services provided in FFY 2024

Crisis hotline, advertising for services, community presentations on the causes and impacts of domestic abuse; shelter services, weekly peer-to-peer groups, individual counseling, hotel stays, personal care items, food, clothing, household essentials, evacuation support, security supplies (cameras, tags, locks, etc.), legal services

Success Stories

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa provided advocacy, counseling, and referral services to **116** survivors of domestic violence through the **Zhawenindig Program**.

The Sokaogon Chippewa Community housed **9** survivors of domestic violence in the Brighter Days shelter.

The Oneida Nation held two ongoing survivor support circle education groups, one women's book club, and one Healing Through Words journaling group, supporting **15** survivors of domestic violence.

Barriers

Tribal Nations identified in the annual reports the following barriers to implementing Domestic Abuse Services:

- Participant trauma and other psychological factors
- Lack of resources
- Staffing issues

DCF Outcome 2: Permanency for Children



Outcome	Outcome Indicators	Number of Tribal Nations Selecting Outcome Indicator	Estimated Total Number of People Served
DCF Outcome 2: Permanency for Children	Tribal children will achieve permanency through reunification, long-term guardianship or adoption.	9	403

Services provided in FFY 2024

Case management, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) advocacy, cultural education, referrals, home and school visits, staff training, parenting classes, support groups, sobriety support, housing support, food, transportation, clothing, furniture, cleaning supplies, car repairs, transportation, hygiene kits, phones, rent for reunification spaces, newsletters, family night events

Success Stories

Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa conducted home visits, school visits, and parent support visits for **95** families.

The Stockbridge Munsee Community published a Family Services Program monthly newsletter providing parenting education and a calendar of events for families.

Barriers

Tribal Nations identified in their annual reports the following barriers to implementing the supportive programming under Permanency for Children:

- Lack of resources
- Participant criminal records
- Participant struggles with alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA)

DCF Outcome 3: Preventing Removal of Children



Outcome	Outcome Indicators	Number of Tribal Nations Selecting Outcome Indicator	Estimated Total Number of People Served
DCF Outcome 3: Preventing Removal of Children	Children at risk of being placed in out-of-home care will remain safely in their homes due to prevention services provided to the family.	10	4,220

Services provided in FFY 2024

Case management, cultural education, referrals, home and school visits, staff training, parenting classes, back to school events, community events, support groups, sobriety support, housing support, food, transportation, clothing, furniture, cleaning supplies, car repairs, transportation, athletic equipment for children, hygiene kits, phones, newsletters, family night events

Success Stories

The Ho-Chunk Nation doubled attendance at their **Family Healing Camp**, with nearly **600** participants.

The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin held their annual **Buffalo Harvest** event, providing storytelling, cultural games, and a feast to **250** participants.

Barriers

Tribal Nations identified in their annual reports various barriers to implementing the supportive programming under Preventing Removal of Children:

- Participant trauma and other psychological factors
- Participant criminal records
- Participant struggles with alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA)

DCF Outcome 4: Self-Sufficiency Services



Outcome	Outcome Indicators	Number of Tribal Nations Selecting Outcome Indicator	Estimated Total Number of People Served
DCF Outcome 4: Self-Sufficiency Services	1 - Low-income people become more self-sufficient.	7	2,735
	2 - The conditions in which low-income people live are improved.	5	
	3 - Low-income people own a stake in their community.	0	
	4 - Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved.	1	
	5 - Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results.	0	
	6 - Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive environments.	3	

Services provided in FFY 2024

Case management, budgeting support, referrals, community education workshops, talking circles, outreach at community events, loan closet, utility assistance, appliance replacement, home improvements, rent assistance, food supplementation, school fees

Success Stories

The Oneida Nation saw a substantial increase in applicants receiving rental assistance, utility assistance, and food supplementation, approving **35** applicants throughout the contract year.

The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa started a Child Care Task Force to identify solutions to the critical employment barrier facing their participants: finding and securing child care in the area.

Barriers

In their annual reports, Tribal Nations identified the following barriers to providing self-sufficiency services:

- Lack of resources
- Participant trauma and other psychological factors
- Participant criminal records
- Participant struggles with alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA)
- Staffing issues



Outcome	Outcome Indicators	Number of Tribal Nations Selecting Outcome Indicator	Estimated Total Number of People Served
DCF Outcome 5: Youth Services	Reduce rate of non-marital pregnancy for youth and promote abstinence to prevent non-marital pregnancy.	1	4,676
	Increase high school graduation rates for youth.	3	
	Promote positive behavior through improved social and other interpersonal skills and responsible decision-making.	8	
	Increase economic self-sufficiency through employment, vocational training and post-secondary education.	2	
	Develop independent living skills for youth.	4	
	Support youth to successfully live independently by providing transitional services after they leave home.	1	

Services provided in FFY 2024

Summer camps, tutoring, cultural exchanges, cultural crafts, clubs, sports, skill-based workshops, child care classes, conferences, talking circles, study nights, winter survival classes, hunting and fishing practice, fieldtrips, team building activities, college tours, pregnancy prevention classes, life skills lessons, hygiene kits, clothing drives, language instruction, dental visits

Success Stories

The Forest County Potawatomi Community provided a weekly life skills program for youth aged 6-17 which included a Korean cultural exchange program, as well as a nine-week summer camp which focused on supporting social and emotional development.

The St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin held a back-to-school event in August for **197 students** and an uncounted number of family members, providing a meal, truancy education, school supplies, and a gift card for future school expenses.

Barriers

In their annual reports, Tribal Nations identified the following barriers to providing youth services:

- Lack of resources
- Staffing issues
- Participant trauma and other psychological factors

DCF Outcome 6: Child Care, Respite Care and Other Services



Outcome	Outcome Indicators	Number of Tribal Nations Selecting the Outcome Indicator	Estimated Total Number of People Served
DCF Outcome 6: Child Care, Respite Care, and Other Services	Respite Care	6	442
	Child Care	5	
	Other Services	3	

Services provided in FFY 2024

Paying respite care providers, supplementing Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program or Tribal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funding to pay for child care, safety supplies for child care centers, gas vouchers, citizenship service fees, utility payments

Success Stories

The Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa utilized funding under Other Services to provide gas vouchers, citizenship service fees, and utility payments which helped keep children in their homes and supported reunification efforts.

The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin provided childcare through the **Menominee Tribal Daycare** for 18 children with additional services such as free formula for infants, family participation events, and dental screenings.

Barriers

In their annual reports, Tribal Nations identified the following barriers to providing child care, respite care, and other services:

- Lack of respite care providers
- Participants would prefer to have someone they know provide respite care
- No child care providers in area
- Child care resources are difficult to secure

Technical Assistance Requests

Tribal partners elevated suggestions for future technical assistance to help them provide best practice supportive programming with FSP:

- Assistance setting up additional training for requirements of this grant.
- Getting together to find connections among FSP programs, to share and learn from each other, and to keep the programming offered exciting and growing.
- Specific training regarding the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) for the Tribal Court, Legal Department, and the Indian Child Welfare Department.
- In-person training around engaging parents with the significant behavioral challenges of their children.
- More training related to child welfare caseworker resiliency.

The DCF Bureau of Regional Operations (BRO) restarted quarterly peer-to-peer meetings beginning in May 2025 to foster peer-to-peer discussions, share detail about grant funding and activities and answer questions to support increased grant activities and expenditures.

Some requests for technical assistance were shared with more appropriate DCF bureaus for consideration.

BRO provides technical assistance through quarterly FSP grant meetings, summaries of quarterly FSP grant expenditure reporting, direct partnership with tribal staff and individualized communication through email and ad hoc meetings. Tribal Nations can submit updated FSP plans at any time in a grant cycle to reflect new or different grant activities and expenditures.

Recommendations

DCF will continue to focus technical assistance on strategic planning and maximizing the use of these funds consistently throughout the grant period. DCF should encourage Tribal Nations to utilize peer-to-peer support for new services to provide which have demonstrated impact in other tribal communities.



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

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