

Tribal Certifications for the Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood

As Tribal Leader of the Tribe, Tribal Organization, or Tribal Consortium of _____, I certify that the Tribe is either operating a title IV-E program under section 479B of the Act, or is receiving funding to provide foster care under part E of the Act pursuant to a cooperative agreement or contract with a State and has in effect and is operating an areawide program pursuant to section 477(j)(2) relating to the Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (the Chafee Program) and that the following provisions to effectively implement the Chafee Program are in place:

1. [Check one of the following boxes]:

The Tribe will provide assistance and services to youths who have aged out of foster care, and have not attained 21 years of age [Section 477(b)(3)(A)(i)];

OR

The Tribe will provide assistance and services to youths who have aged out of foster care, and have not attained 23 years of age [Section 477(b)(3)(A)(ii)];.

AND:

the Tribe has elected under section 475(8)(B) of title IV-E of the Social Security Act to extend eligibility for foster care to all children who have not attained 21 years of age;

OR:

the Tribal agency responsible for administering the Tribal plans under titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act uses Tribal funds or any other funds not provided under title IV-E to provide services and assistance for youths who have aged out of foster care that are comparable to the services and assistance the youths would receive if the Tribe had elected to extend eligibility for foster care up to age 21 under section 475(8)(B) of title IV-E.

2. Not more than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the Tribe from its allotment for a fiscal year will be expended for room or board for youths who have aged out of foster care and have not attained 21 years of age (or 23 years of age, in the case of a Tribe with a certification under section 477(b)(3)(A)(ii) to provide assistance and services to youths who have aged out of foster care and have not attained age 23) [Section 477(b)(3)(B)];
3. None of the amounts paid to the Tribe from its allotment will be expended for room or board for any child who has not attained 18 years of age [Section 477(b)(3)(C)];
4. The Tribe has consulted widely with public and private organizations in developing the plan has given all interested members of the public at least 30 days to submit comments on the plan [Section 477(b)(3)(E)];

5. The Tribe will make every effort to coordinate the Tribal programs receiving funds provided from an allotment made to the Tribe with other Federal, State and Tribal programs for youth (especially transitional living youth projects funded under part B of title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974), abstinence education programs, local housing programs, programs for disabled youth (especially sheltered workshops), and school-to-work programs offered by high schools or local workforce agencies [Section 477(b)(3)(F)];
6. The Tribe will ensure that youth participating in the program under this section participate directly in designing their own program activities that prepare them for independent living and that the youth accept personal responsibility for living up to their part of the program [Section 477(b)(3)(H)];
7. The Tribe has established and will enforce standards and procedures to prevent fraud and abuse in the programs carried out under the plan [Section 477(b)(3)(I)]; and
8. The Tribe will ensure that a youth participating in the program under this section is provided with education about the importance of designating another individual to make health care treatment decisions on behalf of the youth if the youth becomes unable to participate in such decisions and the youth does not have, or does not want, a relative who would otherwise be authorized under applicable State or Tribal law to make such decisions, whether a health care power of attorney, health care proxy, or other similar document is recognized under applicable State or Tribal law, and how to execute such a document if the youth wants to do so [Section 477(b)(3)(K)].

FOR TRIBES APPROVED TO OPERATE A TITLE IV-E PROGRAM DIRECTLY ONLY:

9. The Tribe will use training funds provided under the program of Federal payments for foster care and adoption assistance to provide training including training on youth development to help foster parents, adoptive parents, workers in group homes, and case managers understand and address the issues confronting youth preparing for a successful transition to adulthood and making a permanent connection with a caring adult [Section 477(b)(3)(D)].

Signature of Tribal Leader

Date