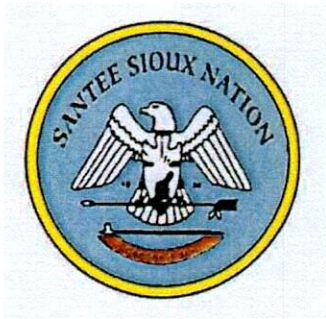




SANTEE SIOUX NATION

TRIBAL TANF PLAN

OCTOBER 1, 2026

to

SEPTEMBER 30, 2029

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Santee Sioux Nation
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
TANF Plan
FY October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2026

Time Frame and Effective Date

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996. Section 412 authorized Indian tribes to implement and operate a Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program. The Santee Sioux Nation, in accordance with the Act, intends to operate a TANF program beginning October 1, 2026. The Santee Sioux Nation will apply for direct funding from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services to administer a TANF program for its membership. Upon approval of the plan by HHS/ACF, the operation of the Tribal TANF program will be for a period of three years beginning October 1, 2026-September 30, 2029.

Santee TANF Goal

Based upon the four purpose areas of TANF, the goal of the Santee Tribal TANF Program is to provide job preparedness, employment, and supportive services to enable members to leave the program and become self-sufficient. To achieve these goals the Santee Tribal TANF program will provide funds and or services to families at risk of welfare dependence.

One way to measure success of the Santee Tribal TANF program is based on meeting the work participation rate. Another way that success will be measured is through Employment Development Plans which are monitored by the Caseworker through home visits and regular monthly contact.

Outcomes and Measures

1. 98% of TANF eligible families will have an Employment Development Plan (EDP) established within 30 days of eligibility determinations.
2. 98% of all TANF participants without a high school diploma/GED will establish completion of their high school education as part of their EDP.
3. 95% of all teens within TANF eligible families will attend classes through the Santee Health Center to increase their knowledge on how to prevent unwed pregnancies and parent education.

The Tribe will further measure progress and outcomes of the Tribal TANF program by collecting data that describe the number of cash assistance families per month and average work activities provided per month to families.

4. An average of 40 families per month will receive cash assistance and services each month.
5. An average of 75% of families will be offered work activities per month.

These objectives are met through the issuance of cash grants, supportive services, participation in the development of skills, and participants involvement to identify needs (and address them), identify strengths and assets (and utilize them), facilitate engagement with caretakers to ensure positive development outcomes in child-only cases.

Service Area

The service area for the Santee Sioux Nation TANF program will include interior boundaries of the Knox County in the state of Nebraska.

Service Population

The Santee Sioux Nation TANF program will provide welfare related services to needy tribal families of a federally recognized tribe residing within the boundaries of Knox County in the state of Nebraska with a child, children or expecting a child and in need of temporary appropriate aid and services. An enrolled tribal member of a federally recognized tribe who moves into the service area from another service area will have access to completing an application for cash assistance, their eligibility will be determined after all pertinent information is reviewed.

Assessments

The assessment will include formal and informal methods to obtain information on basic educational skills, vocational interests, work experience, and identify and document barriers to obtain employment. The assessment process will be the basis for the development of an Employability Development Plan (EDP) for the clients.

EDP

The Employment Development Plan (EDP) will include the overall employment goal of the participant, educational job training goals and any supportive services necessary to achieve the anticipated goal. All clients receiving services will be required to agree to the Employability Development Plan (EDP). A Case worker will interview each client and develop an EDP for the client. The EDP will describe the services to be provided and the client's responsibility. The EDP will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and formally every 6 months. If changes occur, modification of the EDP may be initiated.

The EDP will include long and short-term goals for the client. Focusing on education and employment suitable for the client reflecting on their past work history and training. The EDP will also include short interim benchmarks by which progress can be measured and reported.

The Case worker will serve as a counselor, guiding the client, and, as appropriate, other members of the client's family, through the various stages of the client's EDP.

The Case worker will assist the client in identifying the barriers that might prevent the client from successfully completing his/her EDP and becoming productively employed. The Case worker will strive to find the relevant resources to assist the client in overcoming those barriers. The approach will be one of self-help, guiding the client through the process of removing the barriers rather than intervening directly in eliminating them.

Participants will be required to complete a drug and alcohol test prior to actual worksite placement. Individuals failing to pass will be referred to the Alcohol Program for an evaluation and comply with the recommendations as a result of the evaluation.

If the client does not comply with the requirements of the EDP the penalty can lead to sanctions or termination.

Needy Family

The Santee TANF Program shall define a needy family as a Santee enrolled tribal member and /or a member of a federally recognized tribe with a total household income equal to or less than 100% of the federal poverty guidelines and the following:

- Single parent with child(ren)
- Single pregnant woman with children
- Two parent family with child(ren) if pregnant (the unborn will be eligible after he/she is born and a social security card and State birth certificate is obtained.
- Needy or non-needy caretaker who assumes responsibility for the child(ren) residing with them. Evidence of legal guardianship or temporary power of attorney must be provided. The Temporary Power of Attorney shall be acceptable for one year, after the one-year period the caretaker is required to file for legal guardianship.
- May include extended family members on a case-by-case determination, such a case would be where the TANF recipient is responsible for their welfare. Extended family members living in the household, but do not assist TANF residents will be excluded.
- Needy unrelated families living in one common resident are considered separate families.

Resource Limit: The resource limit is \$4,000.00 per person participating and who is progressing and complying with their Self- Sufficiency Plan.

Income Limits: Countable income must not exceed the Tribal countable income limit.

Adjusted income may not exceed the Tribal TANF adjusted income standard.

Examples of resources: Most TANF families live in low-income HUD housing. Clients are not penalized if they do own their home. Clients are allowed one vehicle they can use for work/TANF hours and transport their children to day care.

Second vehicle, Tax refunds, VA benefits, Realty property, cash gifts and winnings are considered countable income.

The following individuals are ineligible

- Minor or dependent child(ren) who are absent from the home for a period longer than 90 consecutive days unless they are attending a primary or secondary school.
- The Santee TANF program reserves the right to deny services to families who do not cooperate in establishing paternity or pursue child support.
- Teenage children not living in adult-supervised settings of age 16 or unless legally emancipated.
- Fugitives, probation, or parole violators
- Individuals charged with drug trafficking or distribution of a controlled substance are suspended until charges are dropped or cleared.
- Individuals found to have fraudulently misrepresented facts in order to obtain assistance from welfare or related supportive services. *The period of ineligibility will be for three (3) years.*
- Caregivers who fail to notify Santee TANF Program of a child's extended absence from the home.
- SSI recipients
- Non-enrolled Santee Sioux Tribal members or individuals not enrolled in a federally recognized tribe.

To ensure the safety of victims of rape and incest, the dependent child is not required to reside with a parent or legal guardian if documentation by Child Protective Service, courts, police, prosecutors, etc., exists showing that the safety of health of the dependent child would be in jeopardy should he/she reside with a parent or legal guardian. Any caregiver providing care for a child with these circumstances is eligible for TANF services provided other eligibility are met.

Designated Agency

The Santee Sioux Nation Tribal Council has designated the HR (Human Resource Director) as the Supervisor for the operations of the Santee Sioux Nation TANF Program. HR will oversee the TANF Director.

Exchange of Information

Information exchanged between Tribal programs and/or State will provide that a family receiving assistance may not receive the same services from another Tribal program and/or State.

Santee TANF Assistance and Services

The Santee TANF program will provide monthly cash assistance for shelter, clothing, and other essential needs.

The Tribal TANF program will conduct some of the activities; others will be delivered through local program services, such as Nebraska Indian Community College, Dakota Tiwahe Social Services, Santee Housing, HEART Program, and Santee Health Center.

- Cash assistance or assistance through a voucher system. Santee Sioux Nation will follow the eligibility chart used annually by the State of Nebraska DHHS office. The eligibility chart will determine household eligibility standard.
- Educational activities designed to increase self-sufficiency, job training, and work opportunities.
- Required TANF work activities.
- One time assistance, or services for families at risk of welfare dependency.
- Assistance with justifiable job related or educational costs., when cooperating with the TANF work participation requirement.

Supportive service costs will be based upon demonstrated need and be dependent on satisfactory progress of the participant.

Eligibility for TANF assistance and services is established in the Tribe's approved TANF plan.

Only needy families, as defined in the TANF plan, may receive: (a) any form of Federally or State MOE funded "assistance" (as defined in 45 CFR 286.10); or (b) any benefits or services pursuant. To TANF purposes 1 or 2, regardless of the purpose served. "Needy" means financially deprived, according to income and resource (if applicable) criteria established in the TANF plan by the Tribe to receive the "assistance", benefit, or service.

The Tribe may use segregated Federal TANF funds to provide services (and related activities) that do not constitute "assistance" (as defined in 45 CFR 286.10) to individuals and family. Members who are not financially deprived but who need the kind of services that meet TANF Purposes 3 and 4. Objective criteria will be established for participation in these programs.

Unless the State instructs otherwise, the Tribe may also use MOE funds to pay for Non assistance pro family activities for individuals or family members, regardless of Financial need.

Services will be offered to Santee Sioux Nation Tribal members and any Federally Recognized enrolled tribal member residing within the boundaries of Knox County in the State of Nebraska. Families must be in the poverty guidelines according to the Department of Health and Human Services 2020 Poverty Guidelines.

Confidentiality

The Santee TANF program ensures that any individual applying for TANF assistance or services has the right to full and complete confidentiality of all information pertaining to their application and all other vital information.

TANF staff will be required to sign a statement that they understand the TANF recipients' right to complete and full confidentiality.

An assurance of Confidentiality will be required of all Program Staff acknowledging an understanding and commitment to a participant's right to complete and full confidentiality, and that any violation of a participant's confidentiality may result in the staff members immediate termination.

Duplication of Services

All applicants will be required to sign a statement certifying that the applicant is not receiving assistance from other Tribal or State programs and sign a release of information form.

Information will be disclosed to other Tribal or State TANF programs to the extent necessary to certify non duplication of services.

Employment Opportunities

The Santee Sioux Nation community is located in northeast Nebraska along the Missouri River. Santee is located 46 miles southwest of Yankton, SD which is the nearest metropolitan area. The Santee Community is located in an agricultural area where business and employment opportunities are limited. Transportation is a major obstacle for clients of this program.

The Tribal organizations are the primary employers on the reservation. The next group of employers that has employment opportunities for Indian people is the Santee Public School, Santee Grocery Store, Santee Health Clinic, Tribal College (NICC), Santee Housing Authority, Lakeview Convenience Store, Feather Hill Convenience Store, Tatanka Golf Course and Club House, and the Ohiya Casino. The Tribe's Casino is 38 miles round trip and is sometimes a problem for individuals with children due to childcare, transportation, and time away from their families.

The TANF program will collaborate with Nebraska Indian Community College for clients to attend the Tribal College, Vocational training, or University for professional employment. The TANF program will work effectively to provide each client with current available employment and training opportunities on a continuous basis.

GED classes are available through the Tribal College (NICC). All TANF clients who do not have a high school diploma are required to work towards their GED, which is included in their TANF case plan.

Work Requirements

The Santee TANF program agrees to make all reasonable efforts to satisfy its minimum participation rates as established consistent with economic conditions and resources available within the community. Although Indian preference is acknowledged in the Tribal organization, prospective employees are required to have a high school diploma or GED.

Individuals participating in the TANF program are required to be engaged in acceptable work activities.

The Santee Sioux TANF program proposes the following work participation rate and minimum hours:

- All Santee TANF recipients between the ages of 18-59 will be required to engage in work or related work activities of a minimum of 20 hours per week for a single-parent family or 30 hours per week for a two parent family.

The Santee TANF program defines “engaged in work” as participation in the following work activities: The Santee TANF program will make available to its clients the following employment and training activities. The TANF program will conduct some of the activities; others will be delivered through contracts with local service providers.

Activities may include:

- On the job training: Client will work at the job site, not to exceed 12 months. A time clock will determine hours and training will be conducted by a supervisor.
- Job Search/Readiness activities shall be limited to as prescribed in 45 CFR 286.105(b) and (c) Involves instruction in interviewing skills, resume writing, application completion, life skills, basic job search skills, and actual job search to obtain and retain gainful employment.
- Basic Education: Involves High School, Adult Basic Education and GED course work. The intent is to help the client achieve a proficient competency level. Education is the key to self-sufficiency.
- Work Experience: Involves unpaid, short term work site training in a community program or public agency. The intent of this activity is to enhance client’s employability by providing them with current work experience, an employer reference, and an opportunity to develop specific job skills.
- The TANF program will allow Vocational Training such as Apprentice Programs offered through the Tribal Community College (NICC). Training included is Certified Nursing Assistant, (CDL) Commercial Driver’s License and Welding.

GED classes are available at the Community College. At this time, the college is offering individuals to use their used laptops to take practice tests and lessons on all 4 GED subjects at no cost. The individuals will be monitored and are able to interact with clients when help is needed. Depending on when they quit school a time frame is set for one year but may take longer.

Transportation, day care, and lack of resources hinder self-sufficiency for all TANF clients. Most of the clients do not have vehicles and if they do, they are in need of repair, not licensed, and no gas to put in the vehicles. Therefore, they walk to wherever they need to go and that takes time to get from A to B. In order to get to their sites to work their 20 hours it takes time to walk there, therefore the time to walk is included in the 20 or 30 hours needed for TANF hours. Clients will be allowed reasonable transportation time up to 2 hours per week for walking time if they do not have transportation or the Transit Services are not available.

At times when the Santee Transit is available, they will transport clients.

The benefit of working volunteer TANF hours in programs or a private sector is that at times jobs may become available and the client has the opportunity to apply for the job and will already have experience performing the job.

The Santee Sioux Nation believes that this section is consistent with the purposes of section 412 of the Social Security Act and is consistent with the economic conditions and resources available to the community and is similar to comparable provisions that are applicable to the State.

Good Cause Criteria for Non-Cooperation with TANF Work Requirements Responsibility for Demonstrating Good Cause

Participants who fail to participate in assigned TANF activities or who fail to accept and/or maintain employment will be subject to sanctions. It is the responsibility of the participant claiming to have good cause to demonstrate, or at least produce evidence, supporting its existence.

For single custodial clients with children under age 6, assistance will not be reduced or terminated based on parents required work schedule if demonstrates ability for one or more of the following reasons.

- (1) Approved childcare within a reasonable distance from the home or worksite is unavailable.
- (2) Informal childcare by a relative or under other arrangements is unavailable or unsuitable; or
- (3) Appropriate and affordable formal childcare arrangements are unavailable.

The Tribe's definitions for those terms are on page 14 under childcare.

Good Cause Criteria

1. Transportation breakdowns or is unavailable.
2. Parents cannot be penalized if daycare is not available due to lack of appropriate and informal daycare, unreasonable distance, cost of daycare, sickness, etc.
3. Mental or physical illness
4. Scheduled conflicts with required court appearances or incarceration.
5. Extreme weather that would prevent safe travel.
6. Misunderstanding or participation requirement (one time only).

Good Cause Criteria for Failure to Accept or Maintain Employment

1. The work adversely affects the person's health.
2. The work violates health and safety standards.
3. The wage does not meet the minimum wage and place work standards.
4. Required hours of work are in excess of what is customary for the job.
5. The job referral or employer is discriminatory.
6. The person quit a job and did not understand the TANF penalty for job quits (one time only).

Incentives

To support the Tribe's goal in promoting completion of a high school education, incentives are provided to assist youth and their families.

Because the families live on TANF and it pays for shelter, clothing, and personal items they have a limited amount of money. Parents struggle with the cost of school supplies and not enough money.

At the beginning of the school year, Santee TANF students will receive a book bag with all the necessary school supplies needed.

With sufficient school supplies it helps them be prepared to continue with their education, their grades, and their self-esteem.

TANF High School graduates will receive \$500.00 for completing high school.

The TANF program requests report cards and does examine grades and attendance.

We work with the families whose attendance and/or grades need to be improved. Encourage the student to continue their education and reach their goals.

Supportive Services

Supportive Services payments will be issued to the Tribal TANF program parents, or directly to their service providers to enable them to engage in assigned TANF activities and/or accept and maintain employment. Supportive Services are to have prior approval from Case Worker.

The Director must also give prior approval for the use of these funds.

TANF clients are eligible for Supportive Services if they have cooperated in the required activities:

Job Search

Education (high school, GED)

Post Secondary School

Job Skills Training

Job Readiness

Apprenticeship

Work Experience

Employment

On the Job Training

Volunteer Hours

Work Related Expenses

A check in the amount of \$150.00 will be given to the client when they begin employment. This is for the purchase of appropriate work clothes. An itemized receipt will need to be turned into the TANF office after their purchase of work clothes.

This is limited to one (1) per fiscal year.

If the individual is attending college or taking CNA classes, they would be eligible for payment of their books pertaining to their education. Or if any books are needed while attending GED classes. Any fees required to take tests pertaining to GED.

TANF parents who qualify for an exemption are eligible for supportive services if they are attending vocational training. This can also be counted toward participant work hours. Time spent in jail is not part of work hours nor does it count toward supportive services.

Decisions regarding whether to issue a supportive service payment and an amount will be made by the TANF Case Worker and TANF Director based on an assessment of the situation. There will be a \$4000.00 lifetime limitation on the amount of supportive service funds available to the participants.

The TANF Director is responsible for managing a TANF budget that requires fiscal restraint. If supportive services expenditures become excessive, the budget needs to be taken into consideration and specific limits may later be placed on the amount and/or the kind of supportive service payments the TANF program will issue. Under no circumstances will a participant be required to engage in activities for which they need supportive services in order to participate but are denied them by the TANF program.

A client may refuse supportive services. The client may not use this refusal and lack of services as a reason to not participate in required activities that promote self-sufficiency.

Supportive service costs will be based upon demonstration need and be dependent on satisfactory progress of the participant.

Work Participation Rate

The Work Participation rate for families remain at 35% for all fiscal years in this plan.

The Santee Sioux Nation is located in a rural area where the employment rate for the Santee Sioux reservation is at 81% according to the Department of Interior.
The Santee Sioux Tribe job market is very minimal.

The Santee TANF Program knows firsthand the impact the United States economy has concerning job market and the dilemma with the Federal Government concerning TANF clientele becoming self-sufficient. The Santee TANF program will implement on the job training, workshops, job search activities, and job readiness classes for the Santee Sioux TANF clientele.

Time Limits

The Santee Tribal TANF program will count prior months of TANF assistance funded with TANF block grant funds provided by any State or other Tribe, except for any month that was exempt or disregarded by statute regulation.

The Santee TANF program shall limit the time an eligible family may participate in the program to a maximum of 60 months within the adult lifetime of a client.

Caretakers who are not the parents and working, elderly or disabled and not participants themselves in the Tribal TANF program are exempt from work requirements and are not affected by the time limits.

Exceptions from this time limit due to hardship will include:

- Elderly caretaker (60 years and older)
- Teen parents (18 and younger). Such parents must be working toward obtaining a high school diploma or GED.
- Single custodial parent of a child under the age of 3 months.
- Unemployable individuals (disabled individuals, caretakers of a disabled individual, or people similarly situated) if verified.
- Those months when the not employed rate for Native Americans on the Santee Sioux reservation is higher than 50% as reported by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Labor Force Reports or any other reliable source.
- Domestic violence victims when verified.
- Neglect or deprivation of medical care.

A month does not count when any of the following are true:

- A member of the family has to care for a family with a serious health problem (this exclusion is limited to 3 consecutive months).
- The TANF assistance unit contains only children.
- Both parents are incapacitated, or one parent has to care for other incapacitated parents.

Persons who may continue to receive TANF benefits beyond the 60 months when any of the following are true:

- a. The person is a dependent child in a two-parent family and principal wage earner dies.
- b. The person is a dependent child living with a caretaker who was in the TANF assistance unit in the counted months.
- c. The person is a dependent child and is now a minor parent who receives TANF benefits as a caretaker for his/her own child.

Due to hardship and the remote location of the reservation and because of the current economy, the not employed rate on the Santee Sioux reservation is 81% and has been since October 2010 according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Labor Force Report. Therefore, the participants residing on the Santee Sioux reservation are not affected by the 60-month time limit. But are still required to meet all the requirements.

Eligible families residing outside of the Santee reservation but living in Knox County may participate but are subject to the 60 months within the adult lifetime of a client.

The Tribe expects 5% of caseload will receive hardship exemptions but will not exceed 20%.

Example: hardship – Living in rural areas with no means of transportation, taking care of infant and small children with no support from non-custodial parent or relatives, no resources to get back and forth to a job or homeless.

Transitional Services

The Santee Sioux Tribe does not offer Transitional Services and does not have a formal alternative program.

The TANF program will offer one-time assistance for TANF families and non TANF families who fall within the 180% poverty level and are at risk of welfare dependency and will be based upon demonstrated need.

The one-time assistance will include assistance with justifiable job-related expenses or education costs not to exceed \$150.00.

One time per year family assistance of emergency food voucher at the local grocery store of \$150.00.

Only after all resources are exhausted.

Contingent upon budget.

Medical

At times, an individual may be unable to participate in employment opportunities due to alcohol or substance abuse or some other mental handicap. It may be difficult for the individual to receive appropriate services. The Tribal TANF program will assist clients through referrals, such as Medicaid or any public or private agency.

There are times when the Case Worker determines that it is in the best interest of the family to have random drug testing. Arrangements will be made with the Santee Health Clinic for drug testing. This will become part of the client's plan.

There may be times when substance abuse or alcohol abuse prohibits a client from prudently taking care of personal business. Under such circumstances the client will be placed on a Vendor pay system and the Case Worker will assist the client in paying their bills. The Case Worker will work with the client on budgeting skills while the client is on a vendor pay system.

Receipt of Other Assistance

An individual who is included in the TANF payment must not at the same time receive a payment from another source. Assistance from another source other than TANF may be used to supplement, but not to duplicate.

A TANF family member in the Supplemental Security Program (SSI) is not included in the TANF budget.

If a child is eligible to receive both TANF and SSI, the payee or responsible caretaker of the child(ren) shall select one of the programs. The Case Worker shall inform the responsible caretaker of the benefits available under each program so that the choice of a program can be made in the best interest of the child. The Case Worker shall refer individuals to the Social Security Office when appropriate.

Sanctions

If an individual receiving TANF assistance fails to comply with their education or work requirements without good cause as determined by the Case Worker or TANF Director, the Santee TANF program will reduce the amount of assistance payable to a family by 25% for the first sanction, 50% for the second time and closed after the third sanction. Sanctions will be lifted only after compliance with education or work requirements are met.

Good Cause

The Santee Sioux TANF program realizes that under certain circumstances a participant may be prevented from or limited in engaging in work participation requirements. Good cause for non-compliance with required work activities shall include:

- Lack of transportation (verified)
- Lack of childcare, or lack of reliable childcare that is available, affordable, and within reasonable distance from home and/or work site.
- Mental or physical illness (verified)
- Long term illness as verified through physician documentation.
- Victim of domestic violence (verified)
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Extreme or severe inclement weather.
- Other reasons for good cause will be determined for extraordinary circumstances on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Case Worker with the approval of the TANF Director

During the interview process, if an exception is made through Good Cause, the participants are informed, both verbally and in writing that it does not extend the required time limit for federal assistance.

Overpayments and Underpayments

The Tribal TANF program will collect overpayments by reducing the recipients TANF grant in the appropriate and consistent manner until the overpayment is collected. In the case of deliberate fraud committed by the recipient, the Tribe will pursue prosecution in the appropriate court. Underpayments shall be made to the recipient in the next TANF grant or in a manner that is timely and efficient.

Notification of Adverse Action

Each Santee TANF applicant or recipient will be notified in writing within 15 days of any decision regarding their application for services or of any adverse action taken against them that will affect their

assistance. Applicants and/or recipients may appeal any decision regarding their TANF assistance according to the Appeal process.

Appeal Process

Appeals may be done in writing and submitted to the TANF Program Director within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of the letter of notification. The appeal will be considered by the Program Director who shall issue a written decision within ten (10) working days.

A written notice will be given to the applicant.

A written decision shall consist of the following:

- A written statement of the issues covering the evidence relied upon and reasons for the decision.
- The applicant has the right to further appeal any dissatisfied decision in accordance with the procedures for appeals from administrative action to be determined by the CEO.
- Upon the determination of appeal which may be determined in favor of the applicant assistance would be reinstated to the date of termination or suspension.

Individuals may further appeal in writing to the CEO within ten (10) days of receiving the TANF Directors decision. The CEO shall provide a final determination and will notify the individual within ten (10) days of the final appeal process.

Displacement

In the event of Displacement, the TANF Director works directly with the Human Resource Director and all complaints will need to be filed with the employer. The appeal process is the same as the Tribes Appeal process.

Child Care

Parents need reliable childcare in order to maintain employment, seek employment, attend school, GED classes, or participate in TANF activities. This is an allowable supportive service expense for TANF parents. Childcare expense is allowable cost but only until the TANF client submits an application to the Tribe's Child Care program for childcare needs and is approved through the Tribal Daycare. TANF recipients can be approved at a reduced rate.

- "affordable" is considered childcare not above the State of Nebraska Child Care rates.
- "appropriate" is childcare facilities and homes approved and licensed by the Santee Sioux Tribe's CCDF Child Care program.
- "reasonable distance" is childcare within one hour commuting time of activity.
- "suitable informal care" is in home providers approved by the Tribes CCDF Child Care Program

Child Support

The Santee Sioux Nation does not employ a Child Support Enforcement Unit to adequately provide services, therefore has opted clients do not sign a letter of assignment, for child support at this time.

Any and all child support payments received through the State or voluntarily by the non-custodial parent will be counted as income.

Felons

An individual is ineligible for TANF during any period in which the individual is:

1. Fleeing to avoid prosecution or custody or confinement for a crime or attempt to commit a crime that is a felony under the law of the place from which the individual is fleeing.
2. In violation of federal or state probation or parole.
3. An individual who commits an offense which is classified as a drug related felony and is convicted under state or federal law for possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance is ineligible for TANF cash assistance for seven (7) years. Other family members may continue to receive TANF benefits. During such time if the ineligible individual is a parent, then his/her income shall be used in determining eligibility for the remaining family members.

Reporting Requirements

The Santee TANF program will meet all the financial and data reporting requirements of section 411 of the Social Security Act and the Tribal TANF regulations at 45 CFR 286.

Review and Comment on Tribal TANF Plan

The Santee Sioux Nation Tribal Council supports implementation of the Santee Sioux Nation Tribal TANF Plan authorized by the Tribal Council Resolution # 2023-20 which supports Continuation of implementation of the Santee Sioux Nation Tribal TANF Plan. A meeting was held with the Santee Sioux Tribal Council, comments and discussion were made and the Council approved the continuation of Tribal TANF Plan.

Communication with TANF clients is by phone or mail or in person.

The 45 days comment period began on June 1, 2026 through July 15, 2026. The TANF Director and HR (Human Resources) shall review and update the Tribal TANF Plan throughout the three-year plan period.

Fiscal Accountability

The Santee TANF Program will comply with the fiscal accountability provisions of section 5(d)(1) of the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.450c) (f)(1), relating to the submission of a single agency audit report by chapter 75 of Title 31, United States Code.

The Santee Sioux Tribe has an Accounting and Procedures Manual, which meets Federal requirements for fiscal control and accounting funds. Independent audits are completed yearly. Attached is a copy of Santee Sioux Nation financial management system.

The TANF Director will use the Tribal voucher system. A voucher will be submitted to the CEO for his signature, the signed voucher will then be turned into the finance office on designated day for checks to be processed. Tribal TANF benefit issuance will be once a month, on the 1st of every month.

The Santee Sioux Tribal TANF Administrative costs remain at 25%

Retrocession

If the Santee Sioux Nation should retrocede the operation of the TANF program, it will meet all the statutory and regulatory requirements pertaining to retrocession. The Santee Sioux Nation will provide comparable notification to the State of Nebraska.