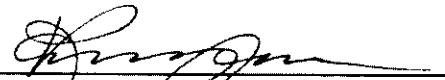


**RESOLUTION OF THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION**

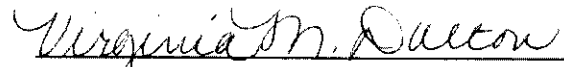
- WHEREAS**, the enactment of the Welfare Reform Act in August, 1996 has severe implications for tribal members and for some tribal programs; and
- WHEREAS**, the Welfare Reform Act enabled the State of Arizona waiver whereby recipients of cash welfare payments could receive benefits for only twenty-four consecutive months beginning November 1, 1995; and
- WHEREAS**, the Welfare Reform Act for the first time recognized that Indian Tribes and tribal recipients often face a different set of circumstances in moving people from welfare to work specifically permit tribes to assume the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program that replaces AFDC as the cash assistance program; and
- WHEREAS**, the process for the tribe to assume the program involves submission of a Plan to the US Department of Health and Human Services and to cooperate with the state in effecting a smooth transition from state to tribal control of the program; and
- WHEREAS**, approval of the tribal plan negates the impact of the state waiver on tribal recipients and development of a tribal plan allows the tribe to fashion its welfare program to more closely meet the needs of tribal welfare recipients; and
- WHEREAS**, one option available to the tribe that the State DES has indicated that they would work to put in effect is that the tribe can develop its own program, setting policies and broad program guidelines, and contract with the state DES to manage the program on a day-to-day basis which permits the 17 Whiteriver DES employees to remain employed in handling the program on a daily basis; and
- WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council wishes to state its finding as of this date concerning welfare reform and to provide policy guidance to tribal programs in preparing to deal with the impacts of welfare reform.
- BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the enclosed statement of Findings and Policy Guidelines by the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council, concerning TANF, incorporated by reference herein, are hereby adopted.

Resolution No. 09-97-290

The foregoing resolution was on September 10, 1997, duly adopted by a vote of nine for and zero against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by the White Mountain Apache Tribal Constitution, including Article IV, Sections 1 (a), (b), (i), (j) (k), (s), (t) and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe on September 30, 1993, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).



Chairman of the Tribal Council



Secretary of the Tribal Council

**WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBAL COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF FINDINGS AND POLICY GUIDELINES
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM**

Findings

The White Mountain Apache Tribal Council finds the following:

- a) changes in the welfare program are the result of federal action; ancillary actions by the state of Arizona will have the effect of accelerating the timing of the negative impacts of welfare reform
- b) while the Tribe had no part in enactment of the Act or developing the State TANF Plan, it has a responsibility to the tribal members who will be negatively affected by the implementation to seek ways to mitigate negative impacts
- c) the State of Arizona DES has been cooperative in working with tribes to supply information, data, and technical assistance in evaluating tribal options under the Act
- d) the State of Arizona Plan for adoption by the Legislature contains matching funds for Indian Tribes that assume the program, thus assuring that tribal recipients will continue to receive full benefits provided to non-Indians in Arizona
- e) implementation of the State of Arizona Plan on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation will create extreme hardships on tribal members and families presently receiving welfare cash assistance and these persons are those most frequently without other economics resources or employment to provide for the basic necessities of life
- f) the Act assumes that anyone who wants a job can find one to replace welfare payments. This assumption is clearly invalid on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation where jobs are extremely difficult to find
- g) the potential authorized in the Act for the Tribe to design its own program and to set its own timetables allows the Tribe to take a proactive approach to dealing with a set of social and economic problems thrust upon it by actions in Washington and Phoenix

Guidelines

The Tribal Welfare Reform Coordinator, working in conjunction with other tribal and federal agencies, is hereby authorized to develop a White Mountain Apache Tribal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Plan for submission to the Department of Health and Human Services after review by the Tribal Council. The guidelines for developing the WMAT TANF Plan are:

- 1) The WMAT TANF Plan should set its own timeframes for recipient participation that are to the maximum advantage of TANF recipients. Plan timing should be such that the tribal plan is effective prior to November 1, 1997.
- 2) To the extent feasible the Tribe's TANF program for the first year at least should be administered on a day to day basis by the State of Arizona DES under contract to the Tribe if an acceptable contract can be negotiated.

3) The TANF Plan must be fully coordinated with existing tribal programs, especially Child Care, JTPA, Social Services and other programs serving the same population on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, such as WIC, ACCHS, Food Stamps

4) The tribal TANF Plan should focus on how to fund public and/or community service jobs, creation of jobs in the private sector, volunteer jobs and similar approaches to meeting work requirements. Tribal government should not be considered a major source nor identified as responsible for jobs for welfare recipients.

5) Individual Development Accounts as allowed in the Act, whereby the recipient can create a savings account from earnings to be used for higher education, first home purchase, or business development should be considered as part of the tribal plan, ~~should be considered as part of the tribal TANF plan.~~