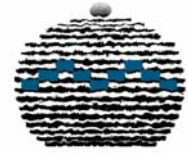


# NEWS Release

---



COOK INLET  
T R I B A L  
COUNCIL, INC.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**(July 22, 2005)**

**Contact: Amanda Rothbarth**

Public Relations Specialist

(907) 297-2566

(907) 952-6032 cell

arothbarth@citci.com

## **Cook Inlet Tribal Council Begins Providing Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**

**Anchorage, Alaska** – In July 2005, Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) implemented Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) for Alaska Native and American Indian families living within the Municipality of Anchorage making CITC the largest provider in Alaska and one of the largest in the nation, serving approximately 720 families.

CITC has been providing Welfare to Work (TANF) case management services as a vendor for the State of Alaska since 1997. During this tenure, CITC played a key role in the successful decline of families receiving State TANF benefits. Between 1994 and 2004, Anchorage experienced an increase in the Native population from 12,000 to approximately 46,000 yet Alaska Native and American Indian TANF participant roles decreased 62 percent.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) gave American Indian and Alaska Native Organizations the authority to design and operate their own TANF programs to promote activities that support self-sufficiency. CITC's Tribal TANF program will be enhanced by the already existing array of services offered by CITC including employment assistance, social services and substance abuse treatment. Tribal TANF services are currently being provided by Tanana Chiefs, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes and the Association of Village Council Presidents in their perspective regions.

CITC has worked very closely with the State of Alaska over the last year to ensure a smooth transition from participants receiving benefits from the State to receiving them from CITC. CITC will be using the State of Alaska eligibility management system interfaced with CITC's own IT and accounting infrastructure to determine eligibility, authorize cash assistance and record family self-sufficiency and



work participation activities. Families receiving TANF who are living in Anchorage will have their cases transferred to CITC over the next three months.

Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. is a nonprofit, Alaska Native social service agency with a mission to work in partnership with Our People to develop opportunities that fulfill Our endless potential.

# # #