

# Ute Family Services

Tribal Title IV-E:

Benefits and Challenges

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Presenters:

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# The Ute Tribe and Title IV-E

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- Development Grant awarded from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services-Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
  1. Two Year Grant-slightly less than \$300,000 total
  2. Currently in Year 4
  3. Plan Submitted-9/29/15
  4. Estimated Approval from ACF FY16

# Ute Family Services Background

- Ute Tribe
  1. Approximately 2,970 enrolled members
  2. Over ½ Live on or near Reservation
  3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest Reservation (in size) in U.S.-4.5 million acres
  4. Located approximately 150 miles southeast of Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Ute Family Services
  1. Currently 94 children in custody-116 Open Cases
  2. In FY15 CPS Investigated 96 allegations
  3. Staff Includes Director, 5 Social Workers, Registered Nurse, 2 CPS Workers, Intake Specialist, Attorney, Financial Officer, Eligibility Specialist, 3 Assistant Case Workers, LIHEAP Coordinator, Adult Protection Specialist, Mental Health Therapist and Administrative Assistant.

# Development Grant-Successes

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- Updated Juvenile Tribal Code
- Ute Family Services (UFS) has completed and implemented new Policy and Procedures Manual
- Over 60% of Ute Children are placed in Kinship Homes
- Ensure Tribal Sovereignty regarding Child Welfare

# Ute Tribe Title IV-E Goals

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- Develop program that would increase child welfare services and reduce burden on Tribal funds
- Improve Case Management Practices
- Develop Internal Controls to reduce child neglect and abuse
- Increase Preventative Services with dollars saved

# Development Grant-Challenges

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- Program is new to Tribes-only 7 Tribes in U.S. currently have Approved Title IV-E Plans, 14 Grants Approved and 5 Awaiting Final Approval
- Program requires significant amounts of dedicated time and resources to implement, operate and sustain
- Coordination between various tribal departments, especially Tribal Leadership

# State/Tribal MOU

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- Alternative to Operating Tribal Title IV-E Program
- Critical to either Tribally Operated Title IV-E Program or Coordinated Services through State Program

# Implementation

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- Tribal Title IV-E Programs require considerably use of staff resources.
- Reporting and Quality Assurance are critical to successful programs
- Continuity of staff or reinvestment in new staff training



# Implementation

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- Data Management System
- Client File Retention and Maintenance
- Cost Allocation Methodology

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# Questions???

## Contact Information

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