WELFARE ASSISTANCE

An Overview of the Financial Assistance & Social Services Report (FASSR), Request for Additional Funds, and Welfare Assistance Distribution Methodology

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Division of Human Services, OIS
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Learning Objectives & Agenda

- **Part I: Overview of Welfare Assistance**
  - Method of Delivery
  - Congressional Mandate & Statutory CAP

- **Part II: Overview of the Financial Assistance & Social Services Report (FASSR)**

- **Part III: 2015 Request for Additional Funds (RAF) Form**

- **Part IV: How the Welfare Assistance Distribution Methodology Works?**

- **Part V: Limitations of the Welfare Assistance Distribution Methodology**

- **Part VI: Way to Improve the Welfare Assistance Distribution Methodology**
PART I: Overview of Welfare Assistance - 25 CFR Part 20

UMBRELLA OF WELFARE ASSISTANCE

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

CHILD ASSISTANCE
Foster Care, Residential Care, Adoption Subsidy, Guardianship Subsidy, Special Needs, and Homemaker Services

ADULT CARE ASSISTANCE
Homemaker Services and Residential Care

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
Flood, Burnout, or other calamity $1,000 Limit

BURIAL ASSISTANCE
Provide burial services for Indigent AI/AN Burial rate of $2,500

One “pool” of funds

The Disaster Assistance program and the Tribal Work Experience Program (TWEP) are not authorized and remain unfunded at this time.
Overview:
WELFARE ASSISTANCE IS A SAFETY NET PROGRAM

- It is only used when comparable financial assistance or social services are either not available or not provided by state, tribal, county, local or other federal agencies.

- It is a secondary or residual resource, and **MUST NOT** be used to supplement or supplant other programs.

- It is subject to *annual appropriations* by Congress.

- The regulations for the administration of Financial Assistance and Social Services are found in 25 CFR Part §20.
Method of Delivery for Welfare Assistance

4 Ways in which Welfare Assistance programs are operated.

Services are provided:

A. Through a bureau-operated program under a BIA Agency
B. Through an Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) Title I Contract (638-Contract)
C. Through an ISDEAA Self Governance Funding Agreement (OSG) and/or,
D. Through an approved Public Law 102-477 plan – either under 638 Contract or Self-Governance Funding Agreement
Method of Delivery for Welfare Assistance

Tribes can have a combination of these 4-types of delivery methods for the different Welfare Assistance program components.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- Example A: Tribe A has a 638 Contract in place to operate Child Assistance and Burial Assistance, in addition to operating General Assistance under an approved P.L. 102-477 Plan.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- Impacts who the Tribe or BIA Agency submits their FASSR to and how the funding is distributed to the Tribe or BIA Agency.
  - Tribe A in the example would submit a FASSR to the BIA, Regional Office for all Welfare Assistance Programs except General Assistance and submit a FASSR, for General Assistance to the OIEED, Workforce Development Office.
## Historical Funding Levels

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</table>

There has been a gradual decrease in Welfare Assistance over the Funding Years.
Congressional Mandate & Statutory Cap

• The BIA must distribute Welfare Assistance funds in a manner that is **Fair & Equitable to all Tribes.**

• The BIA **cannot exceed the Statutory Cap** placed on Welfare Assistance, when distributing funds to tribes and BIA agencies.

• The Statutory Cap typically equals the total annual appropriation enacted by Congress for Welfare Assistance (Example: In 2015, the Statutory Cap is $74.8 million = $74,809,000)

• The Statutory Cap was enacted originally in Fiscal Year 1994 and has been in place each year thereafter.
How does the Congressional Mandate & Statutory Cap affect the Distribution of Funding?

- The BIA **must** implement a distribution methodology that is fair & equitable for the distribution of Welfare Assistance funds.

- The BIA cannot reprogram funds from other programs (i.e. Justice Services Programs or Trust Services programs) to address shortfalls in Welfare Assistance.

**EXCEPTION**
Congress has included annual appropriations language that allows Tribes to use their recurring Tribal Priority Allocations (TPA) to meet shortfalls:

*“of which not to exceed $74,809,000 shall be for welfare assistance payments...except that **federally recognized tribes**..., may use their tribal priority allocations...for unmet welfare assistance costs...”*
PART II: Overview of the Financial Assistance and Social Services Report (FASSR)

http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OIS/HumanServices/DAP/index.htm

The FASSR is the only report **ALL** tribes are required to submit to the BIA, Division of Human Services regarding the Welfare Assistance programs.

**Why do we use the FASSR?**

- History is our best predictor of future needs

- FASSR provides a consistent and standard process which then helps to ensure a more fair & equitable process in the distribution of funding

- **The data compiled is driven by the Tribe or BIA Agency** – you identify your NEED for your program which is the basis for funding - this process aligns more closely with Self-Determination
# Data Section of the FASSR

## 2014 BIA Financial Assistance and Social Services Report (FASSR) Form

### TRIBE/AGENCY

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRIBE/AGENCY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Foster Care</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Residential Care</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Adoption Subsidy</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Guardianship Subsidy</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Special Needs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Homemaker Services</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Adult Care Assistance</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Homemaker Services</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Residential Care (group home)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>General Assistance</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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### d38 Tribe/BIA Agency Program Certification (Only)

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### OSG or 477 Program Certification (Only)

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### AGENCY SUPERINTENDENT ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE (Certify)

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10.01.2014
## Narrative Section of the FASSR

**TYPE THE NAME OF THE TRIBE OR BIA AGENCY HERE**

**FY/CY 2014 – SECTION II. THE NARRATIVE**

**Instructions:** Complete the Narrative below by answering the following questions. Some questions are yes or no, others are fillable narrative form. Be as detailed as possible, as the Narrative is intended to tell the story of your program and the numbers you reported on the data portion of the report.

### Question #1: Does your Social Services Program respond to and investigate allegations of child abuse and neglect? [Please answer Yes or No]

**Answer: YES OR NO**

**Question #1a:** If you answered NO, to question #1, please briefly explain who is responsible for responding to and investigating allegations of abuse and neglect for your tribal community. For example, in states that fall under P.L. 103-280, the state is typically responsible for this.

**Answer:** Type Here.

### Question #2: Does your Tribal or BIA Social Services Program place Indian children in out-of-home care when needed? [Please answer Yes or No]

**Answer: YES OR NO**

**Question #2a:** If you answered NO, to question #2, please briefly explain who is responsible for placing Indian Children in out-of-home care when needed.

**Answer:** Type Here.

### Question #3: Does your Tribe operate its own Foster Care Program? [Please answer Yes or No]

**Answer:** Type Here.

### Question #4: (1-2 paragraphs) Briefly describe the community(ies) or tribe(s) that you provide services to (i.e., any information that you feel will help us understand more about your program, include the following information: Tribes served, counties served, location, climate, demographics, culture, economy, employment, housing, crime, abuse statistics).

**Answer:** Type Here.

### Question #5: What type of delivery method is your program? (Is your GA operated through an approved 477-plan? (477), do you have a ISDEAA Contract to operate the program under P.L. 93-638 (638), are you a BIA-operated program (BIA), or are you a Self-Governance Tribe (OSK), or a Combination of these? (For example, 618-477, your tribe has a 638 contract but operates General Assistance through a 477-plan.)

**Answer:** Insert Answer Here

### Question #6: Briefly describe your staffing. How many workers do you have under your program?

**Answer:** Type Here.

### Question #7: Briefly describe your staffing. What is the client-to-staff ratio per worker?

**Answer:** Type Here.
Financial Assistance and Social Services Report (FASSR)
How the FASSR is designed & what are the key components?

The FASSR has contains 2 Parts – the Data Section and Narrative Section. Each section collects different types of data on the program.

1). THE DATA SECTION:
   • Quantitative Data / Numerical Data
   • Financial Information including expenditures, allocations/ available funding, surplus or deficit data, and client data including the number of actual persons served.

2). THE NARRATIVE SECTION:
   • Qualitative Data / Descriptive data.
   • This is the section where YOU get to describe your program in-depth & provide the “STORY” to the numbers. The How, What, Where, When, and Whys.
Financial Assistance and Social Services Report

- These sections are separated in the Excel Spreadsheet from—see diagram below.
- **Design:** Both sections of the report—the DATA section and NARRATIVE section **must both be submitted** in order for the report to be considered “complete.” *Both sections are dependent upon the other.*
The Report is used to collect information on the Financial Assistance and Social Services program components.

- The Financial Assistance Program Components include, Child Assistance, Adult Care Assistance, General Assistance, Burial Assistance, and Emergency Assistance.
Data Portion

<table>
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<td><strong>FIRST QUARTER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Month-Month-Month)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actual Persons Served</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Data is collected by Quarter
- ACTUAL Data including ACTUAL persons served and the TOTAL ACTUAL expenditures.
- To determine Actual Persons Served, you count a person each month that he/she receives services.
  - Example: *If a Household of 5 is served for each month of a quarter, you would count that family of 5 three times, and report 15 Actual Persons Served for that Quarter.*
- All the information collected in this report is VERY important and must be as accurate as possible.

See Instructions on how to Complete the BIA, Financial Assistance and Social Services Report
Narrative Section

- There are a total of 9 Questions in the Narrative Section. Some questions are yes and no, and other are free-form narrative questions.

- THE Narrative Section of the FASSR tells the STORY of your PROGRAM- the more detailed the better!
Why is the FASSR important to Tribes & Agencies??

- The information **YOU** provide & certify in the FASSR is the basis for
  the Welfare Assistance Funding Distribution Methodology.
  - *You can project your Budget for each New Funding Year and if needed, request additional funds*

- The data is used calculate the level of funding your Tribe, Agency, or Program will receive during the current and next fiscal year.
  - *The more accurate & reliable your data is; the more fair & equitable the distribution will be nationwide.*

- The BIA has to demonstrate the importance of the Welfare Assistance program to other Federal Entities such as Congress, AS-IA/BIA Management, and OMB (those who control the funds).

- The BIA utilizes the information gathered in the FASSR to show the increasing need for Welfare Assistance across Indian Country.
How do incomplete FASSRs affect the clients we serve?

- No Report = No Funding = Shutdown of Services

- Without data/information no means to justify the Welfare Assistance program to decision makers thus future funding could be impacted – which we’ve seen historically.

- The BIA cannot make a fair & equitable distribution. This delays the distribution of funds- which directly impacts those served by the program.
  - Without funding Tribal and Agency programs may have to shut-down their program or stop taking applications.
  - The recipients are ultimately the ones most affected.
What is the Process for the Submission & Certification of the FASSRs?

**Tribe and BIA Agency**

- **Step 1**: Prepare Initial FASSR
- **Step 2**: Submit FASSR to Regional/OSG/477-Office

**Regional/OSG/477 Office**

- **DUE: April 13, 2015**
- 45-days from end of 2014 FY/CY

- **Step 3**: Review FASSR & Work with Tribe/Agency for Accuracy & Completeness
- **Step 4**: Submit FASSRs to Central Office, Division of Human Services

**Central Office, Division of Human Services**

- **DUE: May 28, 2015**
- 45-days from end of 2014 FY/CY

- **Step 5**: Review FASSRs by Region, Office, and Program- Work with Regions for Accuracy & Completeness
- **Step 6**: Transfer Data from FASSRs VERBATIM to Welfare Assistance Distribution Spreadsheet
- **Step 7**: Prepare Funding Document to Budget for the Distribution of Welfare Assistance

**Target Date for Final Distribution: June 5, 2015**
2015 Request for Additional Funds (RAF) Form

Due Date: No Later than May 1, 2015

- If a Tribe or Agency Projects that its current level of expenditures (need) for 2015 will be greater than 2014 expenditures report on the 2014 FASSR

- Submit RAF and supporting docs to BIA Regional office, OSG or OIEED-DWD. The BIA Regional office must analyze the information submitted by the tribe or BIA agency before submitting the RAF to OIS, DHS.

- The RAF is optional and must be submitted **before** the Final Distribution of Welfare Assistance.

- If approved, the Tribe’s Level of Need – Actual Need will be adjusted before the final distribution [Shortfall Adjustment]

- If approved, the Tribe is still subject to a prorata distribution, if applicable

  **Important**: A RAF does not guarantee a Tribe or BIA Agency’s level of need will be adjusted; however it will be considered on a case to case basis.
CURRENT METHODOLOGY (FY 2015)
Initial Distribution: Up to 75% - Data Based on 2013 FASSR & 2014 Available Funding

For the 1st distribution, at the beginning of Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, the BIA will use actual expenditures reported in the 2013 FASSR submitted by each tribe and BIA agency, adjusted for carryover, to calculate the 2015 estimated need for each tribe and BIA agency.


In a year when Congress enacts a full year appropriation by the start of the FY, October 1, the initial distribution of Welfare Assistance funds is intended to meet 75 percent of a tribe or BIA agency’s 2015 estimated need for that year.
The final distribution will use 2014 reported *actual expenditures* to adjust the 2015 estimated need to meet the actual need for 2015. The final distribution will be subject to shortfall and carryover adjustments and to fixed amounts for Tribal Redesign Plans for General Assistance consistent with 25 CFR §20.202 to §20.210.

For FY 2015, the final distribution will be made by the OIS, DHS to the BIA Regional offices, OSG and OIEED-DWD on or around Friday June 5, 2015.
Welfare Assistance Distribution Methodology: Importance of Annual Appropriations

- If the FY 2015 Appropriation Act by Congress caps the amount of Welfare Assistance funding that can be distributed and the national Welfare Assistance need, as determined by expenditures reported on the 2014 FASSRs, is greater than the capped Welfare Assistance amount, the OIS, DHS will conduct a prorata distribution based on the final calculated 2015 actual need for all tribal and BIA agencies operating Welfare Assistance programs.
- A prorata distribution will be conducted to ensure the distribution of funds remains within the available capped Welfare Assistance appropriation funding amount.
- Remember: Typically, Congress places a STATUTORY CAP in the Appropriations Language, on the amount of Welfare Assistance funds the BIA can distribute annually – the BIA cannot distribute funds to exceed the level appropriated. In 2014, Congress appropriated, $74.8 million. We will not know the Statutory Cap until FY 2015 appropriations are enacted by Congress.
Welfare Assistance Distribution Methodology

So... how does the Distribution Methodology really work based on the FASSR??

**Diagram:**
Columns P, Q, & R in the FASSR →

As stated, earlier, the amounts reported in column P, Q, and R are very important!!

**Column P:** This is the basis for the level of funding a Tribe/Agency will receive. The Total Amount identified in Column, is what the BIA uses to set as a Tribe/Agency’s ESTIMATED/ACTUAL NEED.

**Column Q:** The amount identified should include both what the Tribe/Agency was allocated in the funding year AND all carryover from previous funding years. This is considered what the Tribe/Agency had “AVAILABLE” for use during the funding year.

**Column R:** The amount reported in column R identifies the difference between column Q & column P- carryover you have going into the next fiscal year or the shortfall in Welfare Assistance the Tribe/Agency experienced.
Part IV
The Numbers:
How the Welfare Assistance Distribution Methodology Actually Works?
1st Distribution of Welfare Assistance
• BIA must calculate an Estimated Need for every Tribe and BIA Agency each new funding year.
• The BIA distributes up to 75% of this amount at the beginning of each year.

A Tribe or BIA Agency’s 2015 Estimated Need is defined as:
• Reported Actual 2013 Expenditures – Column P on 2013 FASSR
• Adjusted for Carryover and,
• Adjusted for Fixed Amounts for Tribal Redesign Plans for General Assistance
A Tribe or BIA Agency’s 2015 Estimated Need is defined as:
• Reported **Actual 2013 Expenditures** – Column P on 2013 FASSR
• Adjusted for **Carryover** and,
• Adjusted for **Fixed Amounts for Tribal Redesign Plans** for General Assistance

BIA calculates how much each Tribe and BIA Agency has “Available” at the end of 2014. It is the sum of the Tribe or BIA Agency’s:
1). 2013 carryover into 2014 as reported on 2013 FASSR, Column R and
2) Actual 2014 Allocation of Welfare Assistance Funds distributed by the BIA

Thus, the BIA knows how much funding each Tribe and BIA Agency has “available” to spend in the 2014 operating year and each programs projected carryover into 2015.
Calculating 2015 Estimated Need:

- Column D: Identify the percentage of need met in FY/CY 2014
- Column E: Depending on the percentage identified in Column D one of three things will happen:
  1. Need between 0% - 100% - 2015 Estimated Need will equal the 2013 Reported Expenditures
  2. 101% - 200% - adjust the 2015 Estimated Need to account for carryover
  3. 201% - Over – 2015 Estimated Need will equal zero
- Column F: Calculate Estimated Need to adjust for carryover
### 2015 Estimated Need

- **Column G**: Based on the calculations – BIA sets the Tribes 2015 Estimated need
- **Column H**: the Initial Distribution of Welfare Assistance Funding is made. It provides 75% of the 2015 Estimated Need

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Tribe</th>
<th>2013 Reported Expenditures (Column P, 13FASSR) or 14'RAF</th>
<th>2014 WAG Distribution (FY/CY 2014)</th>
<th>% of Need Met in FY/CY 2014</th>
<th>Level of Estimated Need for 2015</th>
<th>2015 Estimated Need [(B*2)-C]</th>
<th>2015 Estimated Need</th>
<th>75% of Estimated Need (.75*C)</th>
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<td>$180,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>13 Reported Expenditures</td>
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<td>$180,000</td>
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<td>Tribe B</td>
<td>$180,000</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>111%</td>
<td>More than 100% of 2014 Need</td>
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<td>Tribe D</td>
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<td>$380,000</td>
<td>211%</td>
<td>More than 100% of 2014 Need</td>
<td>$(20,000)</td>
<td>$-</td>
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</table>
Final Distribution of 2015 Welfare Assistance

Per the Methodology:

1. The final distribution will use **2014 reported actual expenditures** to adjust the 2015 estimated need to meet the actual need for 2015.
2. The final distribution is subject to **shortfall and carryover adjustments** and to fixed amounts for Tribal Redesign plans.
What does this mean?

1. **The final distribution will use 2014 reported actual expenditures to adjust the 2015 estimated need to meet the actual need for 2015.**
   - 2014 certified FASS and use the 2014 Expenditures (Column P on 14’FASSR) to adjust the level of need.
   - 2015 Request for Additional Funds (RAF), if applicable (case by case basis)

2. **The final distribution is subject to shortfall and carryover adjustments and to fixed amounts for Tribal Redesign plans.**
   - Shortfall: 2015 Request for Additional Funds (RAF), if applicable
   - Carryover: 2014 Carryover into 2015 (Column R on 14’FASSR)

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### Table

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<th>I</th>
<th>J</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>Q</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2014 Expenditures (Column P, 14FASSR)</strong></td>
<td><strong>2014 Carryover into 2015 (Column R, 14FASSR)</strong></td>
<td><strong>15' Request for Additional (RAF)</strong></td>
<td><strong>2015 Actual Need</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total Available before Final Distribution (H+I)</strong></td>
<td><strong>% of Need Met before Final Distribution [M/L]</strong></td>
<td><em><em>Difference to Meet 96.5%, Final Distribution [([L</em>.965]-M)]</em>*</td>
<td><strong>Total Available FY/CY 2015 [M+O]</strong></td>
<td><strong>% of Need Met [P/L]</strong></td>
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<td>155,000</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>57,300</td>
<td>212,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>73,000</td>
<td>193,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>190,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>190,000</td>
<td>190,000</td>
<td>135,000</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>48,350</td>
<td>183,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>180,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>180,000</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>193,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2015 Actual Need
- BIA will set the new Actual Need for 2015 based on the 2014 FASSR or 2015 RAF, if applicable

Column M: Total Available before Final Distribution
The final distribution is subject to shortfall and carryover adjustments and to fixed amounts for Tribal Redesign plans.
- Carryover: 2014 Carryover into 2015 (Column R on 14’FASSR)

Column M: Sum of the Year-to-date 2015 Allocations (75%) + Carryover (as reported on the 2014 FASSR)
% of Need Met before Final Distribution
• BIA will then calculate % of Need Met before Final Distribution
  • Total Available/ 2015 Actual Need

The final distribution will then conduct a prorata distribution to distribute remaining 2015 Welfare Assistance Appropriations.

What does this mean – each Tribe will receive the same % of funding, based on total available appropriations.  *This ensure we align with Statutory Cap*
PART V
Limitations of the Welfare Assistance Distribution Methodology

- The Statutory CAP limits the amount of funds the BIA can distribute and the amount of funds the BIA can re-program annually from other sources
- “NEED” changes from year to year; and using prior year data for the basis of funding creates ISSUES
- “NEED” is impacted by use of TPA & Tribal Funds just now being identified
- The Methodology is only as good as the DATA submitted on the FASSR
PART VI
Ways to Improve the Welfare Assistance Distribution Methodology

- Ensuring data submitted on the FASSR is accurate & reliable;
  - Timely submission of reports;
  - Communication: if you are experiencing a SHORTFALL & can foresee it based on current 2015 rates of expenditures & increases in caseloads; let the Regional Office; OSG-Office; or 477-Office know- they need to communicate it to DC, Central Office and the Tribe MUST submit a RAF
ANY QUESTIONS???
Resources: Authorizing Legislations for the Welfare Assistance Program

- 1921 The Snyder Act (P.L. 67-85)
- 1975 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (the Act), *Pub. L. 93-638*
- 1994 Amendment to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, *P.L. 103-413*.