§ 63.32 Under what authority are Indian child protection and family violence prevention program funds awarded?

The Secretary is authorized to enter into contracts with Indian tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal consortia pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, as amended, 25 U.S.C. 450 et seq., for the development and establishment of Indian child protection and family violence prevention programs. This includes compacting with tribes under the Self-Governance program procedures.

§ 63.33 What must an application for Indian child protection and family violence prevention program funds include?

In addition to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, as amended, 25 U.S.C. 450 et seq., contracting requirements, each application must provide the following information:

(a) The name and address of the agency or official to be responsible for the investigation of reported cases of child abuse and child neglect, the treatment and prevention of incidents of family violence, and the provision of immediate shelter and related assistance for victims of family violence and their dependents;

(b) Projected service population of the program;

(c) Projected service area of the program; and

(d) Projected number of cases per month.

§ 63.34 How are Indian child protection and family violence prevention program funds distributed?

(a) Funds will be distributed, subject to the availability of appropriations, and:

(1) In any fiscal year that the appropriation exceeds 50 percent of the level of funding authorized for this purpose by the Act, 49 percent must be distributed equally to all tribes and tribal organizations and 49 percent must be distributed on a per capita basis according to the population of children residing in the service area. Two percent of the annual appropriation will be set aside for distribution to tribes demonstrating special circumstances.

(2) In any fiscal year that the appropriation does not exceed 50 percent of the level of funding authorized for this purpose by the Act, funding must be distributed in equal amounts to all tribes. Two percent of the annual appropriation will be set aside for distribution to tribes demonstrating special circumstances.

(3) Special circumstances include but are not limited to a high incidence of child sexual abuse, a high incidence of violent crimes, crimes against women, or the existence of a significant victim population within the community.

(i) This 2 percent will be subject to discretionary distribution by the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, or his or her designee. Tribes may request these funds through their respective area offices. All requests must demonstrate a high incidence of child sexual abuse, a high incidence of violent crimes, crimes against women, or the existence of a significant victim population within the community.

(ii) Special circumstances funds will remain available through the third quarter of each fiscal year. In the fourth quarter, unallocated special circumstances funds will be redistributed as set forth in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section, except that there will be no additional set aside for special circumstances.

(b) Any tribe not wishing to receive Indian child protection and family violence prevention funds must inform its respective area office in writing within 90 days after receiving notice of the allocation from the area office. Each area office may reallocate unused Indian child protection and family violence prevention program funds as provided in this section.

(c) Funds may be used as matching shares for other federally funded programs which contribute to and promote prevention of child abuse, child neglect, and family violence on Indian reservations, but may not be used to supplant funds available for the same general purposes.
(d) Any income resulting from the operation of Indian child protection and family violence prevention programs may be retained and used to promote prevention of child abuse, child neglect, and family violence on Indian reservations.

§ 63.35 How may Indian child protection and family violence prevention program funds be used?

Indian child protection and family violence prevention program funds may be used to:

(a) Establish child protective services programs.

(b) Establish family violence prevention and treatment programs.

(c) Develop and implement multidisciplinary child abuse investigation and prosecution programs.

(d) Provide immediate shelter and related assistance to victims of family violence and their dependents, including construction or renovation of facilities to establish family violence shelters.

(e) Purchase equipment to assist in the investigation of cases of child abuse and child neglect.

(f) Develop protocols and intergovernmental or interagency agreements among tribal, Federal, state law enforcement, courts of competent jurisdiction, and related agencies to ensure investigations of child abuse cases to minimize the trauma to the child victim, to define and specify each party’s responsibilities, and to provide for the coordination of services to victims and their families.

(g) Develop child protection codes and regulations that provide for the care and protection of children and families on Indian reservations.

(h) Establish community education programs for tribal members and school children on issues of family violence, child abuse, and child neglect.

(i) Establish training programs for child protective services, law enforcement, judicial, medical, education, and related services personnel in the investigation, prevention, protection, and treatment of child abuse, child neglect, and family violence.

(j) Establish other innovative and culturally relevant programs and projects that show promise of successfully preventing and treating family violence, child abuse, and child neglect.

§ 63.36 What are the special requirements for Indian child protection and family violence prevention programs?

(a) Each tribe must develop appropriate standards of service, including caseload standards and staffing requirements. The following caseload standards and staffing requirements are comparable to those recommended by the Child Welfare League of America, and are included to assist tribes in developing standards for Indian child protection and family violence prevention programs:

(1) Caseworkers providing services to abused and neglected children and their families have a caseload of 20 active ongoing cases and five active investigations per caseworker.

(2) Caseworkers providing services to strengthen and preserve families with children have a caseload of 20 families. If intensive family-centered crisis services are provided, a caseload of 10 families per caseworker is recommended.

(3) It is recommended that there be one supervisor for every six caseworkers.

(b) The negotiation and award of contracts, grants, or funding agreements under these regulations must include the following requirements:

(1) Performance of background investigations to ensure that only those individuals who meet the standards of character contained in §63.12 are employed in positions which involve regular contact with or control over Indian children.

(2) Submission of an annual report to the contracting officer’s representative which details program activities, number of children and families served, and the number of child abuse, child neglect, and family violence reports received.

(3) Assurance that the identity of any person making a report of child abuse or child neglect will not be disclosed without the consent of the individual and that all reports and records collected under these regulations are confidential and to be disclosed only as provided by Federal or tribal law.