

TRIBAL EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE

2026-2028 Cohort

WHAT IS TELI?

Tribal early childhood programs, including child care, Head Start, and home visiting, often operate in silos, with different funding sources, requirements, policies, and leadership structures. TELI is an opportunity for Tribal early childhood partners to develop stronger community led early childhood systems.

A TELI project in a Tribal community is designed to:

- Better coordinate Tribal early learning and development programs, including child care, Head Start, preschool, home visiting, and other services.
- Create and support seamless, high-quality early childhood systems.
- Raise the quality of services to children and families across the prenatal-to-kindergarten-entry continuum.
- Identify and break down barriers to collaboration and systems improvement.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The current cohort of TELI, which started in early 2022, will end in December 2025. In addition to providing universal technical assistance to 41 TELI Network Tribes, ACF has been partnering with 8 TELI Collaborative Tribes to provide intensive support to assist them in planning and carrying out their priorities to improve efficiencies and be more responsive to the needs of young Native children and their families.

The TELI Collaborative Tribes have focused on braiding funding to provide full-day full-year early childhood services, improving customer experience in accessing services through coordinated intake systems, data sharing across programs to reduce burden for families, systematically integrating Native language and culture into programming across the community, coordinating training for early childhood staff across programs, and more. The new TELI cohort will run from January 2026 to December 2028 and will emphasize food security and nutrition.



HOW TO APPLY

CCDF Tribal Lead Agencies can apply to be part of the **TELI Network** by indicating interest in Appendix 2 of their FY 2026-2028 Tribal CCDF Plan via the CARS platform.

Tribes that would like to participate in a new cohort of the **TELI Collaborative** can learn more and view the Statement of Interest on the TELI website. For more information or questions you might have about TELI contact tribalecd@acf.hhs.gov.

ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Early Childhood Development

