

## **The Native Employment Works (NEW) Program**

**Authority:** The NEW program is authorized by section 412(a)(2) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

**Regulations:** The federal regulations for the NEW program are found at 45 CFR Part 287. NEW programs also are subject to 45 CFR Part 92 and OMB Circulars A-87 and A-133.

**Eligibility for funding:** By law, only federally-recognized Indian tribes and Alaska Native organizations that operated a Tribal Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training (JOBS) program in FY 1995 are eligible for NEW program funding.

**Number of grantees:** There currently are 79 NEW program grantees.

**Funding:** By law, NEW grant awards are set at FY 1994 Tribal JOBS funding levels. Annual NEW grant amounts range from \$5,187 to \$1,752,666. Total annual NEW funding is \$7,633,287.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the NEW program is to make work activities available to grantees' designated service populations and service areas.

**Allowable work activities** include (but are not limited to):

- Educational activities, including post-secondary and alternative education;
- Training and job readiness activities, including job skills training, job readiness training, on-the-job training, entrepreneurial training, and management training;
- Employment activities, including job search, job development and placement, community work experience, community service programs, traditional subsistence activities, and subsidized and unsubsidized public and private sector work experience and employment.

**Allowable supportive and job retention services** include: transportation; child care; items such as uniforms, clothing, tools, and eyeglasses that are needed for employment; medical services; counseling; and other work and family sufficiency related services that enable clients to participate in the program.

**Allowable activities** also include labor/job market assessments, job creation, and economic development leading to job creation.

**Persons served:** Each year, flexible NEW programs serve more than 10,000 clients.

NEW replaced the Tribal JOBS program. Differences between NEW and Tribal JOBS include: NEW grantees have more flexibility in program design and operations; select their service population and area; determine plan format, work activities, supportive services, and program outcomes; and are not required to serve welfare clients. NEW grantees must carry out their programs in accordance with their approved NEW plans and with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. NEW programs work with other programs, helping grantees bridge service gaps and provide coordinated services to their clients.