**Bureau of Indian Affairs FY2020 Greenbook**

**Subactivity -Welfare Assistance (TPA) (FY 2020: $74,734,000; FTE: 0):**

**Program Overview:**

The Welfare Assistance program offers five types of direct assistance: General Assistance, Child

Assistance, Non-Medical Institutional or Custodial Care of Adults, Burial Assistance, and Emergency

Assistance. The program provides financial assistance to (American Indian/Alaska Native) AI/AN who

do not qualify for the HHS TANF program or have exceeded the lifetime limit for other Federal services,

including TANF. It is BIA’s position that Welfare Assistance programs are a secondary resource.

Therefore, otherwise eligible AI/AN are assessed, screened, and referred to other public assistance

programs through which they might receive direct financial assistance, such as: Foster Care Placement,

Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance, medical assistance, and

State-operated general assistance programs. In total, approximately 90 compacted tribes and 161

contracted tribes have joined with 47 BIA agency offices to deliver direct social services to individual

AI/AN through the Welfare Assistance program.

In FY 2020, the DHS will develop a tribal and BIA working group to begin analyzing the activities and

costs associated with tribal and BIA Child Welfare activities including the child assistance program.

Child Assistance is categorized under the umbrella of Welfare Assistance. However, Child Assistance is

very different in intent and whom it serves than the General Assistance, Adult Care Assistance, Burial

Assistance and Emergency Assistance program. Child Assistance is intended to pay for the costs for

children who are placed in out-of-home care due to allegations of abuse and/or neglect. Adequate

funding is necessary for tribes and BIA to meet the costs of out-of-home placement for Indian children

IA-HS-5 under their care and supervision. The workgroup will be tasked to develop recommendations for the BIA and the Tribal Interior Budget Committee (TIBC) on how best Child Assistance funding should be distributed and managed by the BIA.