



September 16, 2026

Dear Tribal Leader:

The U.S. Department of Labor (Department) invites you to participate in virtual Tribal Consultations on Thursday, October 1, 2026, 3pm – 5pm EDT and Friday, October 2, 2026 11am – 1pm EDT. The purpose of these consultations is to receive input from Federally-recognized Tribes as the Department drafts a proposed rule which will determine which services provided by programs administered by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) are a “Federal public benefit,” as defined in Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA). The Department plans to share the same information at both consultations.

Background

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act provides that only U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, and “qualified aliens” (as that term is defined in 8 U.S.C. 1641) are eligible for any “Federal public benefit,” with certain narrow exceptions. PRWORA defines the term “Federal public benefit,” in relevant part, as “any retirement, welfare, health, disability, public or assisted housing, postsecondary education, food assistance, unemployment benefit, or any other similar benefit for which payments or assistance are provided to an individual, household, or family eligibility unit by an agency of the United States or by appropriated funds of the United States.” PRWORA also provides that the limits on Federal public benefits do not apply to members of Federally-recognized Tribes. PRWORA requires that Federal agencies post information and provide general notification to the public and program recipients about which of its programs and services are “Federal public benefits” under PRWORA. The Department intends to issue a proposed rule that will define which services provided by ETA programs are considered “Federal public benefits” under PRWORA.

While the proposed rule will only define federal public benefits and will not prescribe in regulation how grantees conduct eligibility processes, determining what constitutes a federal public benefit will impact how grantees and other service providers must verify whether a participant is eligible for federal public benefits. The Department is holding Tribal consultation in order to explore, before the rule is proposed, any requirement’s implications for Federally-recognized Tribes that are ETA grantees and service providers, especially when serving individuals who are not members of Federally-recognized Tribes. Accordingly, this Tribal consultation is an opportunity for Tribal leaders to provide direct feedback on processes for determining program eligibility under title I of WIOA and the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

Consultation Information

The Tribal Consultation meetings will take place virtually on Thursday, October 1, 2026, at 3PM EDT and Friday, October 2, 2026, at 11AM EDT. These meetings are only open to leaders of

Federally-recognized Tribal Nations and their proxies. The meetings are not open to the press or members of the public.

The meetings will be held virtually on the WebEx as a webinar. WebEx is a publicly accessible, online technical assistance platform.

10/1 meeting information

Webex link: <https://usdol.webex.com/usdol/j.php?MTID=m9daf9ad315ef28b438833d7e7c31075a>

VoIP or dial 877-465-7975

Access code: 2838 711 7727

Meeting password: Welcome!24

10/2 meeting information

Webex link: <https://usdol.webex.com/usdol/j.php?MTID=ma37d91a36c3433a849a7a98347110c16>

VoIP or dial 877-465-7975

Access code: 2834 065 1560

Meeting password: Welcome!24

Questions regarding the Tribal Consultations or reasonable accommodations may be submitted by email to: TribalConsultation@dol.gov. Please use the heading “ETA FORMAL TRIBAL CONSULTATION 2026” in the subject line.

In addition to providing input during the Consultations, Tribes can also submit comments for the Department’s consideration by emailing TribalConsultation@dol.gov.

We look forward to your participation and receiving your feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marek Laco', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marek Laco
Acting Assistant Secretary