

FY 2018 Directory of Funded Programs:  
Organizational Profiles and Project Summaries  
Tribal Court Improvement Program  
HHS-2018-ACF-ACYF-CS-1348  
Administration for Children and Families - Administration on Children,  
Youth & Families - Children's Bureau

## Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

**Award Number:**

90CS2030

**Project Title:**

Building and Strengthening the  
Saint Regis Mohawk Family Court

**Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe**

412 State Route 37  
Hogansburg, NY 13655

**Project Director (PD) and  
Principal Contact:**

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**Project Period:**

60 Months

**Federal Program Officer  
(FPO)/Specialist:**

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**Target Population:****Geographic Area(s) Served:****Agency Region:**

ACF Region 2

**Organizational Description**

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) is a federally recognized Indian Tribe that functions as an autonomous and sovereign nation. SRMT's reservation lands were established by the Seven Nations of Canada Treaty of 1796. This treaty was later ratified by the U.S. Senate (7 Statute 55). The Mohawk territory, also known by its Mohawk name as Akwesasne is bisected by the international border between the countries of Canada and the United States. It is located in rural northern New York State and in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The northern portion of Akwesasne is governed by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA), while the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council governs the SRMT in the southern or U.S. portion. The SRMT Tribal Council and MCA work collaboratively on issues including land claims, policing, and justice issues.

**Use of Program Funds**

The Tribal Court will address three objectives throughout this project: (1) address a recommendation of a 2015 court assessment and develop a Family Court by developing and implementing the necessary codes and add the additional staff needed at the Court and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Division of Social Services; (2) ensuring that the safety, permanency, and well-being needs of children are met in a timely and complete manner by using the new Family Code to exercise jurisdiction over child welfare cases and assisting DSS with the hiring of a case work for their ICWA program; and (3) improve the quality of court hearings and legal representation through training to increase substantive and procedural justice.

**Expected Outcomes**

(1) Create a Family Court Development and implementation Plan that will guide us in the development and implementation of a Family Court; (2) Draft and enact a Family Court Code; (3) trainings for tribal court judges, clerks and the Chief Judge; (4) Reduction in the time spent in foster-care through more frequent Family Court hearings that are based on Healing to Wellness; (5) the transfer of ICWA cases from family courts; and (6) improvement in the identification of Indian children and notification of Indian Nations.