

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

Award Number:

90CS2034

Project Title:

Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Tribal
Court Improvement Program

Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

39015 172nd Avenue, S.E.
Auburn, WA 98092

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

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Project Period:

48 Months

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

David Kelly

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Target Population:

2,876 enrolled members of the
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, as well as
certain non-members or members
of other tribes

Geographic Area(s) Served:

The Muckleshoot Indian
Reservation in King County,
Washington

Agency Region:

ACF Region 10

Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

Organizational Description

MIT is a federally recognized tribe whose membership is made up of descendants from the Duwamish and Upper Puyallup people who inhabited Central Puget Sound for thousands of years before non-Native settlement. MIT was established in 1857. In 1937, MIT formally reorganized its government by adopting a constitution approved by the Secretary of the Interior under the Indian Reorganization Act. The Muckleshoot constitution provides that the tribe is governed by a Muckleshoot Tribal Council of nine elected members.

Use of Program Funds

Proposed Services: create a peer parent mentoring and support program; grow the Guardian Ad Litem advocate system pilot program and measure its effectiveness; research and contract to provide trained mediators and facilitators to the Court and MCFS; develop resources for assisting placement; extend resources for representation services to dependents ages 12-21; establish a second contract in order to provide legal counsel for parents each needing their own attorney; create an educational video for families navigating the dependency process; continue training for implementation of the new MCFS database system; create curriculum and deliver training on best practices for handling dependency cases for MCFS staff; hold night court sessions once a month; increase security and safety systems in the courtroom and court building; complete Court Strategic Plan for the next 10 years; develop Natural Forms for prosecutor's case management orders; increase communication and strengthen system to facilitate transfers ICWA cases from State Court; create Tribally specific Standard Operating Procedures for MCFS; enhance effectiveness and efficiency of processing and delivering court orders; continue to assess existing systems and process to increase efficiency and determine what additional services and/or changes are needed., reassess current needs assessment with MIT's Analytical Coordination Team to refine and redistribute assessment to generate additional respondents.

Expected Outcomes

The Muckleshoot Indian Tribal Court Improvement Plan will build upon previous improvement efforts to increase efficiency, support and services to Tribal families and children in a holistic and coordinated manner with MCFS.