

Children's Aid Society of Brant



FUNDING OF A CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY
UNDER THE CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES ACT

Presented to

Social Services Committee

of

Six Nations Band Council

by

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INTRODUCTION

I have been asked by your Chairperson to present to your Committee an outline of the manner in which a Children's Aid Society is funded under the Child & Family Services Act.

I trust the the following outline will provide you with sufficient background to enable you to pursue any questions you may have.

FUNDING OF A CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY UNDER THE CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES ACT

The Child & Family Services Act, Section 8, provides the Minister with the power to approve an Agency to provide services under the Act. That approval is forthcoming where the Minister is satisfied that an Agency is, with financial assistance under Part I of the regulations, financially capable of establishing, maintaining, and operating a service, and that its affairs are carried on under competent management in good faith.

Upon approval as an Agency to provide a service, the Minister may give the Agency financial and other assistance in accordance with the regulations. This funding is then subject to whatever terms or conditions as imposed by the Minister.

An Agency approved by the Minister must file a certified copy of its By-Laws, and any amendments to them, with the Minister. Section 15 of the Child & Family Services Act deals with the designation of an approved Agency as a Children's Aid Society for a specified jurisdiction and for any or all of the functions set out.

The functions subject to designation are outlined in Section 15, Subsection 3. They include:

- "(a) investigate allegations or evidence that children who are under the age of sixteen years or are in the society's care or under its supervision may be in need of protection;**
- (b) protect, where necessary, children who are under the age of sixteen years or are in the society's care or under its supervision;**

- (c) provide guidance, counselling and other services to families for protecting children or for the prevention of circumstances requiring the protection of children;
- (d) provide care for children assigned or committed to its care under this Act;
- (e) supervise children assigned to its supervision under this Act;
- (f) place children for adoption under Part VII; and
- (g) perform any other duties given to it by this or any other Act."

Part X of the Child & Family Services Act is entitled **Indian and Native Child and Family Services**. Section 193 of the Act enables the Minister to make agreements with Bands and Native Communities, and any other parties whom the Bands or Native Communities choose to involve, for the provision of services.

Section 194, enables the Minister to designate a Band, Native Community, or body, as an Indian or Native Child and Family Service Authority. Subsection 2 of Section 194 then enables the Minister to designate the Child and Family Service Authority as a Children's Aid Society.

SERVICE PLANNING

The levels of funding are developed through the service planning process. A Service Plan is an annual contract with the Ministry of Community and Social Services for the provision of services under the functions of a Children's Aid Society. The services are costed across a budget and a base allocation is made. The Service Plan is reported upon a quarterly basis, including a statistical and financial statement. An Annual Programme Expenditure Report supported by an independent auditor is also provided to the Minister.

SUPERVISION

For the purposes of monitoring service standards and expenditures, the Minister, through area offices, appoints Programme Supervisors

with legislative authority under Part 5 of the Child & Family Services Act.

CONTRACTS

An approved Agency may also enter into contracts for services with the Minister that are outside the Child Welfare base allocation. These contracts may be for the purpose of offering any services under the Child & Family Services Act including services to developmentally handicapped, children's treatment services, children's mental health services, etc. The terms of these service contracts are specific and the utilization of the funds are specifically contracted.

The Society has had two such contracts for specific Native service development -- the HOME Programme, and presently, a contract for 2.5 additional staff to expand our foster care services and develop an Intake and Adoption Service.

COST SHARING

All CAS base budget allocations are cost shared between the province and the local municipalities on an 80%/20% formula. Costs for services to Natives are the responsibility of the Province. Costs are computed in two ways:

1. **Days Care** - These are the costs incurred by the Society when a child is assigned a bed in the care of the Society. This bed may be in foster care or group care or an institutional setting.
2. **Non-Residential Services** - Services to Natives not in the Society's care are computed on the basic time units. In other words, the time spent serving Native clients is logged and used to calculate the costs. This same procedure is utilized to calculate non-residential service costs for the Municipalities.

I trust that the above outlines the structures for finding Children's Aid Societies.

Roy A. Walsh,
Executive Director

May 27th, 1987