

General Assistance program helps recipients overcome barriers

Submitted and written by
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Background
When the General Assistance (GA) program was initiated by the BIA in Warm Springs October 1,

Regular GA Program
Welfare rolls increase; unemployment rate remains high; greater reliance on non-Indian work force; requires large programs to provide services



Self-Sufficiency Program
Welfare rolls decrease; unemployment drops; more jobs held by tribal members; self-reliant and healthy



1989, no one knew what the effect would be in our community. Within three years, the number served increased to an average monthly caseload of 361 and yearly expenditures of \$744,815. The program was effective in processing applications to get people on welfare but was not equally effective in assisting recipients to get off welfare. In the summer of 1992, a joint effort between the Community Work Project, Tribal Social Services and BIA Social Services, GA recipients were referred to these work projects and GA expenditures and the number of persons receiving welfare started to level off. Also that year, an analysis of the GA caseload was done to determine why people were on GA.

There is a public perception that welfare recipients want to be on welfare. There is also a perception that they get a big monthly check that kills any incentive to work. Neither of these perceptions were confirmed by a survey done in November 1992. At that time, 35 percent of all current GA recipients responded to a questionnaire about these issues. Ninety-eight percent stated they did not want to be on welfare and only did so when they had no other options. They further indicated they would be willing to participate in a program of 20 hours or more per week that would help them get work and get off welfare. The maximum GA grant for a single person is \$310 per month if that person pays for rent or house payments and \$217 per month if they do not. The GA grant is a subsistence grant to meet only the basic needs.

The research on welfare indicates that while there are certain individuals who attempt to exploit the welfare system, most are people caught up in a system and can not find a way to escape the trap of dependency created by the system. This is particularly true of the GA program operated by the BIA. The GA program does a good job of getting applicants approved for a grant but does little else to help them become self-reliant. If the recipient can't do it on their own, the likelihood is they are destined to remain on welfare for an indefinite period of time. However, to assist those on welfare with two or more barriers to becoming self-sufficient requires an investment upfront. Which makes more sense, a

monthly investment of \$300+ that will likely go on indefinitely, or to invest the necessary resources to help those welfare recipients become self-reliance but who, without this assistance, will not likely escape the trap?

Self-Sufficiency
Self-sufficiency is defined as being able to depend on one's own resources, while this is a noble objective, it is not completely possible for an individual to be completely self-sufficient. As human beings, we can't do all things so it's necessary to rely on others but our objective is to be as independent as we can be. This enhances a positive image of ourselves, increases self-esteem and makes us feel good about ourselves.

Self-Sufficiency Program
A. Charter
Vision—That every person above the age of 18 becomes as independent and self-reliant as possible.

Mission—To help people get off welfare and go to work.

Provide a system of services and resources that assist recipients to remove barriers to self-sufficiency so that 30 recipients on welfare find employment by December 31, 1995.

Reduce GA caseload by June 30, 1996.

B. Program
The Self-Sufficiency program for welfare recipients was approved as a demonstration project September 1, 1994. The first month was devoted to locating program space, recruiting and training staff and implementing program linkages. The first Life Skills course started October 1994, and since that time, five courses have been completed. The course requires

participants to attend a variety of activities for a minimum of 20 hours per week. In addition to receiving their GA grant, they would receive an incentive of \$26 per week if they had no unexcused absences for that week. In addition, if they completed the full four-week course, they received a \$55 stipend. One of the requirements is that each participant would prepare a self-sufficiency plan that other participants and staff thought was realistic and made sense. Each of the participants would continue to receive the monthly stipend of \$55 plus their regular GA grant as long as they were actively pursuing their plan, whether it be obtaining their GED, placed in a voluntary work assignment or in some other barrier removal activity.

C. Program Statistics
The proposed goals and actual outcome for the first six months are:

The Self-Sufficiency program has exceeded the goals established because of the hard work by participants and the support and cooperation of other programs and services. Notably, these are employees from Vocational Rehabilitation, General Assistance, COIC, COCC, Extension, Work Experience and Development, Adult and Family Services, Community Health Promotion, Public Health Education and others.

The Self-Sufficiency staff have identified three major barriers affecting participants' positive outcomes. They are:

- ☐ Alcohol and Drug Issues
- ☐ Lack of access to reliable transportation
- ☐ Lack of access to safe and

permanent shelter

The alcohol and drug issues for most participants seem to be tied to their lifestyle and is something that gets a lot of attention in the Life Skills Course, and for many, becomes an integral part of their Self-Sufficiency Plan. This seems to be an issue they can deal with on a personal level. However, the two other major hurdles facing most of them in the effort to become self-sufficient is lack of transportation and housing. Neither of these can be solved individually but will require governmental and community assistance. Nothing is more discouraging when you've finally gotten a job but can not consistently get there because of no ride.

Self-Sufficiency staff, participants and other program staff with which we work all believe the project has already demonstrated the capability to help welfare recipients get off welfare and go to work. We also believe that even greater benefits and outcomes are possible with the de-

velopment of a transit system and low cost transitional housing.

In summary, the analysis showed General Assistance recipients fell into three major groups.

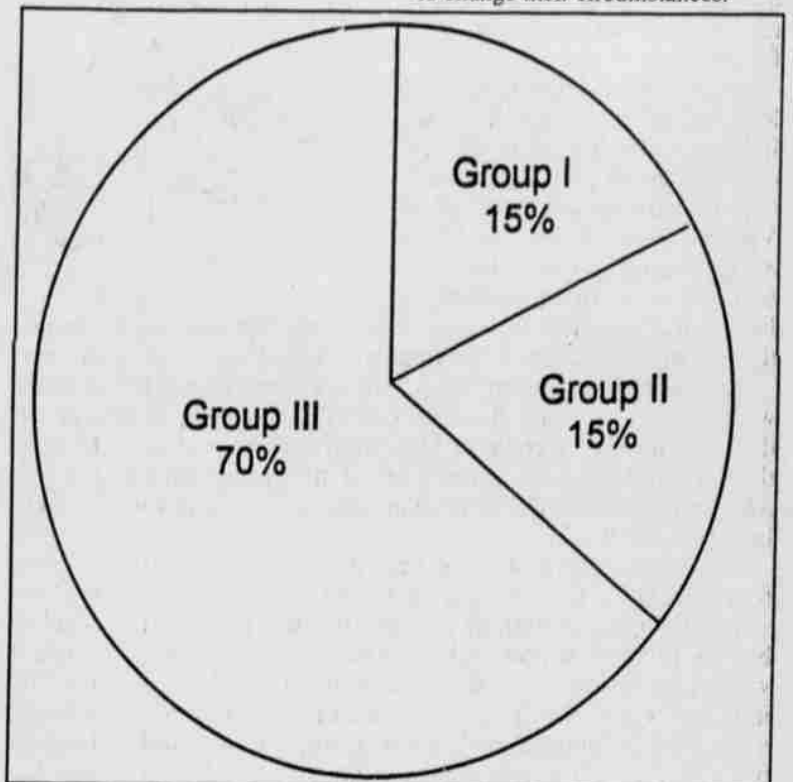
Group I—Good work skills and proven work experience. Will be on General Assistance one to three months.

Group II—Disabled but not yet approved for Social Security or SSI benefits. This group would be on General Assistance for several months.

Group III—Able to work but has two or more of the following barriers:

- Lack of education; Limited work experience; No transportation; No permanent living arrangement; Low self-esteem; Alcohol and drug issues; Legal problems; or Family disenfranchisement

This group is more likely to remain on General Assistance indefinitely and has the potential to be multi-generational if nothing is done to change their circumstances.



Proposed	Six-Month Objective	Actual Outcome
30	Number of participants served	51
20	Number of participants completing program and receiving awards	42
	Number of participants actively working on Self-Sufficiency Plan	17
5	Number of participants obtaining employment	12
	Number of participants still working	10

Fish tagging successful

The Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery staff would like to announce the successful completion of the annual fish tagging and marking project.

To give credit where credit is due, we want to especially thank the people who tagged and marked the 315,000 fish. Their work exceeded all past performances, with excellent quality marks and tag retention. The fish handling mortality was very low which demonstrates a crew that cares. The following people made the dif-

ference:

Bryan Beers, Joseph Boise, Sabrina Boyd, Clarisse Crane, Manny Jim, Ramond Jim, Pat Miller, Elfreda Mitchell, Mike Paddletry, Karen Patteeuw, Rachel Reinholz, Tammy Robinson, Angel Ruiz, Nancy Sooksoit, Iris Smith, Georgina Suppah and Lei Lani J. Tias.

The following poem, "A Marker's Musings", written by Clarisse Crane, reflects the feelings and dedication of a marker.

A Marker's Musings

Chinook fingerling salmon that have to be clipped and tagged, We are the workers that do it, trained—at times, nagged. But we are helping the environment, trying to do our best. Yes, we spend long hours with sameness, to equal or pass the test.

These darling little fishes that didn't ask to be volunteers, are at our mercy and, of our work, are our very mirrors. They are lively, drugged, and awoken once more, with wire in their heads, mutilated—far from shore.

So, what do we workers think about and what do we say? We get raucous, sometimes mellow, but we work hard for our pay. We love our music, we love our breaks, and love our perfection. And, if we get quiet, it's because of corrective interjection.

But these poor little fishes that live with their confusion, can never understand in their mystical delusion. That they are part of a whole network of determination. That they are a fish tagger's ultimate consideration. The workers stand, knowing about the circumstance.

Our navigator steering harshly, a sincere cause to advance. So, we do our work, helping generations, knowing in a time forward, That we made a difference for now, our future lives to guard.

Warm Springs Elementary news

Calendar Updates

- May 24-Early dismissal/no Kindergarten. Building Inservice
- May 29-No school/Memorial Day
- May 31-Awards Assembly/K-2 @ 8:50 a.m. & Gr. 3-5 @ 9:30 a.m.
- June 7-4th & 5th grade graduation @ 9 a.m. in the gym
- June 7-DARE graduation @ 1 p.m. in the gym
- June 8-End of Year Powwow
- June 9-Last Day of School. No Kindergarten. Early dismissal Grades 1-5.
- End of Year Awards Assembly/K-2 @ 8:50 a.m. & Gr. 3-5 @ 9:30 a.m.
- June 12, 13, 14-Building Inservice

3 Mile Fun Run Scheduled

On May 24th, at 9 a.m. the students who qualified for the 3 mile fun run will be bussed down Shitike Creek Road and will run back to the school. Please come join the students for the run. Help from parents and community members is always welcome!

Local Artist Teach During "Arts In Education" Week

During the week of May 2-5, students at Warm Springs Elementary participated in classes taught by local community members/artists. We would like to thank the people who made special time to teach their craft to the students. We would also like to thank the people who provided the funding which make this project possible.

Sponsors: Warm Springs Johnson O'Malley Committee, Central Oregon Arts in Education and Pauline Shelk & family.

Teachers: Dream Catchers: Archie Caldera, Alice Stewart; Loomwork: Kimiko Mitchell, Tonya Mitchell & Danni Katchia; Shawl Fringing: Delia Walsey-Crume; Tule Mats: Larry Dick & Edna Gonzales; Artistry: Patrick Red Dog; Yarn Bags: Lois Smith; Chain Beading/Beading: Patricia Allen; Drumming: Ricky Arthur and Adam Rubio.

Lost & Found

There are a lot of lost and found coats, shirts, etc., that have been bagged and stored. The hall was getting pretty full of unclaimed clothing. Keep an eye out for the signs announcing the collection day for lost and found clothing, or stop by the school if you want to look for missing articles.

Breakfast & Lunch money

All meal charges need to be paid by the last day of school. Chele and Judy will be making calls to parents letting them know when students are charging, or getting close to running out of money for meals. If you are unsure of whether your students have enough breakfast and/or lunch money to finish the year, please contact the office. We'll be glad to help. Please note that if your child has lunch money credit at the end of the year, it will be carried over to the next school year.

Please return Library books

Please, please return library books to the library to avoid having to pay for them. If you cannot locate books, please come to the office to pay for them. If the books are located later and are in good condition, you may receive a refund.

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—Pickup for sale—

1989 Ford 4x4
Supercab XLT 3/4-ton
Auto transmission
AM/FM Cassette—Loaded!
Comes with canopy and convertible bed insert
Call 553-1783 for more information

Happy ?? Birthday
"Mom"
(Phyllis Tohet)
June 11
I love you very much, so please take care of yourself.
Love your daughter,
Harvianne Tohet

Thinking of you

To my Beloved son Leslie Ray Robinson
I just thought I would write a short letter to you to let you know how much I care and love and miss you. And let you know you are thought of each and every day. And that you are very special to me. I sit in my room at OWCC and look at the pictures your Gramsy sent to me and wonder what my little Sugar Daddy is doing today and every day. I love and miss you very much.

Love your mom,
Rhonda Olivia Robinson

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Bob Peiper in Bend at
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Open Monday through
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Don't contaminate sacred grounds

To the editor,
Our elders of the past had negotiated with the US Government. To be allowed in what is Warm Springs and areas around the reservation. For substance fish, pick berries, dig roots. To live.

I've appealed to the minister of the Full Gospel Church to clean up the accumulated debris at that location. To be alluded to him "this land is sacred, there is roots here."

The Full Gospel Church have not honored my request.
Now, I am appealing to the people of Warm Springs to not throw away their beer bottles, trash, beer cans away on this Sacred Ground. The people not from here need to know we, the Warm Springs, Wasco have our Sacred Customs: Dig roots.

I'll appeal to the Tribal Council to have the State of Oregon to keep our Sacred Ground clean. Our elders did

not negotiate to have our Sacred Ground contaminated.

Very Truly Yours,
Martinez Eugene Charles
PO Box 945
Warm Springs, OR 97761

Cascade Foot clinic moves

Ambrose K. Su, D. P. M. and Patrick J. Evoy, D. P. M., are happy to announce the merger of their practices.

The location of their Bend office is Cascade Foot Clinic 2408 NE Division, Suite #100 Bend, OR 97701. Phones are 503-388-2361 and 503-382-7521. They will continue to practice at their satellite offices in Redmond, Madras, Prineville and John Day.



Corey Clements and Joel Coronado were united in marriage, Wasco-style, during ceremonies May 14.