

**A Resolution of the Inter-Tribal Council of the
Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma**

No. 95-04

Opposition to Block Granting Food Assistance Programs

- WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes is an organization which united the tribal governments of the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee (Creek), Seminole and Cherokee Nations, representing over 300,000 tribal members throughout the United States; and
- WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council recognizes that the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) serves as an adjunct to good health care during critical times of growth and development; and
- WHEREAS, the “Personal Responsibility Act” HR-4 and “The Welfare and Medicaid Responsibility Exchange Act of 1995” S-140 seek to consolidate WIC, Food Distribution, Food Stamps, School lunch, Elderly feeding and other food assistance programs into block grants awarded to states; and this act would reduce the federal budget for food assistance by \$30 billion over five years; and
- WHEREAS, this action jeopardizes the full funding initiative of the WIC Program, and potentially eliminates the Nutrition Quality Controls and Nutrition Standards for WIC and advances made in nutrition education in the Food Distribution Program; and
- WHEREAS, the creation of such a block grant could result in food assistance programs vying for limited funding; and
- WHEREAS, the WIC program through more than seventy evaluation studies, has demonstrated improved health for its participants in reducing childhood anemia, infant mortality, premature birth, low birth weight, and other problems related to nutrition in pregnant women, breastfeeding women, and infants and children under the age of five. The WIC Medicaid Study show that for every \$1 invested in preventive care provided through WIC, \$3 is saved in health care costs;
- NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes opposes legislation that block grants food assistance programs including WIC and supports the “Friends of WIC” letter (Attachment I).

Adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting at the Arrowhead Resort, Canadian, OK on this **13th** day of **January, 1995** by a vote of **24** for, **0** against, **0** abstentions.

(Signed by Mary Flute-Cooksey for)
Wilma P. Mankiller, Chief
The Cherokee Nation

(Signed by Governor Anoatubby)
Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

(Signed by Chief Haney)
Jerry Haney, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

(Signed by Gregory E. Pyle for)
Hollis Roberts, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

(Signed by Chief Fife)
Bill S. Fife, Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation