

# Nez Perce Tribe's *Child Support Enforcement Program*

## *Earned Income Tax Credit*

**If you have any questions  
or need additional information,  
please contact us  
at (208)843-7362**

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**I**mportant message from the IRS. If you qualify, you could get more back from the IRS when you file your taxes. If you earn less than \$48,362 and you have a:

- Child, brother, sister, grandchild, niece, nephew, stepchild, or adopted child living with you

**OR**

If you earn less than \$18,470 and you:

- Have no children
- Are at least age 25 and under 65

You may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit and get a bigger tax refund, even if you did not have any tax withheld or you are not required to file a federal income tax return. However, you must file to claim and get the Earned Income Tax Credit.

To learn more about EITC and what you need to do to get it, go to [www.irs.gov/eitc](http://www.irs.gov/eitc)

**JANUARY 27, 2012 IS NATIONAL EITC AWARENESS DAY**

## *In His Own Words*

### *Introducing the New CSEP Case Worker*

*By: Tom Williamson*

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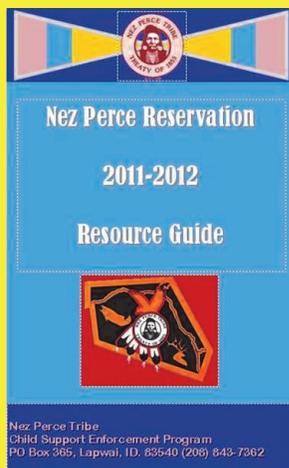
**H**ello. For those who don't know me, my name is Tom Williamson. My parents are Skip and Pat Williamson of Lapwai. I am a 1995 graduate of Lapwai High School. After High School, I did a 2 year stint in the Salmon Corps. It was a great learning experience and I made many friends both here in Lapwai as well as the various reservations surrounding ours. I then began my career as "Teacher Tom" at the ECDP Head Start Program. This was by far the most fun and also toughest job I ever assumed. I loved working with the children. I love the way children just straight up tell you exactly how they feel and what they think and want. I also worked at Nez Perce

Tribal Fisheries in Orofino for a couple years monitoring and evaluating the salmon runs. This was fun and also very educational. It helped me have a way better respect for the salmon and steelhead and the amazing journey they make to keep their life cycle going.

*Continued from page 1*

## *Tom Williamson, New Case Worker*

I grew up hunting and fishing with my grandpa and father, as well as all my uncles who really are like second fathers to me. Not to forget my aunts who are, in my opinion, the backbone of our family. Many years ago, it was one of the aunts, the Late Alfreda Fritz Watters, who encouraged me and my bros to start our own drum group after she noticed we were listening to powwow music a lot. So we took her advice and 12 years later we are still singing for the people and loving it. Now, most of us are fathers and teaching our young boys the way of the drum. Some of the drum group members don't have children and are assuming the ever so important role as uncle. I really believe the old saying, "it takes a village to raise a child" because I think the more uncles, aunts, grandpas and grandmas you have, the better your chances are in life. These values I believe in led me to want to assume my newest position as a Child Support Enforcement Program caseworker. I am also a client of this program with plenty of experience trying to navigate and understand the child support system. I hope to be a valuable resource as a caseworker to both parents or guardians involved by stressing communication and being readily available to assist and answer questions. I am looking forward to this new challenge and hope I can benefit my Nii-mi-pu people. Thank you.



## *Nez Perce Reservation Resource Guide*

The Nez Perce Reservation Resource Guides are now available for the community. It entails emergency contact information, employment and training, financial assistance, food/nutrition assistance, housing assistance, legal assistance, lodging, medical, tribal services, parenting, social services and support groups, transportation, utility assistance and youth services. For a copy of the Resource Guide, call the CSEP office at 208-843-7362 or email [janicee@nezperce.org](mailto:janicee@nezperce.org) and we will be sure to send one to you.

## *Grant Submittal Update*

On July 28, 2011, the "Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood" grant was submitted to the Administration for Children and Families OFA program announcement HHS-2011-ACF-OFA-FK-0194. The proposal addressed the need for services on responsible parenting, healthy relationships and economic stability for families. The grant received strong reviews by evaluators. However, CSEP received a notice by the granting agency dated September 30, 2011 that we were not considered for funding. There will be continued effort in finding funding to support outreach efforts on behalf of CSEP.

Thank you to Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority, NiMiiPuu Behavior Health, TANF, Women's Outreach Program, Adult and Higher Education Programs, Early Childhood Development Program (Headstart), and NPT Community Centers who were all willing to partner with the "Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood" proposal in accomplishing the project goals and objectives.



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NPT-Child Support Enforcement  
Program

## *Highlights for FY 2011*

**F**or fiscal year 2011, the Child Support Enforcement Program has increased its caseload from 170 open cases to 342 open cases and 99 closed cases. A 83% increase from 2009.

### **Goals Reached**

Paternity Establishment. Of the 124 new cases received by referral or application, four did not have paternity established. This represents 4% of our caseload. Of these three paternities have been established and one is pending.

Support Order Established. In approximately 90% of all open cases, an order has already been established. For the 124 new applications, 114 have support orders established; seven are pending court action and three are closed.

Amount of Current Support Collected. The Program has produced a significant increase in current support collected through a collaborative effort involving parent outreach, mediation, court hearings, voluntary income withholding and wage garnishments. In 2009, we collected \$3,696 for six months. In FY 2010 we collected \$47,375 in current support. In FY 2011, we collected \$105,767. Of all current support due for the fiscal year, we are at a collection rate of 38%.

Amount of Past Due Support to be Collected. The majority of cases of the Program are for past due support for debts ranging from \$50 to over \$97,000 per case. We saw a significant gain in capturing arrear payments overall for both tribal only and state issued IV-D cases. In 2009, we collected \$18,874 and in FY 2010 we collected \$54,084 and in FY 2011 we collected \$78,171; of this \$14,962 were for tribal only past due support amounts.

### *Child Support Office in Kamiah*



CSEP is ready to serve child support clients in Kamiah Idaho. The office is located 104 Main Street Kamiah, (208) 843-2253 Ext. 4725. Days and time of the week will be determined soon.

### *Can CSEP clients apply with other Title IV-D agencies?*

A few clients have asked if they could apply to other Title IV-D agencies or are they required to use our program if they reside on the Nez Perce Reservation. The answer is YES, clients may apply to other IV-D agencies and request closure of their case with CSEP. However, any court order entered on their behalf, whether and IWO or Child Support Order, will remain valid and in effect until they petition the court to terminate the order.

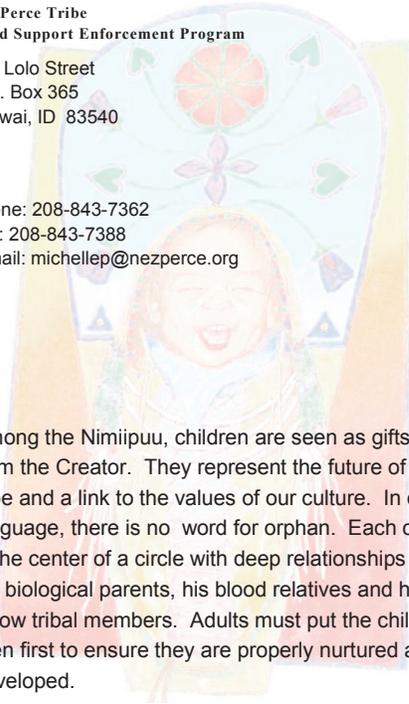
Clients are always welcome to use services that are not tied to a Title IV-D agency such as a private attorney or Idaho Legal Aid.

Nez Perce Tribe  
Child Support Enforcement Program

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Among the Nimiiipuu, children are seen as gifts from the Creator. They represent the future of the tribe and a link to the values of our culture. In our language, there is no word for orphan. Each child is the center of a circle with deep relationships to his biological parents, his blood relatives and his fellow tribal members. Adults must put the children first to ensure they are properly nurtured and developed.



## WELCOME HOME VETERANS!

