

Local Tribe Earns \$1 Million Grant

(KNZA)--More than \$1 million in grant funds are received by the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, earmarked to support the Kickapoo Child and Family Programs initiative over the next three years, and join the network of children and youth programs that currently support the families in the community.

That word is delivered in a press release issued by the Kickapoo Tribe, which explains that the grant comes from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, through the Center for Mental Health Services' Circles of Care Program.

Kickapoo Tribal Secretary Carla Ramirez says the initiative "will focus on building staffing, infrastructure, and internal supports for a system of care that brings existing programs and departments together under a focused and holistic vision." She adds that goals of the program, funded through the grant, "include strengthening a system of supports for children and families; improving availability and accessibility of behavioral health and wellness programs in the Kickapoo community; and building strong connections to promote Kickapoo culture and tradition."

Tribal Chairman Lester Randall says the Circles of Care grant program will allow the tribe to build upon, and strengthen, the support system for families in the area.

Grant funds are awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration through a competitive application and review process, with a growing effort to provide assistance to American Indian and Alaska Native communities across the country.

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