

TRIBAL COURT—STATE COURT FORUM

An Advisory Committee of the Judicial Council of California

Forum E-Update

November 2023

TRIBAL COURT—STATE
COURT FORUM

An Advisory Committee of the
Judicial Council of California

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FORUM NEWS

Forum Cochair Abby Abinanti featured in ABA Presidential Speaker Series: [Deb Haaland and Native American Women “Firsts”](#).

Native American Heritage Month program featuring Deb Haaland, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, and a panel of other Native American women “firsts” including Abby Abinanti (Yurok), Chief Judge, Yurok Tribe and First Native American Woman to pass the California Bar Exam; Kimberly TeeHe (Cherokee), first Delegate-designate to the U.S. House of Representatives the Cherokee Nation; Stacy Leeds (Cherokee), Willard H. Pedrick Dean and Regents Professor of Law, Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, and Native American woman to serve as a law school dean; and Valerie Nurr’araluk Davidson (Yup’ik), President/CEO of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium; interviewed by Makalika Naholowa’a, Executive Director, Native Hawaiian Legal Corp. and President, National Native American Bar Association (and first Native Hawaiian in this role).

[Judge Abby Abinanti: Culture is how we heal from generations of violence](#) (opinion)

Orange County Register – November 13, 2023

Californians are living amid a crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women – with at least 40% of deaths being connected to domestic violence intimate partner violence. November is Native American Heritage Month so everyone should reflect on the impacts of domestic violence on our communities and what we can do to better support people experiencing violence. Within Native communities, it’s important that when we talk about domestic violence, it is not divorced from the generations of violence we have experienced. As Chief Justice of the Yurok Tribe, I know how serious the problem is.

IN THE NEWS

[“We are not heard” Indigenous women look for answers in high missing persons rate](#) (Includes video)

Idaho Reports - October 27, 2023

In the state of Idaho, Indigenous people go missing at nearly twice the rate of other people. That number comes from a 2021 report out of Boise State University that also found that on average in Idaho, officials add 81.6 Indigenous missing persons entries into the National Crime Information Center, or NCIC, each year.

The Judicial Council’s Tribal Court–State Court Forum produces this newsletter to provide news and resources of interest to state court-tribal court collaborators. The views expressed are those of the authors and may not represent the views of the forum members, the Judicial Council of California, or the funders.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

COURT OPERATIONS & PROGRAMS

DIVISION

CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN & THE COURTS

455 Golden Gate Avenue

San Francisco, California 94102

[Navajo Nation expedites membership verification for Indian Child Welfare Act](#)

KNAU - October 31, 2023

The Navajo Nation has developed a streamlined process to determine whether a Native child who may be adopted is actually Navajo. The Indian Child Welfare Act was passed in 1978 to establish basic requirements to protect Native American children from removal from their homes and communities. If a child is determined to be a tribal member, the ICWA then triggers legal protections and the right of the Navajo Nation to intervene. However, the process to verify tribal membership can take several months. Tribal officials say this new agreement will significantly shorten the time to determine membership by improving coordination and the sharing of records between Navajo Nation divisions and the offices that work with children in custody, adoption or foster cases.

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Tribal/State Programs Link:
<http://www.courts.ca.gov/programs-tribal>

[The Not Invisible Commission gives recommendations to better address missing and murdered Indigenous People](#)

KTVH News – November 2, 2023

The Not Invisible Commission has given its recommendations to better address missing and murdered Indigenous People. Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland in delivering the Commission’s recommendations said crimes against Indigenous peoples have long been underfunded and ignored.

[Pilot program expands tribal criminal jurisdiction in domestic violence cases](#)

Cordova Times – November 2, 2023

A pilot program launched by the Justice Department under the 2022 Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) will allow Alaska Native Tribes criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian offenders for certain crimes, include sexual and domestic violence.

[Legal profession needs to support Native American female lawyers, new ABA report shows](#)

ABA Journal – November 2, 2023

Native American female lawyers often feel isolated and exhausted, and they have endured pervasive bias and harassment, according to a new report published by the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession and the National Native American Bar Association on Thursday.

[A new online tool to track missing and murdered indigenous people in Colorado](#)

KOAA News 5 – November 2, 2023

The Colorado Department of Public Safety has created a new online tool to help share information about indigenous persons who go missing or are murdered. The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Dashboard shows when each incident happened, where it happened, what jurisdiction it falls under, the status of the case, and resources for people to contact.

FORUM LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Visit forum’s home page

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/3065.htm>

These programs are supported with funds from the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice that are administered through the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Court Improvement Program, and the California Department of Social Services.

[Born of History: A Tulalip Youth's Journey to Indigenize Child Welfare](#)

Imprint - November 02, 2023

This three-part Imprint series explores a young person's journey through a tribal foster care system and into a life of advocacy -- as well as the challenges a family and the Tulalip Tribes confronted. Born of History was reported over the past 10 months. It includes a four-day trip in March to the Tulalip reservation, and dozens of in-depth conversations with Andres "Dre" Thornock by phone and videoconference. It also includes a review of thousands of pages of court files and interviews with multiple members of Tulalip Tribes, Thornock's kin, attorneys, tribal officials, judges, social workers and academics.

Part 1 of 3: [Born of History](#)

Part 2 of 3: [Reconnection and Reconciliation, Seeking a Way Back](#)

Part 3 of 3: [From Pain to Politicking](#)

[Local control, better recognition of tribal police could solve more MMIP cases](#)

Northwest Public Broadcasting

November 3, 2023

More than 17 million acres in what is now Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana make up the historic homeland of the Nez Perce Tribe. A nomadic people, they traveled through the seasons, hunting buffalo in the Great Plains and salmon fishing in Northwest rivers. They call themselves the Nimiipuu, which means "The People." The Nez Perce Tribe is headquartered in Lapwai, Idaho. Today they function as their own sovereign nation within the United States, with their own healthcare system, police force and tribal court.

[Tlingit and Haida opens Washington state office](#)

KTOO - November 03, 2023

Alaska's largest federally recognized tribe is opening a new office in Lynnwood, Washington. More than 8,200 tribal citizens live in the Washington area, according to the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. President Chalyee Éesh Richard Peterson said it's the tribe's latest step in establishing a presence in all of its communities. "I've always said we're going to meet our citizens where they're at, so it's kind of that promise kept," he said. The office's 20 staff will provide tribal court services, enrollment, case management in child welfare cases and other services. The new office also has a large classroom where Tlingit and Haida's education staff can host language, arts and cultural programs.

[Survivors say trauma from abusive Native American boarding schools stretches across generations](#)

Seattle Times – November 4, 2023

Decades after the last Native American boarding schools stopped receiving federal money, the traumas inflicted by the abusive institutions are getting belated attention through a series of listening sessions hosted by federal officials across the U.S.

[New DOJ, Colorado River tribes partnership set to ease jurisdiction issues in assault cases](#)

KJZZ – November 5, 2023

The Department of Justice is partnering with the Colorado River Indian Tribes, known as CRIT, for a new project that looks to address domestic violence cases. The project, which uses an \$830,000 grant from DOJ's Office of Violence Against Women, aims to help prosecute domestic violence and sexual assaults that take place on tribal land. Those cases are often hampered by jurisdictional issues between state, tribal and federal governments.

[Not Invisible Act Commission issues recommendations to feds for combating MMIP crisis](#)

Navajo-Hopi Observer – November 7, 2023

A federal commission on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) is calling for a partnership with tribal communities to address the ongoing crisis. The Not Invisible Act Commission (NIAC) Nov. 1 submitted recommendations to the federal government on steps that need to be taken to address the MMIP epidemic.

[The Lost Children: An Argus Leader/South Dakota Searchlight investigation into ICWA in SD](#) (Includes video)

Argus Leader – November 9, 2023

The Indian Child Welfare Act passed in 1978. ICWA mandates the best interest of the child be prioritized. That includes keeping the child near the family and culture and prioritizing family reunification. The goal of the legislation was to stabilize Native families and keep their children at home across the country. Yet, history is

repeating itself in South Dakota. Forty-five years after ICWA passed, South Dakota has one of the highest rates of Native American child removals in the United States.

[Honoring California's Native American Judges](#)

California Courts Newsroom – November 9, 2023

This November, California courts and the Judicial Council of California join the nation in recognizing National Native American Heritage Month.

- According to the most recent U.S. Census data, California is home to more people of American Indian/Alaska Native heritage than any other state.
- Currently 109 federally recognized Indian tribes in California and several non-federally recognized tribes petitioned for federal recognition through the Bureau of Indian Affairs [Office of Federal Recognition](#).
- California has 27 tribal courts, serving approximately 40 tribes.
- The Judicial Council provides staff to the [Tribal Court-State Court Forum](#), as well as education and technical assistance on the Indian Child Welfare Act, violence prevention, and tribal justice systems.

[Report: Urgent action needed on missing and murdered Indigenous people, human trafficking](#)

Cherokee Phoenix - November 13, 2023

The Nov. 1 report, "Not One More: Findings and Recommendations of the Not Invisible Act Commission," reflects the complexity of the issues of missing and murdered Indigenous people and human trafficking. The report was generated by a 37-member commission made up of representatives of law enforcement, tribal leaders, federal partners, service providers, and family members of missing and murdered individuals and survivors. Throughout the report are quotes from testimony at seven in-person field hearings and one national virtual hearing, and data from Congressional and executive branch reports and earlier commissions. The report emphasizes that solutions exist. In fact, it outlines more than 300 specific recommendations.

[Staffing and funding problems leave tribal child welfare offices scrambling](#) (May require subscription)

Argus Leader/South Dakota Searchlight - November 14, 2023

Christian Blackbird isn't sure how many children fell through the cracks. He'd been at the Crow Creek Indian Child Welfare Act Office for more than a year with a staff of two under his management. But before he started in January 2022, the director's chair he now sits in was vacant on and off for years, leaving children separated from their families without a lifeline to their tribes. Part of Blackbird's job is picking up the phone when the state calls to ask if children removed from their parents are tribal citizens. If no one's there to take the call, the child cannot be placed with kin and could be placed hours away from their home. There are nine tribal ICWA directors in South Dakota. Their mission: exhaust all options to place a child with relatives or a Native foster family to keep them in contact with their culture and their community, which is required by the federal 1978 ICWA law. Only when all efforts are exhausted can a Native child be placed with a non-Native family.

[Cultural connection for Native foster children in South Dakota is lacking, foster parents say](#)

Argus Leader/South Dakota Searchlight - November 16, 2023

Jennifer Johnson wondered if her boys hated her. She and her husband fostered and adopted the three brothers -- all under 3 years old -- in the early 2000s. They tested their family's limits, anticipating that it'd break apart and they'd be sent somewhere else -- just like before. "It's very damaging," Johnson said, explaining children in foster care often develop attachment disorders, which can later turn into anxiety and behavioral issues. "You have situations where kids go into foster care and they're torn away from parents and homes they're attached to. That's traumatic, and they don't understand it." Shortly after adopting the boys, the Johnsons moved to Kansas City, hundreds of miles from the Pine Ridge reservation in western South Dakota, where the brothers are enrolled tribal members. Johnson and her husband are white, and their sons barely know their biological relatives. The instability of the boys' early childhood still affects their lives as adults, though they are happy and doing well, Johnson said. They fear change and find it hard to adjust to unfamiliar surroundings, like college or a new job. They've struggled with their identity, just as other children who've been through the foster and adoptive system do. This is the eighth piece in a six-installment series about Native American children in South Dakota's foster care system, produced in partnership between the Argus Leader and South Dakota Searchlight. The Lost Children is a joint investigation by South Dakota Searchlight and the Argus Leader exploring the causes, effects and potential solutions to the decades-long overrepresentation of Native American children in South Dakota's foster care system: <https://southdakotasearchlight.com/tag/the-lost-children/>

[What's being done to address the high number of Native children in foster care in SD](#)

Argus Leader and South Dakota Searchlight - November 17, 2023

South Dakota government officials, tribal leaders, tribal child welfare coordinators, foster families and legislators agree: The overrepresentation of Native American children in the foster care system is a problem. Indigenous

children made up nearly 74% of foster children in the state by mid-2023 -- five times the actual representation of Native American children in South Dakota's population. One in five Native American children in South Dakota are placed into foster care before they turn 18. Those statistics are symptoms of larger issues, and the removal of children from their familial connections can lead to a cycle: their future children are at a higher risk of ending up in the foster system. The 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act was supposed to fix the problem.

This is the ninth piece in a six-installment series about Native American children in South Dakota's foster care system, produced in partnership between the Argus Leader and South Dakota Searchlight. The Lost Children is a joint investigation by South Dakota Searchlight and the Argus Leader exploring the causes, effects and potential solutions to the decades-long overrepresentation of [Native American children in South Dakota's foster care system](#)

[A story told in data: Overrepresentation of Indigenous children in the SD foster care system](#)

Argus Leader and South Dakota Searchlight - November 17, 2023

Native American children are overrepresented in South Dakota's child welfare system -- accounting for nearly 74% of foster children in the state at the end of fiscal year 2023, despite making up 13% of the state's child population. That means Indigenous children have a 22% chance of being removed from their families and placed in the foster system before they turn 18 -- seven times higher than a white South Dakota child's risk of entering the system, according to studies examining the risk of foster care placement for children across the nation.

[Northern Arapaho youth advocate brings perspective from the Wind River Reservation to D.C.](#)

Wyoming Public Radio - November 17, 2023

A group of young Native advocates from the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) organization attended the White House Tribal Youth Forum earlier this month. The eleven delegates from UNITY spoke on panels with federal officials about issues facing Native youth today, like generational trauma and climate change. Mazie Countryman is an enrolled member of the Northern Arapaho tribe from the Wind River Reservation and is UNITY's Northwest regional representative. The nineteen-year-old went to the forum and spoke on a panel about boarding schools and the Indian Child Welfare Act titled "Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation." "Most of our grandparents have gone through a residential school and have lived through that, and they just wanted us to give our perspective on how it has affected us through generations," she said.

[A Pueblo woman helping to raise her grandchildren is a 'strong advocate' for children](#) (Includes video)

Pueblo Chieftain - November 20, 2023

A Pueblo woman who was raised by her grandparents has gone on to help do the same for her own grandchildren with her daughter by her side, believing even if she is the best parent in the world, they still need their birth mother. As an adoptive grandparent and kinship caregiver, she "does a really good job of supporting other kinship providers who are raising family members. She is a wonderful advocate and a member of the Colorado Department of Human Services Child Welfare Family Advisory Council," said Adrienne Baxter, spokesperson for the department. "I became a strong advocate for children in the system and other grandparents who are helping to raise them. I believe in the child's best interest and we need foster parents to provide a stable and loving environment until the parents can take them back," Sosa said.

[Lake County Commissioners continue to battle the State over Public Law 280](#)

KPAX News – November 21, 2023

A judge has sided with the State of Montana regarding a lawsuit filed by Lake County over Public Law 280. [PL 280](#) is a 1953 law that declares Lake County will fund and deal with policing Tribal lands within the county. It's estimated Lake County spends about \$4 million a year on the law. Since 2017, Lake County Commissioners have been unhappy with the agreement.

[Ned Blackhawk on 'The Rediscovery of America'](#) (Podcast)

Washington Post, November 23, 2023

In this conversation Yale University professor Ned Blackhawk discusses his book, "The Rediscovery of America: Natives Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History," which recently won the National Book Award for nonfiction, and explores the foundational role Native Americans have played in U.S. history, including in the formulation of our country's Constitution, and how their presence and contributions are frequently overlooked, or worse, erased.

[Native Judges Belong on the Federal Bench](#)

Native News Online – November 27, 2023

In his Native American Heritage Month proclamation this year, President Biden touted the “dozens of Senate-confirmed Native American officials, and over 80 Native American appointees serving across my Administration and in the Federal courts.” While Interior Secretary Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) stands out as a powerfully important example of Native representation in the federal government, Native judges remain severely underrepresented on our nation’s federal courts.

[California Courts: Bringing Awareness to Violence in Tribal Communities - Courts Helping to Address the Murdered and Missing Indigenous People \(MMIP\) Movement in California](#)

Sierra Sun Times – November 27, 2023

[Research](#) has found that Native Americans experience a per capita rate of violence twice that of the U.S. resident population, and that female Native Americans are murdered at ten times the national average. In addition, murder is the third leading cause of death for female Native Americans and more than one in three Native American women are likely to be raped in their lifetimes.

[At 45, Indian Child Welfare Act sets standard for kinship care](#) (Includes video)

KCNC - November 30, 2023

This year marks 45 years since the passage of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). The law which was upheld earlier this year by the U.S. Supreme Court works to keep Native American children close to their traditions and tribal cultures. Lucille Echohawk leads the Denver Indian Family Resource Center - founded to address the overrepresentation of American Indian children in the child welfare system."Sadly, there continues to be a lot of results of trauma from the long history of very poor federal policy as relates to the Native people in this country," said Echohawk.

PUBLICATIONS

[The Specter of Indian Removal: The Persistence of State Supremacy Arguments in Federal Indian Law](#), W. Tanner Allread, Columbia Law Review Vol.123, No. 6

Abstract: In the 2022 case of Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta, the Supreme Court departed from one of the foundational cases in federal Indian law, Worcester v. Georgia. Chief Justice John Marshall’s 1832 opinion had dismissed state power over Indian Country. But in Castro-Huerta, the Court took precisely the kind of arguments about state power that Chief Justice Marshall rejected in Worcester and turned them into the law of the land—without any recognition of the arguments’ Indian Removal–era origins.

[Intergovernmental Collaborations to Heal, Protect, and Find Solutions: Joint Jurisdiction Courts 101](#), Korey Wahwassuck and Abby Abinanti, Tribal Law and Policy Institute, October 2023

Jurisdiction is exercised jointly when the Tribal Court and State or Federal Court judges convene to exercise their respective authority simultaneously, bringing together justice system partners and leveraging resources and allowing the systems to work collaboratively and creatively toward better results for individuals involved in the adult and juvenile justice systems. Working together in a Joint Jurisdictional Court both promotes healing and protects public safety, and adopting a problem-solving approach using a Joint Jurisdictional Court recognizes that the adversarial process often increases conflict and does not always produce the best results.

[“Statistics Are Human Beings with the Tears Wiped Away”: Utilizing Data to Develop Strategies to Reduce the Number of Native Americans Who Go Missing](#) Lori McPherson, Sarah Blazucki, Seattle

University Law Review, Vol. 47, Iss. 1 (2023)

Abstract: On New Year’s Eve night, 2019, sixteen-year-old Selena Shelley Faye Not Afraid attended a party in Billings, Montana, about fifty miles west of her home in Hardin, Montana, near the Crow Reservation. A junior at the local high school, she was active in her community. The party carried over until the next day, and she caught a ride back toward home with friends in a van the following afternoon. When the van stopped at an interstate rest stop, Selena got out but never made it back to the van. The friends reported her missing to the police and indicated they had last seen her “wandering into a field” and that she was intoxicated at the time.

[Demonstration Grants to Strengthen the Response to Victims of Human Trafficking in Native Communities \(VHT-NC\) Program: Interim Report](#). OPRE Report no. 2023-216 Tibaduiza,

Elizabeth.,Melander, Christina.,Pfeffer, Rebecca.,Melton, Ada.,Martinez, Rita. , RTI

International., American Indian Development Associates., United States. Department of Health and Human Services. Administration for Children and Families. Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation. 2023

[The Constitutionalism of American Colonialism](#), Maggie Blackhawk 137 Harv. L. Rev. 1
 Abstract: The United States holds hundreds of governments in subordination. Not historically. Today. It dominates these governments and their peoples, exploits their resources, prohibits political independence, withholds representation, and imposes its own laws, values, and norms upon these governments without consent.

[American Indians, Indian Tribes, and State Government](#)

Minnesota House Research (February 2023)

About this Publication: This guidebook discusses major issues involved in the relationship between American Indian Tribes, American Indians, and state government, including criminal and civil jurisdiction, employment, control of natural resources, gaming and liquor regulation, taxation, health and human services, child welfare, education, labor, and civic engagement.

[Tribes, States, and Sovereigns’ Interest in Children](#), Emily Stolzenbert, North Carolina Law Review, Vol 102, 2024

Abstract: Haaland v. Brackeen, the unsuccessful SCOTUS challenge to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), trumpeted a critique made consistently over the statute’s 45-year history: that ICWA harms Indian children by subordinating their interests to their tribes’ interests, unlike State family law, which pursues the “best interests of the child.” This critique is likely to underpin future challenges to ICWA—and it is wrong in both fact and theory. Not only does ICWA generally benefit Indian children. More fundamentally, a tribe’s interest in Indian children corresponds directly to an interest States regularly pursue vis-à-vis all children: the political community’s interest in self-perpetuation. ICWA just does explicitly what State law does implicitly. This means that at base, challenges to ICWA are fights about which sovereign, representing which political community, gets to govern Indian children.

[Indian Policing: Agents of Assimilation](#), Kekek Jason Stark, 73(3) Case W. Rsv. L. Rev. 683 (2023)

The Introduction of this Article provides a roadmap and an overview of the contents to be discussed. Part I examines the origins of Indian police forces. Part II examines the furtherance and indoctrination of the assimilation policy through justice systems and policing. Part III examines modern policing and determines whether tribal courts are perpetuating assimilative law enforcement principles or whether tribal courts are implementing traditional law principles. Part IV examines a path for the return to traditional law principles of justice.

[Family Separation in the U.S. Child Welfare System, at the U.S.-Mexico Border, and of Indigenous Communities](#). For the 139th Session of the Human Rights Committee, Geneva, October 9-November 3, 2023. Joint Coalition Submission to the UN Human Rights Committee Reviewing the Fifth Periodic Report of the United States. American Civil Liberties Union. 2023

[Native Negotiations are a Winning Alternative to Courts](#)

American Indian (Magazine of Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian) Fall 2023/Vol.24 No.3
 In a typical U.S. courtroom, attorneys and their clients usually sit at parallel tables, facing the front of the courtroom, ready to do battle. A judge enters, and an officer commands those in the room to “All rise” before the magistrate takes a seat on a high bench. Then they all sit, and a long debate begins. Michael Petoskey’s courtroom is quite different. He serves as a chief tribal court judge for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi in Michigan. In a circle, he sits at the same level as the disputing parties, who can be joined by community and family members to help them come to a resolution. To encourage calm discussions, the Pokagon court house even has a healing room with a fire—a central part of many Indigenous cultures—around which people can gather before or instead of entering the courtroom. The goal is not to win or lose but to avoid a legal dispute by coming to a peaceful agreement that will help restore community harmony.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Not Invisible Act Commission Transmits Recommendations to Federal Government to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples and Human Trafficking](#)

The Not Invisible Act Commission (NIAC), a cross-jurisdictional advisory committee composed of law enforcement, Tribal leaders, federal partners, service providers, family members of missing and murdered individuals, and survivors, today transmitted its [congressionally mandated recommendations](#) to the

Justice Department, Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Congress. Federal responses to the Commission’s recommendations are due within 90 days.

Strengthening ICWA Compliance

The Department of the Interior, Department of Justice, and Department of Health and Human Services [announced](#) tribal consultations to improve the implementation of ICWA across all states. We strongly encourage tribal nations, urban Indian organizations, and advocates of ICWA to provide written comments to support better implementation of the law. **Email your comments to consultation@bia.gov by 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, January 12, 2024.**

[President Biden Proclaims November as National Native American Heritage Month](#)

President Biden [proclaimed](#) November as National Native American Heritage Month, an annual observance celebrating the contributions of Tribal peoples. OJJDP joins the President in honoring the culture and heritage of Native Americans and supporting Tribal nations.

[National Native American Heritage Month](#)

To commemorate Native American Heritage Month, OVC highlights resources and programs to support victims in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

[National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges \(NCJFCJ\) is Seeking Juvenile Courts and Tribal Courts for Demonstration Sites Project](#)

The NCJFCJ, with funding from the State Justice Institute (SJI), is pleased to announce that we are seeking juvenile courts that are interested in participating in the Enhanced Juvenile Justice Guidelines Demonstration Sites Project. The jurisdictions that participate in the Enhanced Juvenile Justice Guidelines Demonstration Sites Project will engage in an eighteen-month process to identify and address issues in adjudicating and delivering services in juvenile delinquency cases. The Enhanced Juvenile Justice Guidelines identify many different areas that courts can consider for improvement including improving timelines for case processing; using risk/need assessment information; reducing the use of fines and fees; implementing alternatives to detention; collaborating with the education system to reduce school pathways to the justice system; identifying and addressing gaps in services, and many more. Jurisdictions who participate in the project will have access to regular assessment of court practice, technical assistance, strategic planning support, expert national training and trainers, and a peer support network. The project is open to all courts that work with delinquent offenses. **Applications are due by December 31, 2023.**

ONLINE RESOURCES

Native America Calling November 1, 2023: [The Challenges of enforcing ICWA](#) (Podcast)

A non-Native woman in Alaska refuses to abide by a tribal court order to turn an Alaska Native foster child over to the girl’s family members. It’s a blatant disregard of tribal sovereignty even after a notable re-affirmation of the Indian Child Welfare Act by the U.S. Supreme Court. The woman took custody of the child, named Chanel, at the request of the girl’s father, right before he was convicted of murdering Chanel’s mother during a domestic dispute. We’ll look at that case, as well as efforts to bolster ICWA compliance elsewhere.

[California Department of Social Services \(CDSS\) Office of Child Abuse Prevention Grant Portal](#)

Welcome to the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) Grant Application Portal. The OCAP administers federal grants, contracts, and state programs designed to promote best practices and innovative approaches to child abuse prevention, intervention and treatment. Please refer to the [OCAP Website](#) for information about current grant opportunities, required application documents, application instructions and sample Grant Agreement Terms and Conditions to review before applying.

The [Recruiting and Supporting Resource Families in Tribal Communities](#) resource list is available for download on the Tribal Information Exchange.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, WEBINARS AND TRAININGS

December 4-5, 2023 (Las Vegas, NV)

[National American Indian Court Judges Association \(NAICJA\) Child Welfare Training for Tribal Judges](#)

December 6, 2023 (In-person: Sacramento; Virtual: Zoom)

[CSEC Action Team Quarterly Meeting: Understanding Technology and Online Exploitation](#)

During this meeting presenters from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) will provide tips on how to discuss online safety, use harm reduction practices to help youth navigate online spaces, and provide resources to help participants provide support for youth who may be impacted by or vulnerable to online sexual exploitation.

In-person registration: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJaR-yCitga7KSLQ94_Br2B9Xzi-rdTIJNLpoxVX-QnAFBCw/viewform

Virtual registration: https://youthlaw.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpd-2orD0rGNYpo-Y4vp3q7CQtRVm_2Y7X#/registration

December 8, 2023 10:00am-3:30pm (Virtual)

[2023 California Statewide Tribal-State Judges Virtual Gathering](#)

The goal of the California Statewide Tribal-State Judges Virtual Gathering is to strengthen a collaborative network of Judicial champions and allies for Indian Child Welfare Act implementation in California that is a resource for Indian children and families in the child welfare system.

[Tribal Child Welfare Data System Procurement Webinar Series](#)

Capacity Building Center for Tribes

Session 1 - Planning for a New Data System

December 13, 2023, 11:00am-12:00pm Pacific

Session 2 - Procuring a Tribal Child Welfare Data System

January 17, 2024, 11:00am-12:00pm Pacific

Session 3 - Contracting with Data System Vendors

February 21, 2024, 11:00am-12:00pm Pacific

December 15, 2023 11:00 am to 1:00 pm (Ukiah, CA)

[Native Youth Story Share: Wellness & Juvenile Justice](#)

California Tribal Families Coalition

Mendocino Community College, 1000 Hensley Creek Rd. Ukiah, CA 95482

Listening session for Native youth in Mendocino, Lake, Butte and surrounding counties on issues related to juvenile justice.

January 8, 2024, 2:45 – 4:00 p.m. EST (online)

[Human Trafficking in Indian Country](#)

National Indian Country Training

The topic of human trafficking in Indian Country encompasses two categories: human trafficking within Indian country and human trafficking of Native American victims. This session will cover investigation and prosecution tactics, strategies and legal arguments from an experienced federal prosecutor who has worked both categories of cases.

February 4-6, 2024 (Orange County, CA)

[National Association for Court Management 2024 Mid-Year Conference](#)

February 25 - 28, 2024 (Seattle, WA & Virtual Option)

[American Probation and Parole Association 2024 Winter Training Institute](#)

March 17-20, 2024 (Cleveland, OH)

[2024 National Conference on Juvenile Justice](#)

April 4-5, 2024 (Albuquerque, NM)

[Indian Law Conference – Federal Bar Association](#)

April 5-7, 2024 (New York, NY)

[American Judges Association 2024 Midyear Conference](#)

April 7-10, 2024 (Seattle, WA)

[43rd Annual National Indian Child Welfare Association Protecting Our Children Conference](#)

June 16-20, 2024 (Cherokee, NC)

[23rd Annual National Tribal Child Support Association Conference](#)

July 21-24, 2024 (Phoenix, AZ)

[The NCJFCJ's 87th Annual Conference](#)

October 22-24, 2024 – (Las Vegas, Nevada) Save the Date

[55th Annual National Tribal Judicial and Court Personnel Conference](#)

National American Indian Court Judges Association

COVID-19 SPECIFIC GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

[STTARS Indigenous Safe Housing Center \(STTARS\)](#)

ARP Housing 90EV0537 25

Increase the availability of COVID-19 testing, vaccines, and other COVID-19 mitigation strategies for survivors. NIWRC will allocate pass through funds to tribal organizations addressing housing and domestic violence that we have previously connected with through our National Workgroup on Safe Housing for American Indian and Alaska Native Survivors of Gender-Based Violence. These funds will be utilized for COVID-19 mitigation activities (such as testing, PPE, staff related needs, health and wellness supplies for advocates and survivors, and additional resources to specifically address COVID-19 impacts and ongoing advocate pandemic fatigue). Applications will be reviewed in a timely fashion and on an on-going/rolling basis.

[NCAI Financial Relief for Tribal Nations Affected by COVID-19](#)

With the continued spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), NCAI is committed to supporting Indian Country and lifting up our communities as we continue to combat this global pandemic. Keeping in mind the needs of our tribal nations, NCAI is awarding \$5,000 to various tribal nations that have been affected by this pandemic through NCAI's [COVID-19 Response Fund](#) for Indian Country.

Applications guidelines are located [here](#). NCAI Contact: Christian Weaver, Vice President of Development, cweaver@ncai.org

Coronavirus (COVID-19): FEMA Assistance for Tribal Nations

On March 13, 2020, the President announced a nationwide emergency declaration in response to coronavirus (COVID-19). As a result, tribal nations have two options to receive funding under the Presidential declaration.

- FEMA assistance for tribal nations related to COVID-19, click [here](#).
- What expenses qualify as Eligible Emergency Protective Measures, click [here](#).
- An example of a Tribal Public Assistance Administrative plan, click [here](#).
- FEMA regional tribal liaison and FEMA headquarters contact information, click [here](#).
- FEMA resources located on NCAI's COVID-19 microsite, click [here](#).

[GOLDEN STATE GRANT PROGRAM](#)

Attention CalWORKs families with an approved case status as of March 27 will receive a one-time Golden State Grant payment of \$600. The payment is to help families who may have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This payment is not a CalWORKs grant payment and not subject to hearing rights.

[FEMA COVID-19 FUNERAL ASSISTANCE](#)

If you've have lost someone to COVID-19, FEMA may be able to help with funeral expenses starting in April 2021.

NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

[Enhanced Juvenile Justice Guidelines Demonstration Sites Project](#)

National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)

Deadline: December 31, 2023

The jurisdictions that participate in the Enhanced Juvenile Justice Guidelines Demonstration Sites Project will engage in an eighteen-month process to identify and address issues in adjudicating and delivering

services in juvenile delinquency cases. The project is open to all courts that work with delinquent offenses.

[The Road to Resilience Program](#)

**California Department of Social Services
Office of Child Abuse Prevention
RFA24-27**

Deadline: January 12, 2024

The Road to Resilience program aims to foster collaborative efforts among health service providers, community-based organizations, and county or Tribes and tribal organizations (child welfare, public health, and behavioral health) to reduce substance exposure to infants and mitigate negative outcomes associated with prenatal and perinatal substance use by strengthening supports for pregnant individuals with known histories of substance use, pregnant individuals with current substance use, parents of substance-exposed infants, and their families.

[The Youth Homelessness System Improvement \(YHSI\) Grants](#)

**Department of Housing and Urban Development
FR-6700-N-96**

Deadline: February 15, 2024

The grants will focus on systems change to create and build capacity for Youth Action Boards; collect and use data that work with at-risk youth; develop strong leaders within a community; and improve the coordination, communication, operation, and administration of homeless assistance projects to better serve youth, including prevention and diversion strategies.

[Missing and Murdered Indigenous People \(MMIP\) Grant Program, Cohort 2](#)

Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC)

Deadline: March 15, 2024

This grant program was developed with input from members of California’s tribal community and supports a broad range of activities. Tribes are encouraged to develop programs that address their community’s needs.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

[Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program](#)

**Department of Commerce
NTIA-ICG-TBCPO-2023-2008098**

Deadline: January 23, 2024

The TBCP provides new federal funding for grants to Eligible Entities to expand access to and adoption of: (i) broadband service on Tribal Land ;or (ii) programs that promote the use of broadband to access remote learning, telework, or telehealth resources.

[Systems-Level Risk Detection and Interventions to Reduce Suicide, Ideation, and Behaviors in Youth from Underserved Populations](#)

**Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
RFA-MH-25-125**

Deadline: February 20, 2024

The purpose of this R34 NOFO is to provide resources for evaluating the feasibility, acceptability, and safety of novel approaches that are uniquely tailored to the risk profiles of these populations, that will improve outcomes and modify health risk behavior.

[Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2024 AmeriCorps State and National Native Nation Grants](#)

**AmeriCorps
AC-08-19-23**

Deadline: April 5, 2024

AmeriCorps improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. AmeriCorps brings people together to tackle some of the country’s most pressing challenges through national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities and those serving. AmeriCorps helps make service a cornerstone of our national culture.

[Maternity Group Home Program](#)

**Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children & Families - ACYF/FYSB
HHS-2024-ACF-ACYF-YZ-0042
Deadline: May 20, 2024**

The Maternity Group Home (MGH) program provides safe, stable, and appropriate shelter for pregnant and/or parenting youth and young adults ages 16 to under 22 who have runaway or are experiencing homelessness, and their dependent child(ren), for 18 months and, under extenuating circumstances, up to 21 months. Service providers must accommodate for the needs and safety of the dependent children to include facility safety standards for infants and children on the premises. MGH services include, but are not limited to, parenting skills, child development, family budgeting, and health and nutrition education, in addition to the required services provided under the Transitional Living Program to help MGH youth and young adults realize improvements in four core outcome areas. The MGH combination of shelter and services is designed to promote long-term, economic independence to ensure the well-being of the youth and their child(ren).

[Initiation of a Mental Health Family Navigator Model to Promote Early Access, Engagement and Coordination of Needed Mental Health Services for Children and Adolescents](#)

**Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
PAR-23-094**

**Applications accepted now
Deadline: July 5, 2024**

Applicants are required to develop and test the navigator model’s ability to promote early access, engagement, coordination and optimization of mental health treatment and services for children and adolescents as soon as symptoms are detected. Applicants are also required to identify and test components of navigator models that drive improvements in mental health care; detect and interrogate tailoring variables that optimize the ‘personalized match’ between the unique mental health needs of youth to the appropriate level of intensity and frequency of mental health services; and utilize emerging novel technologies to track and monitor the trajectory of clinical, functional and behavioral progress toward achieving intended services outcomes.

[Engaging Survivors of Sexual Violence and Trafficking in HIV and Substance Use Disorder Services](#)

**Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
RFA-DA-25-018**

Deadline: August 5, 2024

The goal of this concept is to support exploratory research and preliminary interventions to address the interrelated and compounding contextual factors that contribute to substance use and HIV risk among sexual trafficking survivors. This would be accomplished through research that builds new interventions and models of care that can effectively engage ST survivors in care for SUD, HIV, trauma, and other mental health outcomes and addresses key structural and social determinants of health that contribute to risk for ST as well as barriers to and facilitators of escaping continued exploitation.

[NIDA Research Center of Excellence Grant Program](#)

**Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
PAR-23-076**

**Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): August 25, 2023
Deadline: November 18, 2025**

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to provide support for research Centers that (1) conduct substance use and addiction research in any area of NIDA’s mission, including the intersection of substance use/addiction and HIV, (2) foster outstanding innovative science, (3) are multidisciplinary, thematically integrated, and synergistic, and (4) serve as national resource(s) to provide educational and outreach activities to relevant research communities, educational organizations, the general public, and policy makers.

[HEAL Initiative: Research to Increase Implementation of Substance Use Preventive Services](#)

Department of Health and Human Services

National Institutes of Health

RFA-DA-24-066

Earliest Submission Date: December 17, 2023

Expiration Date: January 17, 2026

The goal of this initiative is to support research that can improve public health and respond to the opioid crisis by increasing knowledge pertaining to the delivery and sustainability of prevention services. This notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) solicits applications to address understudied areas of opportunity that, if researched, could create the foundation needed to inform a prevention infrastructure for ongoing delivery and sustainment of interventions to prevent opioid and other substance misuse and use disorders.