

# TRIBAL COURT—STATE COURT FORUM

An Advisory Committee of the Judicial Council of California

## *Forum E-Update*

October 2025

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An Advisory Committee of the  
Judicial Council of California

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## FORUM NEWS

### [Commemorating Native American Day 2025](#)

Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, News Releases and Public Notice, September 24, 2025

Sacramento, CA – To recognize Native American Day 2025, Sacramento Superior Court Judge Kristina B. Lindquist and Shingle Springs Tribal Court Chief Judge Victorio Shaw shared the following statement: On Friday, September 26, we recognize Native American Day. At the Sacramento Superior Court, we celebrate the area's original inhabitants: the Maidu, Miwok, Nisenan, and Wintu peoples. We admire their survival in the face of genocide and systemic injustice, and we recognize their important contributions, as stakeholders and partners, to the past, present, and future of this region.

### [Navajo Nation Supreme Court Visit and Inaugural Roundtable Give Students Prime Insights Into Tribal Law](#)

UC Berkeley Law, by Andrew Cohen, October 24, 2025

Established last year, the [Center for Indigenous Law and Justice](#) (CILJ) aims to advance tribal sovereignty, support Native nations, and expand awareness of how tribes engage with the law. Last week, it checked all of those boxes over two enlightening days that featured the Navajo Nation Supreme Court holding a case argument at UC Berkeley Law and CILJ's inaugural Three Sovereigns, One Conversation roundtable with representatives from tribal, state, and federal governments discussing collaborative approaches to justice and governance.

[Job Posting: Tribal/State Programs Attorney](#). The Judicial Council is accepting applications for an experienced attorney to provide legal support to the judicial branch, including the Tribal Court-State Court Forum, other advisory committees, judges, and justice partners on federal and state Indian law including matters related to ICWA and the Violence Against Women Education Project. **Open until filled.**

## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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#### FORUM NEWS & UPDATES

Visit the Forum's home page

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

## IN THE NEWS

### [Tribes often lack good data on their communities. This Minneapolis Fed effort aims to fix that](#)

Minnpost, By Shadi Bushra, October 10, 2025

At the time the Center for Indian Country Development was founded in 2015, it was well known that there were unmet economic needs among Native Americans, "but our understanding of how to tackle those needs was limited by a lack of quality research and a lack of data," Minneapolis Fed president Neel Kashkari said.

### [Navajo Nation Supreme Court hears case at Berkeley Law, showcasing tribal law in action](#)

The Daily Californian, October 17, 2025

The Navajo Nation Supreme Court heard the case of Dalgai v. Dalgai in the UC Berkeley School of Law's Booth Auditorium on Wednesday.

### ['I'm Still Here' | Amid Highest Domestic Violence Rates, Native Women Need Culturally Centered Resources](#)

Native News Online, By Elyse Wild, October 23, 2025

According to the National Institute of Justice, more than half of all Native American women experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime, bearing one of the highest rates of DV in the U.S.

### [Sen. Mullin files bill that would allow US Marshals to help tribes search for missing indigenous children](#)

The Oklahoman, By Em Luetkemeyer, October 27, 2025

New [legislation](#), introduced on Thursday, Oct. 23, by Democratic Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada and Republican Sen. Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma, would [allow](#) the U.S. Marshals Service to help tribal law enforcement find missing children.

### [Government Shutdown Highlights Need to Reform How Federal Funds Support Native American Tribes, Brookings Report Says](#)

Native News Online, By Levi Rickert, October 28, 2025

The ongoing federal government shutdown is not only halting crucial services for tribal communities—it also underscores long-term structural flaws in how the federal government finances its obligations to Native Nations and Native American people, according to a new analysis [released today](#) by the Brookings Institution.

### [Domestic violence in Native communities is focus of new survey](#)

Stateline, By Nada Hassanein, October 31, 2025

Abigail Echo-Hawk, director of the Urban Indian Health Institute, recalled a Native mother in her 30s who started having memory loss and other dementia-like symptoms. The woman had suffered multiple blows to her head and fall: the hands of her husband over the years. He had wanted to disable her, to make it more difficult for her to keep her children if she tried to leave him, Echo-Hawk said. Many Native women have traumatic brain injury symptoms as a direct result of abuse, Echo-Hawk said. Tribal health advocates and groups serving survivors have long been aware of the problem, she said, but there has been little national research documenting the extent of it.

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.

## PUBLICATIONS

### **[Tribal Legal Code Resource Sexual Assault Considerations for Tribal Sexual Assault Code Development](#), June 2025, Tribal Law & Policy Institute**

This resource was developed particularly for community-based advocates as a quick reference guide to needed educational information on sexual assault, the importance of Tribal code development to address sexual assault, and tips and considerations for drafting Tribal code related to sexual assault. It was developed with the intention that community-based advocates often need tools that can help them with accessing information quickly. While this resource is designed primarily for community-based advocates, it may be useful for other professionals who work with victims.

### **[Incorporating Victim-Centered Practices into Tribal Law Enforcement Sexual Assault Protocols A Companion Guide to Tribal Law Enforcement Protocol Resource: Sexual Assault \(2008\)](#), June 2025, Tribal Law & Policy Institute**

The Incorporating Victim-Centered Practices into Tribal Law Enforcement Sexual Assault Protocols: A Companion Guide to Tribal Law Enforcement Protocol Resource: Sexual Assault (2008) (Companion Guide) expands on a host of TLPI resources on addressing sexual assault in Indian country and on Tribal lands.

### **[Supporting Tribal Elders Through Home and Community-Based Services](#), Justice in Aging, September 2025, Sahar Takshi, Senior Attorney for Equity Advocacy**

This issue brief discusses the role of home and community-based long-term care in tribal communities, the unique rules that may apply to tribal communities, and the barriers and cultural factors that advocates should be aware of when supporting tribal elders in accessing these benefits.

### **[The Costs of Caregiving: Why Supporting Grandfamilies and Kinship Care is Good for Children and Our Nation's Economy](#), State of Grandfamilies & Kinship Care in America, 2025**

About **2.5 million children** across the United States are being raised in grandfamilies—families in which grandparents, other adult relatives, or close family friends care for children without their parents in the home. These families are also known as kinship families. Our Report *The Costs of Caregiving: Why Supporting Grandfamilies & Kinship Care is Good for Children and Our Nation's Economy* highlights the critical role these caregivers play in supporting children, families, and our nation's child welfare system, as well as the challenges they face in doing so.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Call for Workshop Proposals: Bay Area ICWA Symposium, April 15, 2026 The State of California Building, San Francisco, CA**

The Bay Area ICWA Symposium is an event for tribal communities, service providers, attorneys, judicial officers, juvenile probation, child welfare social work practitioners, educators, and students to come together in support of Native American children and families. The Symposium is intended to build awareness and understanding of ICWA, share best practices, facilitate communication, build relationships, and to improve outcomes for Native American children, families, and communities. **\*The deadline to submit the [workshop proposal form](#) is January 15, 2026.**

### **[Governor Newsom proclaims Indigenous Peoples' Day](#) October 13, 2025**

California again proclaims this day as Indigenous Peoples' Day, the seventh formal celebration of the strength of culture and the memory of land that endure for all Indigenous people who now call California home, from those who originate from and maintain deep relationships with these lands and waters, to those who have carried the gifts of their languages, cultures, foods, and families across oceans, borders, and generations.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

### **[Tribal Sexual Assault Legal Advocacy Support Toolkit](#), June 2025 Tribal Law & Policy Institute**

The Tribal Sexual Assault Legal Advocacy Support Toolkit (Toolkit) expands on a host of TLPI resources on addressing sexual assault in Indian country and on Tribal lands. Some of those resources include:

- [Guide for Drafting or Revising Victim-Centered Tribal Laws Against Sexual Assault and Stalking](#) (2017)

- [Tribal Court Judges Bench Book: Tribal Judicial Guide for Navigating Sexual Assault Cases \(2011\)](#)
- [Sexual Assault Response Teams: Resource Guide for the Development of a Sexual Assault Response Team \(SART\) in Tribal Communities \(2008\)](#)
- [Pathway to Hope: Healing Child Sexual Abuse \(2007\)](#)

With this Toolkit, TLPI hopes that Tribal victim advocates will have access to information to assist them in supporting victim's navigating legal systems and processes, with a special emphasis on the prosecution process and victim rights. The Toolkit is focused on information that is accessible, ready-to-use/reference, and educational. Recent TLPI work with this focus includes: [Pocket Guide: Tribal Victim Advocacy in Criminal Cases \(2022\)](#).

### **Strengthening the Circle: Collaborating with Native Nations to Support Native Youth Association on American Indian Affairs**

This guide offers practical, real-world tips to help you work more effectively with Native youth involved in the justice system. It explains why working with Native Nations is not only important— but also different from working with other agencies or partners in your county or state. You'll find advice on how to build respectful partnerships with Native Nations and how to identify Native youth early in your process. The guide also includes additional resources to support your learning and improve outcomes for Native youth, their families, and their Nations.

### **Survey of Native Nations**

#### **Center for Indian Country Development (CICD)**

The Survey of Native Nations is a collaboration between the Center for Indian Country Development (CICD) and tribal governments across the United States to equip tribes with high-quality public finance data. The survey provides participating tribal governments with customized data reports to inform their decision-making—and enables CICD to provide research-based insights that advance understanding of tribal economies. The Survey of Native Nations is now open to all tribes across the country. There is no monetary cost to participating in the survey; the primary cost is staff time to prepare responses.

## **UPCOMING CONFERENCES, WEBINARS, AND TRAININGS**

**November 17–19, 2025 (In-person, Los Angeles, CA)**

### **Beyond the Bench 2025**

Beyond the Bench 25 is a multidisciplinary statewide conference focused on children, youth, and families in the California court system. The event will include multiple sessions related to the Indian Child Welfare Act. **Click [here](#) for registration.** If you have any questions about registration, please email [beyondthebench@jud.ca.gov](mailto:beyondthebench@jud.ca.gov) or call 415-865-7599.

**November 19-20, 2025 (Choctaw Landing in Hochatown, OK)**

### **Choctaw Nation-Healing Through Practice: Strategies for Addressing Domestic Violence**

**December 4-6, 2025 (Portland, OR)**

### **Adults Working with Native Youth**

**December 15-17, 2025 (Appleton, WI)**

### **Advanced Strategies for Investigating and Prosecuting Domestic Violence**

**January 14-15, 2026 (Washington, D.C.)**

### **National Judicial Education Workshop on Guardianships and Elder Abuse**

**January 21-22, 2026 (Virtual)**

### **Creating a Community Action Plan for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse**

**February 24-March 24, 2026 (Virtual)**

**March 1-4, 2026 (Atlanta, GA)**

### **American Probation and Parole Association 2026 Winter Training Institute**

**March 2-5, 2026 (Phoenix, AZ)**

### **Spring Training for Judges: Decision-Making, Leadership & Team Dynamics**

**March 15, 2026-March 18, 2026 (Albuquerque, NM)**

### **National Association for Court Management 2026 Mid-Year Conference**

March 15, 2026-March 18, 2026 (Minneapolis, MN)  
[Nation Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges 2026 National Conference on Juvenile Justice](#)

March 24, 2026-March 26, 2026 (Appleton, WI)  
[Court Safety and Security Conference National Criminal Justice Training Center](#)

March 29, 2026-April 1, 2026 (Oklahoma City, OK)  
[National Indian Child Welfare Association 44th Annual Protecting Our Children Conference](#)

March 30, 2026-April 1, 2026  
[California Association of Collaborative Courts CACC Conference 2026](#)

April 7, 2026-April 10, 2026 (Prescott, AZ)  
[2026 AADCP Treatment Court Conference](#)

April 7-9, 2026 (New Orleans, NV)  
[Empowering Change: Innovative Response Strategies for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence](#)

April 9, 2026-April 10, 2026 (Scottsdale, AZ)  
[Federal Bar Association Indian Law 2026 Conference](#)

April 9-12, 2026 (Glen Ellen, CA)  
[Centering Ourselves for Leadership Conference](#) (Judges Only)

April 15, 2026 (San Francisco, CA)  
**Save the Date: Bay Area ICWA Symposium**  
(\*registration link available in January 2026. Email Vida Castaneda at [vida.castaneda@jud.ca.gov](mailto:vida.castaneda@jud.ca.gov) for additional questions or details)

April 21-23, 2026 (Las Vegas, NV)  
[National Missing and Unidentified Persons Conference](#)

April 30, 2026-May 2, 2026 (Location TBD)  
[California Judges Association 2026 Spring Conference](#)

May 5-7, 2026 (Las Vegas, NV)  
[NADEC 26 The National Conference on Drug-Endangered Children](#)

June 10-12, 2026 (Garden Grove, CA)  
[Partnerships for Well-Being Institute-Navigating the Tide: Connecting Our Child, Youth & Family-Serving Systems for a Stronger Future](#)

July 12-16, 2026 (Omaha, NE)  
[National Association for Court Management 2026 Annual Conference](#)

July 19-22, 2026 (Nashville, TN)  
[National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges 89th Annual Conference](#)

July 20-23, 2026, (Nashville, TN)  
[RISE26, the Annual Training Conference National Association of Drug Court Professionals](#)

August 16-19, 2026 (Wilmington, DE)  
[National Association for Presiding Judges and Court Executive Officers 2026 NAPCO Leadership Conference](#)

September 27, 2026-October 2, 2026 (Nashville, TN)  
[American Judges Association 2026 Annual Conference](#)



## NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

\*Please check the direct links to the grants regularly, as the status, closing dates, and availability may change in time. At this time, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has removed previously posted grants and webinars. For a complete list of funding opportunities available at this time, here are links to consult: [Grants.gov](#), [Office of Justice Programs](#), [Bureau of Justice Affairs](#), and [U.S. Department of Justice](#).

**Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages**

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Department of Housing and Urban Development

FR-6900-N-23

**Deadline: November 24, 2025**

The primary objective of the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) program is the development of viable Indian and Alaska Native communities, including the creation of decent housing, suitable living environments, and economic opportunities primarily for persons of low-and moderate-incomes.

**Tribal Early Childhood and Family Economic Well-being Research Center (TRC)**

Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families – OPRE

HHS-2025-ACF-OPRE-PH-0017

**Deadline: December 1, 2025**

The Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) announces the availability of funds and requesting applications for the Tribal Early Childhood and Family Economic Well-being Research Center (TRC). The TRC will support relevant and actionable research, evaluation, and measurement of ACF-funded early childhood and family economic well-being programs that serve Native American communities. The TRC program areas include child care programs, Head Start/Early Head Start center and home-based programs, and Tribal TANF.

**Indian Housing Block Grant Competitive Program (IHBG-COMP) for FY2025**

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Department of Housing and Urban Development

FR-6900-N-48

**Deadline: January 15, 2026**

The Indian Housing Block Grant Competitive Program (IHBG-COMP) provides competitive grant opportunities to eligible IHBG formula recipients under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) to carry out eligible affordable housing activities for the benefit of low-income Tribal families.

**Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program**

Department of Health and Human Services

Centers for Disease Control – NCIPC

CDC-RFA-CE-26-0061

**Deadline: April 14, 2026**

The purpose of the DFC Support Program is to establish and strengthen collaboration to support the efforts of community coalitions working to prevent youth substance use.

## PREVIOUSLY REPORTED GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

**Tribal Homekey+ 2024 Notice of Funding Availability**

California Department of Housing and Community Development

**Deadline: Application portal opens late January 2025 and open until all funds are awarded**

Tribal Homekey+ is the Permanent Supportive Housing component of the BHIBA. This funding represents the Department's ongoing investment in Tribal housing opportunities and continues a statewide effort to sustain and rapidly expand permanent supportive housing for households and individuals who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness and are living with a behavioral health challenge. Rather than utilizing a set-aside within the standard Homekey+ Program, this NOFA operates independently and is tailored to meet the specific affordable housing needs of California Tribes. Website: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-and-funding/homekey/tribal-program> Homekey Tribal Program Email: [HK Tribal@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:HK Tribal@hcd.ca.gov).

**NIDA Research Center of Excellence Grant Program**

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

**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.

**[Standing Announcement for Tribal Title IV-E Plan Development Grants](#)**

**Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families - ACYF/CB  
HHS-2025-ACF-ACYF-CS-0067**

**Deadline: January 12, 2026**

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to provide one-time awards to eligible applicants for developing plans to implement the Tribal title IV-E foster care, adoption assistance, and guardianship assistance programs. Each recipient must submit a plan to the Department of Health and Human Services within 24 months of the project start date. Funds under this NOFO may be used for the cost of developing a title IV-E plan under section 471 of the Social Security Act (the Act) to carry out a program under section 479B of the Act. The award may be used for costs relating to the development of data collection systems, a cost-allocation methodology, agency and tribal court procedures necessary to meet the case review system requirements under section 475(5) of the Act, or any other costs attributable to meeting any other

**[NAGPRA Repatriation Grants](#)**

**Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
P25AS00474**

**Deadline: May 8, 2026**

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to make grants to museums, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations for the purposes of assisting in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony (25 U.S.C. 3008). NAGPRA Repatriation grants assist museums, Indian Tribes, and NHOs to defray costs associated with the packaging, transportation, contamination removal, reburial, and/or storage of NAGPRA human remains or cultural items. Project activities may include, but are not limited to: travel, transportation, testing or decontamination, building containers for transport, ceremonial materials, or Staff time.