

National Resource Center for Tribes (NRC4Tribes)
A Service of the Children's Bureau

The National Resource Center for Tribes (NRC4Tribes) is the newest resource center within the Children's Bureau Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) National Network. This new National Resource Center for Tribes will join the Children's Bureau's Child Welfare Training and Technical Assistance Network (T/TA Network) which is designed to improve child welfare systems and to support States and Tribes in achieving sustainable, systemic change that results in greater safety, permanency, and well-being for children, youth, and families. The Children's Bureau (www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb) is located within the Administration for Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Tribes will continue to be able to access training and technical assistance (T/TA) through various national resources centers within the Children's Bureau national T/TA Network. Following an initial planning/assessment year, this new NRC for Tribes will become the focal point for coordinated and culturally competent child welfare T/TA for Tribes within the T/TA Network. The NRC4Tribes will work collaboratively with Tribes and the T/TA Network to assist Tribes in the enhancement of child welfare services and the promotion of safety, permanency and well-being for American Indian/Alaska Native children and families – including:

- *Enhancing Tribal access to and utilization of the Children's Bureau T/TA Network;*
- *Brokering Tribal T/TA through the T/TA Network;*
- *Assisting in the provision of T/TA as needed and feasible;*
- *Facilitating peer-to-peer consultation between Tribes regarding child welfare issues;*
- *Increasing cultural competence and sensitivity to Tribal voices in the T/TA Network and in State child welfare systems*
- *Generating toolkits, resource manuals, and other products for dissemination*
- *Participating in NRC4Tribes-specific and national cross-site evaluation process*

A key objective of the NRC for Tribes in its first year is to conduct in a national assessment of tribal child welfare systems, to better understand and appropriately serve tribal communities in subsequent years. The National Resource Center for Tribes is authorized to provide T/TA services to federally-recognized Tribes who receive federal Title IV-B funding.

Who We Are

National Resource Center for Tribes Partnership

The ***Tribal Law and Policy Institute*** (TLPI) (www.tlpi.org), based in Los Angeles, CA – with additional offices in Anchorage, AK; Minneapolis, MN; and now also Helena, MT - was awarded a 5-year cooperative agreement from the Children's Bureau in October 2009 to establish the National Resource Center for Tribes. TLPI is joined by the Indian Child and Family Resource Center in Helena, MT; the Native American Training Institute in Bismarck, ND; and the Butler Institute for Families at the University of Denver to implement the work of the NRC4Tribes.

As lead agency, the ***Tribal Law and Policy Institute*** (TLPI) is a 100% Indian owned and operated non-profit corporation established in 1996 to design and develop education, research, training, and technical assistance programs which promote the enhancement of justice in Indian country and the health, well-being, and culture of Native peoples. TLPI's organizational vision is to empower Native communities to create and control their own institutions for the benefit/welfare of all community members now and for future generations. TLPI's mission is to enhance and strengthen tribal sovereignty and justice while honoring community values, protecting rights, and promoting well-being. This vision now expands to encompass the work of the NRC4Tribes.

The ***Indian Child and Family Resource Center*** (ICFRC), Helena, MT, is a Native American non-profit agency guided by a board of directors who, like the partner agencies, have “been there” for many years doing the work of Indian child welfare: tribal social workers, ICWA advocates and tribal leader. Established in 2004 to provide training and technical assistance resources for tribal child welfare programs, ICFRC has worked closely for several years with the National T/TA Network of the Children’s Bureau to offer tribes throughout the country quality, no-cost technical assistance and training opportunities.

The ***Native American Training Institute*** (NATI), an inter-tribally controlled, tribally chartered, non-profit entity located in Bismarck, ND, was originally established in 1995 to address the great need for local, culturally appropriate training and professional development opportunities for ND tribal child welfare agencies, staff, and foster partners. Since that time, the NATI has expanded its services to include training, technical assistance curricula and other products to strengthen the capacity of community members, practitioners and agencies to improve positive outcomes for Native American children, youth and families in urban, tribal and first nation communities in the United States and Canada.

Evaluation partner, the ***Butler Institute for Families*** (BIF) at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, has a strong history of evaluation of federally funded initiatives. Butler’s evaluation team is comprised of experienced researchers with expertise in sampling, design, instrumentation, data management and verification, qualitative and quantitative data analysis, contextualization and interpretation of results, and reporting. Since it’s founding in 1994, Butler’s mission has been to enhance the well being of children, youth and families through research, education, and consultation. The Institute has grown to become a resource for building professionalism through training and technical assistance and discovering effective practices and policies for child and family programs through evaluation and research. The Butler Institute is committed to research that produces pragmatic, practice-based information that can be used to improve interventions and help inform the field of evidence-based practice.

NRC4Tribes Implementation

The National Resource Center for Tribes will be guided in its daily work by the NRC4Tribes Leadership Team, comprised of TLPI and its partner agencies. In addition, a ***National Advisory Council***, comprised of tribal child welfare professionals, tribal leaders, and community stakeholders will review plans and activities of the NRC4Tribes and the larger T/TA Network, provide recommendations regarding the Networks approach to serving Title IV-B funded tribal child welfare systems and improving practices with American Indians and Alaska Native children and families. Implementation of the NRC work will, through a Systems of Care framework, include engaging, assessing, informing and supporting culturally appropriate Tribal child welfare services nationwide to implement strategies for improving the quality and effectiveness of services for American Indian and Alaska Native children, youth, and families leading to increased safety, permanency, and well being for children.

Contact Us:

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