



Wisconsin Family Connections Center Publications

The Wisconsin Family Connections Center publishes and distributes a quarterly email newsletter for caregivers of Native American Children. You can [find all previous editions on our website](#). If you'd like to sign up to receive the newsletter when it is published, you can do so by [clicking here](#).

Native American Heritage Month

Native American Heritage Month is observed in November in the United States. This resource document features numerous tribal resources.

Champion Classrooms Courses and Webinars

7 Generations: A Look Back at American Indian Families

Historical trauma has impacted generational cycles of parenting and coping among families in tribal communities. This webinar explores the influences of historical trauma and intergenerational grief and loss on American Indian families, the impact the loss of children to boarding schools and child welfare has had on American Indian family systems.

Missing Threads, The Story of the Wisconsin Indian Child Welfare Act

This webinar features a virtual screening of the award-winning film Missing Threads: The Story of the Wisconsin Indian Child Welfare Act. First-hand accounts are shared by family members who were negatively impacted when Indian children were placed into foster care and disconnected from their families and culture. A Q&A session with Susan Reetz, the writer, producer, and director of this powerful documentary, follows the screening.

The Impact of Historical Trauma on Indigenous Peoples: Building Resiliency Through Culture

This presentation provides an overview of the multifaceted dynamics of power and control that exist within intimate partner violence, the impact on children in the home, and how similar factors have historically impacted Indigenous Peoples. We will discuss how culture and tradition have alternatively guided balance and equality to promote healthy relationships and build resiliency. Presented by: Louise Padron, Oneida Nation Family Services supervisor and a citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin.

Boys with Braids

The Boys With Braids webinar raises awareness about the cultural and spiritual significance of braids for Native boys and men. It highlights the importance of identity, resilience, and cultural pride while addressing stereotypes and promoting understanding among families, schools, and communities. Through storytelling and education, the presentation fosters respect for traditional practices and encourages positive self-identity for Native youth. Presented by: Michael Duncan – Founder & CEO, Native Dads Network.

Champion Classrooms Courses and Webinars Continued

The Impact of ICWA Courts: Approaches to Improving Outcomes for Indian Families

ICWA Courts are specialty courts that have improved legal compliance and the implementation of the law's spirit in their respective jurisdictions through focused state-tribal partnerships. ICWA stands as the "gold standard in child welfare," with active efforts to prevent removal and ensure reunification at the center of this important law. There are now 25 ICWA Courts nationwide using meaningful Tribal collaboration and cultural humility with Indian families to improve outcomes and sustain connections. In this presentation, attendees will learn about ICWA Courts, data outcomes, and how Tribal advocacy has impacted permanency outcomes for Tribal families in ICWA Court jurisdictions. Attendees will also understand how a state-tribal partnership team approach can improve relationships among all those working to improve outcomes for Tribal families. Presented by: Sheldon Spotted Elk, Senior Director of Judicial and National Engagement at Casey Family Programs

7 Generations: How to Care for Indigenous Children and Their Culture

This webinar takes a closer look at American Indian families and focuses on how Indigenous culture helps build resiliency in their children. You will gain an understanding of some universal values of American Indian cultures, especially among the 11 federally recognized tribes in Wisconsin. Participants can also expect to leave with actionable tips to develop more effective, culturally competent approaches for working with American Indian children and families. Presented by: Alebra Metoxen, MSW, who is an enrolled member of the Oneida Nation and is also from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

Fatherhood Is Sacred®, Motherhood Is Sacred®

This webinar outlines the approach to a highly successful parenting curriculum developed by a Native American father for Native American fathers and mothers. It is the model overview of training fathers and mothers to be leaders in their own homes. The workshop identifies the five core principles of the curriculum offered to facilitators who work with Native American parents on and off reservations: the Creator, Choice, Teachable, Wisdom, and Service. Parents learn the importance of loving and caring for their families, assisting with problem-solving, and teaching the true principles of fatherhood and motherhood. Presented by: Albert M. Pooley, Founder and President of the Native American Fatherhood & Families Association (NAFFA).

Two Spirit / Past & Present

In this webinar, we will learn about the meaning of "Two Spirit" and the rich and beautiful history of Two Spirit people. We will also learn about the impact of colonialism on Two-Spirit individuals, as forced assimilation nearly erased the sacred and revered place they held in many Indigenous cultures. Lastly, we will hear about the movement to revitalize the traditional and honored Two-Spirit identity.

Recommendations for Further Reading

We invite you to check with your local public library for these resources

***The Great Vanishing Act: Blood Quantum and the Future of Native Nations*, by Norbert Hill**

***A Child of the Indian Race: A Story of Return*, by Sandy White Hawk**

***Project 562: Changing the Way We See Native America*, by Matika Wilbur**

***My Powerful Hair: A Power Book*, by Carole Lindstrom**

Additional Weblinks and Recommended Online Resources

Tribal Affairs Office - Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Tribal Information - Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Wisconsin Indian Child Welfare Act (WICWA) - Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Tribal Affairs Office - Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Trauma-Informed Practice Strategies to Support Indigenous Transition-Aged Youth

Questions? Contact the Wisconsin Family Connections Center at 1-800-762-8063
or at info@wifamilyconnectionscenter.org.