

A Circle of Healing for
Native Children Endangered by Drugs



Innovation • Partnerships
Safer Neighborhoods



Office for Victims of Crime
OVC

**DEFENDING
CHILDHOOD**
PROTECT HEALTHRIVE

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The mission of the Office for Victims of Crime is to enhance the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to provide leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime.

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) provides federal leadership in developing the Nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice, and assist victims. OJP has six components: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office for Victims of Crime; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. More information about OJP can be found at www.ojp.gov.



Message From the Director

Sadly, many children throughout the Nation are adversely affected by the alcohol and drug abuse in their homes and communities, and the violence that too often accompanies it. This can leave lasting harm—physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.

But—as you will see in this new video series, titled *A Circle of Healing for Native Children Endangered by Drugs*—there is hope. There is also healing throughout Native communities across the Nation, as shared by tribal elders, Native scholars, adult survivors, and allied professionals who are invested in the health and well-being of Native children.

OVC is pleased to present these enlightening videos, produced in collaboration with our tribal and federal partners and with input and guidance from individuals throughout Indian Country. OVC would like to thank the tribal governments, organizations, service providers, and especially all of the individuals who shared their personal stories. We also would like to thank the victim service providers, law enforcement personnel, U.S. Department of Justice staff, and other federal partners who provided their insights and experiences. Everyone has a role in identifying, protecting, and helping children who are exposed to alcohol and drug endangerment.

We hope you will share these videos with your communities, peers, and partners in other tribes. These first-person stories—from tribal leaders, organizations, service providers, and, most importantly, survivors themselves—highlight the critical role of cultural traditions in healing. Their practices and testimonials can inform, teach, and inspire families and communities. Together, we can help traumatized children on their path to healing and identify cultural practices that will enable them to thrive.

Joye E. Frost
Director
Office for Victims of Crime





Introduction

A *Circle of Healing for Native Children Endangered by Drugs* is a seven-video series that weaves Native stories and cultural practices from across the Nation to show many of the ways children, families, and communities are healing from drug endangerment. This resource is intended to generate conversation and inspire communities to come together to develop, enhance, and share their own responses to these issues.

There is no single tribal model or best practice for addressing the effects of alcohol and drug-related violence and victimization. Each community must determine the culturally relevant responses best for helping their victims heal. These videos are intended to help develop awareness and provide examples of victim-centered programs and approaches.

The content in these videos may be difficult to watch. OVC strongly encourages trainers to make audiences aware of this fact and provide support and resources, as needed, when these videos are shown.

FIND HELP

The following hotlines are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline connects callers to skilled, trained counselors at crisis centers in their area. Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or visit www.suicidepreventionhotline.org.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Helpline—also known as the Treatment Referral Routing Service—provides free and confidential treatment referral and information about mental or substance use disorders, prevention, and recovery. Call 1-800-662-HELP (4357) or visit <http://beta.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline>.

Report suspected child abuse and neglect

We all play a role in protecting children. If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, contact:

Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Country Child Abuse Hotline, call 1-800-633-5155 or visit www.indianaffairs.gov.

Childhelp USA National Hotline, call 1-800-4-A-CHILD (2-24453) or visit www.childhelp.org.



VIDEO 1

A Circle of Healing for Native Children Endangered by Drugs

Children who are raised in homes and communities where alcohol and drug abuse is common can be harmed—physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. This video describes the roots of alcohol and drug abuse in Native communities and illustrates the effects of drug endangerment in Indian Country along with cultural practices and programs that are working to heal individuals and communities across the Nation.

“Kids tend to be healthy when they grow up in an environment where they feel loved, where they feel safe.”

—Roe W. Bubar
Native Studies Scholar

“Children are our future. It’s not too late to change this, to reverse the cycle.”

—Lindon Duke
Cahto Tribal Police Chief

LEARN MORE

Do you want to bring training and technical assistance to your community? Learn more about what's available through the following organizations:

Indian Country Child Trauma Center, call 405-271-8858 or visit www.icctc.org.

Lamar Associates, call 202-543-8181 or visit www.lamarassociates.net.

National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, call 303-413-3064 or visit www.nationaldec.org.

National Indian Child Welfare Association, call 503-222-4044 or visit www.nicwa.org.

National Native Children's Trauma Center, call 406-243-5344 or visit http://iers.umt.edu/National_Native_Childrens_Trauma_Center.

OVC's Training and Technical Assistance Center, call 1-866-OVC-TTAC (682-8822) or visit www.ovcttac.gov.

SAMHSA's Tribal Training and Technical Assistance Center, call 240-650-0257 or visit <http://beta.samhsa.gov/tribal-ttac>.


Unified Solutions Tribal Community Development Group, call 1-877-216-9914 or visit www.unified-solutions.org.



VIDEO 2

Wind River Tribal Youth Program: Connecting Youth with Tribal Tradition

On the Wind River Reservation, two tribes—the Northern Arapaho and the Eastern Shoshone—come together for a shared goal to connect youth to their cultural traditions through the Tribal Youth Program. The program—recognized in 2012 with a SAMHSA Voices of Prevention Award—integrates prevention and treatment with tribal traditions to help youth who face a range of challenges in today’s world. Hear the perspectives of adults and youth as they reflect on historical trauma, the importance of talking and connecting across generations, and the critical role of cultural practices in healing.



“We need to find a way to get our people turned back to who we were, who we are.”

—Crawford White
Northern Arapaho Tribe

here. This is about the kids, the community, the people, the Tribe.”

—Liz Salway Little Creek
Eastern Shoshone Tribe

“You have to listen. The answer you’re looking for is right there within the youth.”

—Telano Groesbeck
Northern Arapaho Tribe



LEARN MORE

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention supports **Tribal Youth Programs** and the **Tribal Youth Program Training and Technical Assistance Center**. To learn more about these programs, available training and technical assistance, and partnering organizations, visit www.tribalyouthprogram.org. See their Model Programs Guide to find other programs that are helping youth at www.ojjdp.gov/mpg.


The Center for Native American Youth maintains current youth opportunities and resources at www.cnay.org/ForYouth.html.



VIDEO 3

Santee Sioux Nation: Healing the Sacred Child

Despite decades of war, exile, and trauma, the Santee Sioux have preserved many of their ancestors' cultural and spiritual ways and heritage. Elders and adults of the Santee Sioux Nation are passionate about sharing the healing power of their traditions and practices with younger generations. This video highlights two specific programs—the Horse Program and Fatherhood is Sacred. Both programs help families heal by working through the historical trauma and pain associated with drug endangerment.




“If we want our children to be healthy, we have to teach them to think healthy. We have to teach them to walk healthy. But most important of all, we have to teach them to respect healthy.”

—Wyatt Thomas
Native American
Studies Instructor

“There is hope for change and hope for a lot of healing, and re-learning how to live a good life.”

—Misty Thomas
Director of Dakota
Tiwahe Social Services



LEARN MORE

Every community has unique strengths, needs, and resources. A **community needs assessment** is often a first step communities take to identify and then define approaches that will use their strengths and resources to address their needs, leading to meaningful, effective, and sustainable change. The training and technical assistance providers highlighted throughout this resource guide can assist communities in this process.

How did the Santee Sioux Nation develop their approach? Program leaders chose to develop their Horse Program by integrating the teachings of the medicine wheel model and natural horsemanship with Equine Assisted Psychotherapy training from EAGALA (www.eagala.org or 1-877-858-4600). Their Fatherhood is Sacred program was developed based on programs affiliated with the Native American Fatherhood and Families Association (www.aznaffa.org or 480-833-5007).



VIDEO 4

Leech Lake Tribal Court: Care for the People

Leech Lake's Tribal Court is part of the first Healing to Wellness Court in the Nation where the tribal court and state court exercise simultaneous jurisdiction for adults and juveniles charged with alcohol- and drug-related offenses. This video illustrates how cultural ways and collaboration between states and tribes can help connect people to effective treatment and support long-term recovery.

"People are seeing that people can be in recovery, even young people, to be examples, to show that if you get some hope, if you get some healing, you can go on to do some pretty amazing things."

—Korey Wahwassuck
Leech Lake Tribal Court

"For those that are taking [part in] these activities, morals and values are being passed from one person to the next."

—Dale Greene
Bamenim Anishinaabeg

LEARN MORE


The Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and SAMHSA collaboratively support Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts through grant programs and provide training and technical assistance to tribes interested in developing wellness courts. To learn more, visit www.wellnesscourts.org.



VIDEO 5

The Tundra Women's Coalition: Restoring Connectedness Broken by Trauma

The subsistence lifestyle is alive and well in rural Alaska, connecting generations of Alaska Natives through hunting, fishing, berry picking, and food gathering. Tragically, this way of life can be threatened by drug abuse, violence, and victimization. This video highlights programs developed through the Tundra Women's Coalition that provide the support teenagers need to cope with adversity and that connect youth with each other, their elders, their traditions, and the environment.



"The work we do here [at TWC] helps kids mend together the trauma that they went through and brings hope back in their lives."

—Nelson Kanuk
Tundra Women's Coalition

"We found that, over time, peer education is the best way to deliver information to youth. Kids listen to other kids. The youth are the strong opinion leaders amongst other youth."

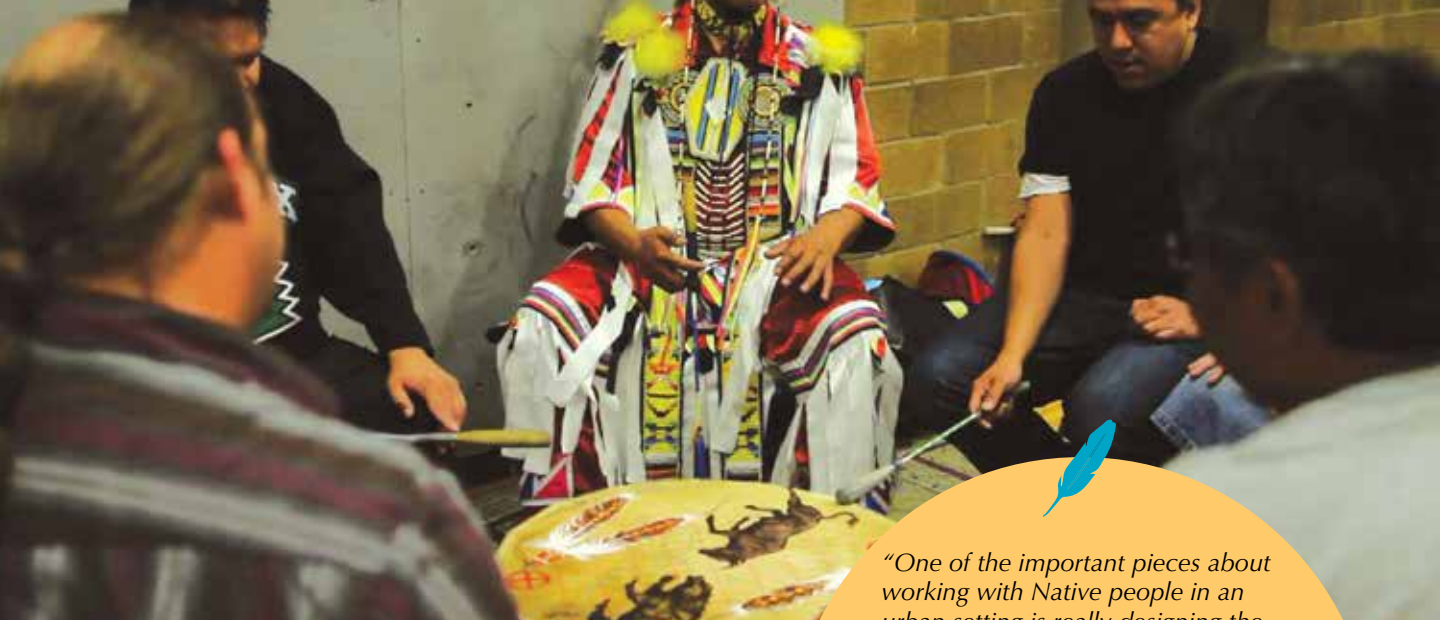
—Michelle Dewitt
Tundra Women's Coalition



LEARN MORE

Visit the **Tundra Women's Coalition** Web site at www.tundrapeace.org to learn more about the Teens Acting Against Violence program. TWC also operates a crisis line that can be reached by calling 1-800-478-7799.

Alaska 2-1-1 offers a one-stop resource for locating community resources across the state. Visit www.alaska211.org or call 2-1-1, or 1-800-478-2221.



VIDEO 6

Healing for Native Families in an Urban Community

Tribal service providers play a critical role in serving Native people who live in urban areas. This video introduces programs in Portland, Oregon, offering culturally relevant health care and social services that members of any tribe can access.

“The normal treatment program didn’t work for our people, you know. And that’s where the elders came up with the idea that we need to get our sweat lodges back in, our pipe ceremonies and talking circle, which is very strong.”

—Phillip Archambault
Native American Rehabilitation
Association of the Northwest

“One of the important pieces about working with Native people in an urban setting is really designing the type of service that is going to be the most relevant and culturally responsive. The Native community here is incredibly multi-tribal, multi-ethnic, and we come with our individual experiences and values from our tribes.”

—Matt Morton
Native American Youth
and Family Center

LEARN MORE

The two organizations featured in the video—Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest, Inc., and Native American Youth and Family Center—provide a range of services in Portland, Oregon. To learn more about their important work visit their Web sites at www.naranorthwest.org and www.nayapdx.org.

To locate culturally relevant health resources and services in your area, visit:

Indian Health Services at www.ihs.gov.

One Sky Center, the American Indian and Alaska Native National Resource Center for Health, Education and Research at www.oneskycenter.org.

SAMHSA's Behavioral Health Treatment Facility Locator at www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov.



VIDEO 7

Portrait of a Family in Recovery

Drug and alcohol abuse affects the entire family. This personal story—told by a mother and daughter—shows a family’s painful, touching, and hopeful journey through addiction and into recovery. They explain the impact of drug endangerment from the perspectives of parent and child and show how culturally based services are critical to their healing process.

“We are able to talk about what has happened in the past. I think for a while I didn’t want to, or I couldn’t talk about it.”

—Anna, daughter

“I really appreciate my family, and I embrace the attitude that all of the challenges that we go through—individually or as a family—they’re only opportunities for us to grow stronger and learn because we’ve been at those low places.”

—Donita, mother

FIND SUPPORT

Know that you are not alone. Support is available for families experiencing and recovering from substance abuse. Find the support that's right for you:

Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization, call 562-595-7831 or visit www.adultchildren.org.

Al-Anon Family Groups, call 613-723-8484 or visit www.al-anon.alateen.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous, call 212-870-3400 or visit www.aa.org.

National Association for Children of Alcoholics, call 1-888-554-2627 or visit www.nacoa.org.

Native American Indian General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, call 256-762-0329 or visit www.naigso-aa.org.

Wellbriety and National Association for Native American Children of Alcoholics, call 202-328-5415 or visit www.wellbriety.com.



Additional Resources:

Efforts are underway across the Federal Government to support tribal responses to crime and victimization. For information about federal grants, visit www.grants.gov.

For a complete list of Tribal Justice and Safety Programs underway across the Department of Justice—including the Office of Tribal Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, Office of Justice Programs, and Office on Violence Against Women—visit www.justice.gov/tribal.

Visit the Office of National Drug Control and Policy's Federal Interagency Task Force for Drug Endangered Children at www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/dec-info.





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