

TRIBAL COURT—STATE COURT FORUM

An Advisory Committee of the Judicial Council of California

Forum E-Update

February/March/April 2023

TRIBAL COURT—STATE
COURT FORUM

An Advisory Committee of the
Judicial Council of California

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FORUM NEWS

[UIC Nursing faculty to tackle trauma in Indigenous community](#)

UIC Today – February 14, 2023

Two faculty members from the UIC College of Nursing received a grant to bring an innovative therapy program to members of a northern California tribe to address trauma and reduce health disparities among the Yurok people.

[Yurok Chief Judge Abby Abinanti North Coast Woman of the Year](#)

California Senator Mike McGuire – March 22, 2023

Judge Abby Abinanti, a dynamic and effective leader for equal access to the justice system and expanded resources and programs for Native American residents across California, has been selected by Senate Majority Leader Mike McGuire as the 2023 North Coast Woman of the Year.

IN THE NEWS

[Indigenous leaders urge Utah to pass a state Indian Child Welfare Act](#)

KUER - February 01, 2023

Indigenous members of Utah's eight federally recognized tribes gathered at the state capitol Tuesday to try to dislodge a bill that's held up in the House Judiciary Committee. HB40 would codify into Utah law provisions of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, which offers protections for Indigenous children going through adoption or foster care. The federal law was in response to the systematic removal of Native American children from homes, often without cause. Also: [HB40](#)

[Dissent Episode Three: How an Adoption Case Could Unravel Tribal Sovereignty](#) (Podcast)

The Intercept – February 01, 2023

The Supreme Court is hearing a case that could dismantle the Indian Child Welfare Act, also known as ICWA. The law was passed in 1978 to combat a history of forced family separation in the United States and prevent the removal of Native children from their communities. But now, in *Haaland v. Brackeen*, ICWA could be completely overturned. In the third episode of *Dissent*, host Jordan Smith is joined by Rebecca Nagle, a journalist, citizen of the Cherokee Nation, and host of the podcast "This Land." Smith and Nagle break down the case and its broad implications for laws based on tribes' political relationship with the U.S. government.

This newsletter is produced by the Judicial Council's Tribal Court—State Court Forum to give tribal and state courts access to sources for capacity building, collaboration, information sharing, and providing resources to the tribal community. Every effort is made to provide timely and relevant content. Please reach out to Tribal Projects staff if you have any questions. 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.

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FORUM LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Visit forum's home page

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

[Navajo Nation leaders advocate for the protection of ICWA laws in the state of Utah](#) (Press release)

25th Navajo Nation Council Office of the Speaker - February 01, 2023
On Tuesday, members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council and Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren met with Utah Lt. Governor Deidre Henderson and state legislators to advocate for House Bill 40, sponsored by State Rep. Christine Watkins (R-Price), which seeks to codify provisions of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in the state of Utah. Last week, the House Judiciary Committee voted to hold the bill from advancing to a floor vote.

[House committee holds hearing on Montana Indian Child Welfare Act](#) (Video)
KECI - February 02, 2023

Montana's legislative session continues chugging along, and in the House, a bipartisan group is championing a bill they say would keep Native families together. House Bill 317, introduced by 25 Democrats and one Republican, would establish the Montana Indian Child Welfare Act.
Also: [HB 317](#)

[Bill to codify Indian Child Welfare Act in state law gets first hearing](#)

Fairfield Sun Times - February 03, 2023
A handful of proponents spoke to their personal experiences being raised outside of their Native American culture and the struggle in adulthood to reconnect with their heritage during a hearing on Wednesday at the House Human Services Committee. Leo Thompson said she was placed with a non-Native family as a child and that her parents knew she had different needs, but didn't know what they were. She said she didn't know what tribe she came from for most of her childhood. Thompson was one of more than 30 proponents of House Bill 317, which would codify the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in state law. ICWA established standards for removal of Native children at a federal level and proponents noted it as the "gold standard" for child custody proceedings and practices.
Also: [HB 317: Provide for the Montana Indian Child Welfare Act](#)
Also: [Indian Child Welfare Act would protect future generations, advocates say](#)

[‘The families deserve answers’: inside the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women](#)

The Guardian - February 03, 2023
Lackluster responses and languishing cases are the norm for many families of [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women \(MMIW\)](#), an epidemic in the US and Canada that has in recent years received significant national media attention, though few answers for loved ones.

[Native children welfare bill passes South Dakota committee](#) (Includes video)
Associated Press - February 03, 2023

A bill aimed at placing Native American children with other relatives when they are taken from their families during abuse and neglect proceedings was approved in a South Dakota House committee Friday. The measure, introduced by Democratic Rep. Peri Pourier, passed the House Judiciary Committee on a 9-3 vote and goes next to the full House for consideration. According to the National Indian Child Welfare Association, Native American children make up 60% of youth placed into the foster system in the state and, nationally, are in foster care at a rate nearly three times that of white children. The group attributes the disparities to systemic bias, historical trauma and high poverty and jobless rates.

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.

Most instances of Native American children being removed from their homes are in negligence cases.

Also: [HB1168: An Act to require active efforts to preserve and reunite Indian families in abuse and neglect proceedings](#)

Also: [SD lawmakers push to actively reunite Indigenous children with families after abuse cases](#) (Includes video) (May require subscription)

Also: [Native child welfare law faces major Supreme Court challenge](#)

Also: [Brackeen v. Haaland, No. 18-11479 \(5th Cir. 2021\)](#)

[States push to enshrine protections for tribal children](#)

AP News – February 07, 2023

Montana is one of a handful U.S. states — along with Wyoming, Utah and North Dakota — considering legislation this year to keep more Native American children from enduring similar experiences by including provisions of the U.S. Indian Child Welfare Act in state law.

[Minnesota lawmakers hoping to codify Indian Child Welfare Act language into state law](#)

KPVI - February 07, 2023

Minnesota lawmakers are hoping to enshrine language into state law to protect Native American children in light of the U.S. Supreme Court appearing poised to overturn identical federal safeguards. The state already has the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, which was adopted in 1985 as a supplement to ICWA. Kunesh's bill (SF667) would add language, like definitions and required processes, to strengthen the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act so it would include ICWA language. If the Supreme Court does overturn ICWA, the status of the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act would be unclear.

[A New Docuseries Spotlights the Current Issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women](#) (includes audio)

WNYC Radio – February 07, 2023

["Murder in Big Horn,"](#) a new docuseries that premiered at Sundance, focuses on multiple cases of missing indigenous women in Big Horn County, Montana. In interviews with native leaders, families as well as law enforcement a tension between the two is palpable.

[Two ICWA bills fail in House](#) (Includes audio)

SDPB - February 07, 2023

A pair of South Dakota House bills designed to codify aspects of the federal Indian Child Welfare protections in state law failed to pass on Monday, Feb. 6. One of them would have bumped up requirements for the Department of Social Services to keep Native children with their families and tribes. The other outlined placement preferences for all children, regardless of race, to keep them in their communities when they're removed from their homes. House Bill 1229, the bill to give first preference for foster or adoptive placements in communities, did not make it through the House Judiciary Committee Monday morning. Later in the day House Bill 1168, to raise the standard for DSS efforts, died on the House floor by a vote of 38-30.

['We are here seeking justice' | California's first Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Day of Action](#)

ABC 10 News – February 07, 2023

Native American people and supporters gathered in Capitol Park to raise awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous People ([MMIP](#)). Lawmakers addressed the topic, including [Assemblymember James Ramos](#), who is the first California Native American to be elected to the state assembly.

[Supreme Court rulings undermine Indian law](#)

Prism – February 07, 2023

Indian law is a framework for making decisions about Indigenous sovereignty and peoples, but recent Supreme Court rulings create new debates despite centuries of precedents. Last June, the Supreme Court erased “centuries of tradition and practice” in [Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta](#) by finding that states have jurisdiction over crimes committed by non-Native Americans against Native Americans in Indian country, [wrote](#) Matthew Fletcher, professor of law at Michigan State University College of Law, who also sits as the chief justice of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. This June, the role of tribal governance is up for debate once more, when the [high court will](#)

[decide](#) what position a tribal court can play when it comes to adoption proceedings and foster care placement under the Indian Child Welfare Act, a federal law enacted in 1978.

[Utah ICWA Bill Held in Committee, But Could be Revisited Later in Session](#)

Imprint - February 07, 2023

A bill in Utah to create a state version of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act has been held in the House Judiciary Committee. While this prevents the bill from going to a floor vote, it may be revisited later in the session. Republican state Rep. Nelson Abbott of Orem said the bill's definitions of extended family and standards around deferring to tribal law and customs could confuse judges unfamiliar with ICWA and the cultures and policies of Utah's tribes, Deseret News reports. Abbott suggested lawmakers could work with tribes to clarify the bill to make it easier for judges to understand. Another lawmaker who voted to hold the bill said she'd rather wait to see what the U.S. Supreme Court decides on the federal statute, which is currently under threat by the Brackeen v. Haaland case that questions its constitutionality.

[California Native American tribes gather to urge support for tribe-centered solutions to end MMIP crisis](#)

Lake County News – February 08, 2023

Tribes from across the state gathered Tuesday for the first-ever Missing and Murdered Indigenous Day of Action at the California State Capitol to advocate for tribally proposed solutions that address the crisis of violence against California's Native Americans.

Proposed solutions to address the crisis surrounding Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons, or MMIP, included two bills introduced earlier this year by Assemblymember James C. Ramos (D-San Bernardino) and regional funding for Northern, Central and Southern California tribes, which have long been excluded from many state and federal programs.

[It Takes a Village: Foster Program Is a New Model of Care for Indigenous Children](#) (Includes audio) (Includes video)

Kaiser Health News and Daily Yonder - February 14, 2023

Past a gravel road lined with old white wooden buildings is a new, 8-acre village dotted with colorful houses, tepees, and a sweat lodge. The Simply Smiles Children's Village, in this small town on the Cheyenne River Reservation, is home to a program aimed at improving outcomes and reducing trauma for Indigenous foster children. All foster programs seek to safely reunite children with their families. The Children's Village goes further. "We want to make Lakota citizens of the world," said Colt Combellick, who oversees mental health programs at the village. "If we can help them relearn their culture and their heritage and connect them to the resources that they need to thrive moving forward, we're going to try to make that happen."

[Proposed bills designed to protect tribal sovereignty, sharpen investigations of missing persons](#)

Nevada Current - February 14, 2023

In recent years, lawmakers in Nevada have bolstered their efforts to address issues faced by Native Americans in the state, a historically overlooked community. This year, lawmakers are looking to introduce several bills focused on the needs of tribes in the state. Draft legislation introduced by state lawmakers for the 2023 Nevada Legislative Session includes measures that would protect inherent treaty rights of Native Americans, enhance the investigation of cases of missing and murdered Indigenous persons, and increase tribal representation in state offices. One bill draft request, submitted by Assemblywoman Shea Backus, D-Las Vegas, would protect the federal Indian Child Welfare Act in Nevada if it is overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, which is scheduled to decide the constitutionality of the federal law by the end of June 2023. Another bill sponsored by Backus would improve gaps in state agencies for tracking and reporting missing and murdered Native Americans. The bill, AB125, would require law enforcement agencies to accept reports on missing people from tribes and colonies in the state, regardless of jurisdiction, and enter the information into the National Crime Information Center and National Missing and Unidentified Persons databases. Also: [AB125](#)

[House Judiciary and Children and Families Committee advances Rep. Keeler's Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act](#)

Red Lake Nation News - February 16, 2023

Today, the Minnesota House Judiciary and Children and Families Committee held a public hearing on HF 1071, authored by Rep. Heather Keeler (DFL - Moorhead). The bill will make improvements to the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, the state version of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978 which establishes child protection procedures and requirements for children who are members of or eligible for membership in a federally recognized Tribe.

[Proposed bill to help prevent 'tragic history of Native American children' placed on pause](#) (Includes video)

St. George News - February 17, 2023

Utah is one of three states considering legislation to prevent Native American children from being removed from their tribes and families unnecessarily. Along with Wyoming and North Dakota, Utah is concerned about challenges to the Indian Child Welfare Act in the U.S. Supreme Court. The federal law provides preference to Indigenous families in adoption proceedings and foster care involving Native American children. As it stands, the law also requires child welfare agencies to give access to services to Native American families to help with reunification.

[Bill aims to protect Indian Child Welfare rights in ND](#) (Includes video)

KXNET - February 20, 2023

A bill in this legislative session aims to protect the rights of Indian children who are in foster care or going through the adoption process. House Bill 1536 would incorporate the Indian Child Welfare Act into North Dakota Century Code. The bill is sponsored by Representative Jayme Davis, and its goal is to help ensure Native American children who were removed from their homes can still grow up with strong family and cultural ties.

[Tribal leaders support federal legislation aimed at helping Indigenous families and children](#)

Arizona Mirror - February 20, 2023

A bill was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives geared toward helping Indigenous children and families by providing tribal nations with the tools and resources they need to treat, prevent, investigate, and prosecute instances of family violence, child abuse, and child neglect. These resources would be provided through the Native American Child Protection Act, which is sponsored by Rep. Ruben Gallego, D-Phoenix. It has been assigned to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Also: [HR 663](#)

[Bill would create state-level Indian Child Welfare Act](#)

Montana Public Radio - February 21, 2023

A bill to create a state-level Indian Child Welfare Act has passed out of committee with bipartisan support and will next be heard by Montana's House of Representatives. The act is modeled after the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, or ICWA, which governs the removal of Native American children in cases of abuse or neglect and prioritizes placing them into the homes of family members or other members of their tribe.

[Committee advances bill that proponents say needed to protect cultural identity of Native children](#)

Montana Free Press - February 22, 2023

A House committee Tuesday advanced a bill that would solidify out-of-home placement protections for American Indian children with their tribe onto the House floor for consideration after waiting nearly three weeks for action. Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy, D-Box Elder, introduced House Bill 317, that would incorporate the federal Indian Child Welfare Act into Montana law. The significance of this bill and ICWA, Windy Boy explained, is to protect the cultural identity of American Indian children.

[Counterpoint: Tribal rights, futures must not be plundered again](#)

Star Tribune – February 23, 2023

The Indian Child Welfare Act recognizes the bedrock principle of tribal sovereignty, and that's why it's under attack.

[US Marshals team up with California Native American tribe to address cases of missing and murdered Indigenous people](#)

CNN – February 25, 2023

The US Marshals Service is teaming up with a Native American tribe based in Northern California for a new push aimed at addressing cases of missing and murdered Indigenous people, a growing crisis that tribes say has not received enough attention.

The Yurok Tribe was chosen as the first pilot location for the federal agency's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Initiative (MMIP), which is part of the [Justice Department's efforts](#) to address disproportionately high rates of violence experienced by Native Americans, including Indigenous people, its website says.

[Panel backs task force to study foster care for Native American children](#)

South Dakota Searchlight - February 27, 2023

A House panel on Monday endorsed a two-year task force to study Native American overrepresentation in South Dakota's foster care system. Senate Bill 191 cleared the full Senate last week. It's the only bill related to Native children in foster care to have survived past a committee hearing so far this session. The Indian Child Welfare Task Force created through SB 191 would be a 17-member group of stakeholders. It would include lawmakers and representatives from the state's nine tribes and officials with the state Department of Social Services. The task force will meet after the session's end in March and submit final reports and recommended legislation before December.

Also: [Senate Bill 191](#)

[Capitol Briefs: abortion law struck down; Indian Child Welfare Act passes House](#) (Includes audio)

Montana Public Radio - March 01, 2023

A Lewis and Clark County District Court judge has struck down a decade-old law to require parental consent for minors under 16 years-old to obtain an abortion. The Montana Legislature passed the consent law in 2013 and it was preliminarily blocked while a challenge from Planned Parenthood of Montana played out in court. In his ruling, Judge Chris Abbott found it unconstitutional, citing the court precedent that says the state's right to privacy protects access to abortion. A spokesperson for Attorney General Austin Knudsen said the office plans to immediately appeal the ruling to the Montana Supreme Court. Abbott is sending a separate law that requires parental notification before a minor can obtain an abortion to trial. That policy was passed by voter referendum in 2012. A trial date will be set later this spring.

[House tanks last remaining bill to address Native American disparity in foster care placements](#)

South Dakota Searchlight - March 01, 2023

The House of Representatives shot down a bill that would have created a task force to study the causes and possible solutions for the disparate representation of Native American children in the foster care system. Senate Bill 191 sailed to the House with unanimous support from a House panel earlier this week. It passed the Senate 22-12 one week ago. Two other bills would have made changes to child removal procedures in the interest of addressing disparate impacts, but each failed in committee.

Also: [Why SD lawmakers won't be studying Indigenous child welfare this year](#) (Includes video) (May require subscription)

[Indigenous course to be mandatory for Yukon lawyers](#)

CBC News – March 01, 2023

'Cultural competency training is part of being a competent lawyer in the Yukon,' says law society president.

[Indian Child Welfare Act Think Tank to Strategize Legal Protections for Tribal Sovereignty](#)

Imprint - March 02, 2023

With the Supreme Court months away from ruling on a case that could throw out longstanding protections for Indigenous children and families, a new think tank has formed to advance legal and political strategies to protect tribal sovereignty. Roughly 20 volunteer members met this week in downtown Los Angeles to launch the California ICWA Institute, in response to threats to the federal Indian Child Welfare Act. The group is composed of tribal court judges, social workers and child welfare experts.

[Legislation Would Ensure Equal Treatment for Michigan's Native Children, Guardians](#)

Native News Online - March 02, 2023

Two state Senators in Michigan have introduced bipartisan legislation that would ensure Native American children can benefit from guardianship assistance, including permanent placement with guardians instead of temporary foster care.

[Oglala Sioux Tribe calls SD House decision 'deplorable'](#) (Includes video)

KELO - March 02, 2023

Native Americans make up less than 10 percent of the state's population but in State Fiscal Year 2022, Native children accounted for 60% of the South Dakota foster care system. The overrepresentation of Native children in the care of the state was the catalyst for Senate Bill 191, which sought to establish a task force comprised of tribal leaders, the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Unified Judicial System and state lawmakers to work together to promote the welfare of Native children. The bill, which faced no opposition in legislative committees, failed 42-26 in the House of Representatives Wednesday.

[The kids are not alright: Little progress on welfare of Native children in South Dakota](#) (Includes video)

KELO - March 03, 2023

It's been nearly 20 years since the state of South Dakota and the nine tribal nations came together to work to better the welfare of Native American children in the state. In 2004, the South Dakota legislature passed a series of bills to address the state's compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and look at ways tribal nations and the state could work together to improve outcomes for Native youth. The passage of Senate Bill 211 that year created the Governor's Commission on the Indian Child Welfare Act through then-Governor Mike Rounds Office.

[States look to codify ICWA protections as the Supreme Court considers the law's legality](#)

Mountain West News Bureau - March 03, 2023

As the U.S. Supreme Court considers a challenge to the Indian Child Welfare Act, several states in the Mountain West are preparing their own laws to protect tribal rights should the court deem ICWA unconstitutional. ICWA requires state courts to prioritize placing Native American children in foster or adoption care within their own tribal communities. It was passed in 1978 in response to the large number of Indigenous children who were being separated from their families, tribes and cultures.

Also: [The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978](#)

Also: [Indian Child Welfare Act \(ICWA\) \(HAALAND V. BRACKEEN\)](#)

[Powerful docuseries spotlights missing and murdered Indigenous women](#)

National Catholic Reporter – March 04, 2023

Indigenous people, as the [National Indian Council on Aging](#) reports, according to the U.S. Census, constitute 1.1% of the total U.S. population. Yet, among some Native American tribes, Native women experience murder rates 10 times higher than the national average, the [National Indigenous Women's Resource Center](#) reports.

[Rep. Heather Keeler's "Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act" legislation passes off the House Floor](#) (Press release)

Minnesota Legislature - March 09, 2023

Today, the Minnesota House of Representatives passed the "Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act" with a 128-0 vote. SF 667, authored by Representative Heather Keeler (DFL - Moorhead), codifies sections of MIFPA that were dependent on the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) into Minnesota law and clarifies various terms undefined in ICWA.

Also: [SF 667](#)

[Yurok Tribe Hires MMIP Investigator](#) (Includes video)

North Coast Journal of Politics, People and Art - March 10, 2023

Julia Oliveira, a Wyandotte Tribe citizen with 25 years of local law enforcement experience, most recently leading the Blue Lake Rancheria Tribal Police Department, is breaking new ground after being hired by the Yurok Tribe to become the first investigator in California fully dedicated to investigating Missing and Murdered Indigenous People cases. "I applied for the MMIP investigator position because I am very passionate about this subject," Oliveira said. "Throughout the state of California, very few resources are allocated to cases involving missing and murdered Indigenous people. I was very excited when I saw the opportunity to be the person who is solely focused on finding missing Indigenous people."

[SD tribes ready to work with the state on protecting Native children](#) (Includes video)

KELO - March 10, 2023

The sovereign tribal nations of South Dakota are willing to work to improve the welfare of Native American children, with or without the state's help. Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Chairman Clyde Estes is not happy with the South Dakota House of Representatives decision to kill Senate Bill 191 that would have created a task force to study and improve the foster care system where Native children are disproportionately represented.

Also: [Senate Bill 191](#)

[Problem of murdered and missing Native American women needs more attention | Commentary](#)

The Wichita Eagle – March 10, 2023

According to a study in 2016 by the National Crime Information Center, there were about 5,712 reports of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women. An October 2022 report by the University of North Dakota School of Law

cited U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs data estimating that there are currently 4,200 missing and murdered cases that have gone unsolved.

[**Montana tribal leaders remind Congress of treaty obligations**](#) (Includes audio) (Includes video)

Billings Gazette - March 10, 2023

As Congress prepares a budget for the coming year, Montana tribal leaders say it needs to be mindful of treaty obligations made to the first people of the continent. Speaking to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and related agencies this week, leaders from three reservations said that Congress has failed to adequately fund basic services like law enforcement and health care.

[**Tribes push for GAP support**](#) (May require subscription)

Record-Eagle - March 10, 2023

Anishinaabek leaders from sovereign nations across Michigan are in support of legislation introduced that would ensure Native American children involved in tribal court systems and their guardians receive access to the same support as those in state courts. Senate Bills 137 and 138 introduced by Sen. Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor, and Sen. John Damoose, R-Harbor Springs, will amend language and introduce legislative provisions to ensure Michigan Native American children will benefit from guardianship assistance on an equal basis, and to support more children being permanently placed with guardians instead of temporary foster care.

[**Gordon signs into law legislation governing Native American adoptions**](#) (Includes audio) (Includes video)

Casper Star Tribune - March 13, 2023

Wyoming now has its own law to prioritize the placement of Native American foster and adopted kids within their tribal communities after Gov. Mark Gordon signed a bill Thursday to codify the federal Indian Child Welfare Act into state statute. The new law, which was championed by the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone tribes, will act as a backstop in case the 1978 federal ICWA is overthrown as unconstitutional. That's become a possibility now that there's a case - Haaland v. Brackeen - before the U.S. Supreme Court challenging the law's constitutionality.

[**First Nations sue Canada over child-welfare system's destruction of culture, language**](#)

CBC - March 14, 2023

Ten Prairie-based First Nations are suing the Canadian government over the loss of language, culture and tradition inflicted on communities by the modern First Nations child-welfare system. Chief David Crate of Fisher River Cree Nation north of Winnipeg is the lead plaintiff in the proposed class-action lawsuit filed Jan. 31 in Federal Court, the latest in a series of battles over the chronic underfunding of child and family services on reserves and in the Yukon. Crate and nine other chiefs are seeking collective compensation for alleged community-level harms exacted by the "mass scooping" of First Nations kids into state custody for more than three decades.

[**Court must uphold Indian Child Welfare Act. Future of tribal sovereignty depends on it**](#) (May require subscription) (Opinion)

Oklahoman - March 15, 2023

As we prepare for the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Brackeen v. Haaland, tribal nations find ourselves in what has become an all-too-familiar position — awaiting a ruling with the potential to uphold or undermine our sovereignty. The court's imminent ruling on the future of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) will impact not only the safety and wellbeing of our children, but our rights as Native people as a whole.

[**ICWA protections now law in Wyoming, Montana considers similar move**](#) (Includes video)

KXLF - March 17, 2023

Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon recently signed a bill that makes the Indian Child Welfare Act state law as an increasing number of states consider similar moves. Congress enacted ICWA in 1978 to protect Native American children from removal from their tribes to be fostered or adopted by anyone from outside a federally recognized tribe.

[**Michigan tribes fight to receive guardianship support for native children**](#) (Includes video)

MLive - March 20, 2023

In Native American communities, if parents cannot raise their children, they are often placed with elders, aunts or uncles, according to Jamie Stuck, president of the United Tribes of Michigan. Preserving these important ties for Native children in Michigan's 12 federally recognized tribes has been made difficult by an oversight in state law preventing potential guardians within the tribe from receiving financial assistance. "Having this assistance would make it a lot easier

for us to, through the court system, have more of a say as far as our children being taken care of within our communities, which is very important to us," Stuck told lawmakers during a March Senate Housing and Human Services Committee hearing. State senators are now considering legislation - SB 137 and SB 138 - to extend the necessary aid to children under the jurisdiction of tribal courts by amending the state Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP).

Also: [SB137](#)

Also: [SB 138](#)

[Judge tells defendant, feds that he cannot legally accept American Indian man's guilty plea](#)

Colorado Politics – March 20, 2023

Breaking with his colleagues in other states, a federal judge has told the government and an American Indian defendant in Colorado that he cannot accept the parties' plea deal because Congress has not authorized him to consider the offense.

[Northern California Tribe Alleges California Unfairly Denied Extended Foster Care Benefits to its Youth](#)

Imprint - March 22, 2023

A lawsuit filed last week accuses a Northern California county and the state's Department of Social Services of unfairly denying Native American youth access to extended foster care benefits, designed as a lifeline for young adults ages 18, 19 and 20 who've been raised in government care. The plaintiffs include tribal member and former foster youth Madison Fisher, who describes being stripped of her county-arranged housing just months after she moved in.

['Children are medicine': Montana ICWA bill gets strong support in 2nd hearing](#) (Includes video) (Includes audio)

Billings Gazette - March 22, 2023

More than 30 people testified in support of a bill that would insert parts of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act into state law with some additional provisions. House Bill 317, introduced by Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy, D-Box Elder, received strong support in its first committee hearing, passed out of the House and, on Wednesday, was heard in the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Safety. No one spoke in opposition of the legislation at the hearing.

[Montana Indian Child Welfare Act gets a Senate hearing](#)

Montana Free Press and Indian Country Today - March 23, 2023

Roberta Duckhead Kittson Nyomo said she and her brother were among the last Native American children adopted out of Thompson Falls before the federal Indian Child Welfare Act was passed in 1978. The siblings were sent to live with a non-Native family. Nyomo remembers them lacking empathy. Nyomo, a member of the Blackfeet Nation, said she and her brother were abused, and she lost her brother to suicide when he was 15. To this day, Nyomo said, she believes their lives would have turned out differently if they had been placed in a Native American family. She told her story to the committee and subsequently in an interview with Montana Free Press on Wednesday, following a meeting in which the Senate Public Health and Human Safety Committee heard House Bill 317, which would create the Montana Indian Child Welfare Act and reinforce protections for the state's Native children by prioritizing tribal involvement in the state's child placement processes.

Also: [House Bill 317](#)

[Splatsin, Canada and British Columbia sign historic coordination agreement for First Nations children and families](#) (Press release)

Office of Mitzi Dean, Minister of Children and Family Development for British Columbia - March 24, 2023

First Nations children thrive when they can stay with their families and their communities, surrounded by their culture and language. As part of the Government of Canada's commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, we will continue to work towards self-determination for First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Today, at a ceremony in Enderby, British Columbia, Kukpi7 (Chief) Doug Thomas of Splatsin; the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Federal Minister of Indigenous Services; and the Honourable Mitzi Dean, BC Minister of Children and Family Development; celebrated the signing of the first coordination agreement in British Columbia, pursuant to the Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, Métis children, youth and families. This agreement supports the ongoing exercise of Splatsin's jurisdiction of their Child, Family and Community Services under Spallumcheen Indian Band Bylaw #3-1980 and Secwepemc law.

[Keeping Native kids out of non-Native foster homes](#) (Includes video)

KXNET - March 27, 2023

The five federally recognized Indian Tribes of North Dakota are acting fast to ensure Native American children in foster care or adoptive homes, are placed with a temporary family in the same tribe or culture. These practices are already being implemented in the state - but one bill would solidify, in state law, that Native American children are protected if any federal decisions overturn The Indian Child Welfare Act or ICWA. House Bill 1536 was created as a response to state and federal agencies removing Native children from their homes and placing them with families outside of their culture. This bill would ultimately give tribal governments, not the state, the final say as to where a Native child will be placed. Also: [HB 1536](#)

[Humboldt County, state of California sued for discriminatory treatment of tribal foster youth](#) (Includes video)

(Includes audio) (May require subscription)

Del Norte Triplicate - March 28, 2023

With pro bono support from Jenner & Block, the California Tribal Families Coalition (CTFC) and Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria filed a lawsuit this week against Humboldt County and the State of California for discriminatory treatment of tribal foster youth. The litigation targets Humboldt County's practice of improperly denying resources to tribal youth after they leave the foster care system at age 18. Tribal youth are the only group of foster youth being denied these resources by the County.

[With ICWA on Chopping Block, Lawmakers Introduce Colorado Version](#)

Law Week Colorado - March 29, 2023

With the U.S. Supreme Court considering overturning the Indian Child Welfare Act, state legislators have introduced a bill to codify the federal law in Colorado. Introduced March 22, SB23-211 would adopt federal regulations of the 1978 ICWA as state law. The bill is set for its first hearing in front of the Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee on April 6.

Also: SB23-211: https://www.statebillinfo.com/bills/bills/23/2023a_211_01.pdf

[Vatican formally rejects 'Doctrine of Discovery' after Indigenous calls](#)

PBS News – March 30, 2023

The Vatican on Thursday responded to Indigenous demands and formally repudiated the “Doctrine of Discovery,” the theories backed by 15th-century “papal bulls” that legitimized the colonial-era seizure of Native lands and form the basis of some property laws today. A Vatican statement said the papal bulls, or decrees, “did not adequately reflect the equal dignity and rights of Indigenous peoples” and have never been considered expressions of the Catholic faith.

[Indigenous Parents' Vision for Baby Boards in Iowa Foster Homes](#)

Imprint - April 03, 2023

Jess Ahūgišjñiwīga Lopez-Walker welcomed a caseworker into her Sioux City, Iowa, home in 2017 as she attempted to adopt her second child, a baby girl she had taken in as a foster parent. The enrolled member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska wanted the infant close to her body, to nurture and carry her the same way her people had for generations - in a cradle board strapped to her back. At the time, Lopez-Walker had spent almost 20 years carefully crafting the baby carriers used in countless Indigenous cultures, with well-sanded wood, soft cloth, padding, and beaded decorative flourishes. But her county caseworker in Iowa explained the carrier did not meet state standards for foster and adoptive parents. "That didn't sit right with me because these have been our way of life for hundreds and hundreds of years," said Lopez-Walker, 46. "The generational trauma that goes with that - I was really hurt when they said, 'No, you can't use that.'"

[Putting a Focus on the Safety, Health and Well-Being of Native Youth during National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#) (Press release)

Indian Health Service - April 05, 2023

April is recognized as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a month to focus on preventing and identifying the ongoing issues of safety, health and well-being for children nationwide. Child abuse and neglect are highly prevalent within tribal communities. American Indian and Alaska Native children have the highest rate of victimization at 15.2 per 1,000 children in a population of the same race or ethnicity. In the United States, at least 1 in 7 children have experienced child abuse or neglect in the past year . Due to unreported cases, these statistics are likely underestimated. Child maltreatment includes physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse and neglect of a child under the age of

18 by a parent, caregiver or person in a custodial role, such as a religious leader, a coach, or a teacher, that results in harm, the potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child.

'A brand new day': First Nations sign child welfare agreement with Ottawa, Alberta

Canadian Press - April 11, 2023

Three northern Alberta First Nations have signed an agreement with the federal and provincial governments to be responsible for their own child welfare systems. The chiefs of Loon River First Nation, Lubicon First Nation and Peerless Trout First Nation gathered Tuesday with members of their communities and representatives of the federal and provincial governments to celebrate the agreement. "Today there is hope, hope that we can begin to truly heal intergenerational trauma that has impacted our children for too long," said Chief Gilbert Okemow of Peerless Trout First Nation, which is about 500 kilometres north of Edmonton. Ottawa passed An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families in 2020 with a focus on prevention so families can receive support to remain together. The agreement signed Tuesday with the three First Nations implements Awašak Wiyasiwêwin, which is Cree for children's law, and gives child and family services control and jurisdiction to the First Nations.

States try to protect tribes' rights in child custody cases as Supreme Court weighs law (Includes video)

USA Today - April 16, 2023

Worried about a pending U.S. Supreme Court case, some states aim to pass new laws ensuring American Indian children can stay in their tribal communities even if they're placed in the child welfare system. Later this year, the court will rule on a longstanding federal law designed to ensure that Native American children removed from their homes by state agencies are not displaced from tribal communities.

Montana ICWA bill clears Senate after heated discussion (Includes audio) (Includes video)

Missoulian - April 17, 2023

A bill that would codify parts of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act into state law passed the Senate on Friday after a contentious discussion on the floor. Thirty-eight senators voted in support of the bill in the second reading, and 12 were opposed. In the third reading, which also happened Friday, 33 people voted in support and the same 12 senators remained opposed. Because the bill passed the House in a different form, it must first be reconciled before heading to the governor's desk. House Bill 317, which has received strong public support in its committee hearings, comes as the federal ICWA is under threat. The federal Supreme Court in July will issue a ruling on a case that challenges ICWA's constitutionality. At least 10 other states have codified ICWA into state law, including, most recently, Wyoming. Every tribe in Montana also passed a resolution that supports codifying ICWA into state law.

Report finds 'huge unmet demand' for afterschool programs among Native American families

Youth Today - April 17, 2023

Finding an afterschool program in South Dakota isn't easy. Outside of the more populated regions - like Sioux Falls or Sioux City - large swathes of rural South Dakota are known as "afterschool deserts," said Sherry Johnson, tribal education director at Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate and a longtime South Dakota Afterschool Network board member. The absence of afterschool programming is particularly acute, she added, in public schools where half or more of the students are Native American. "Some of the schools have really zero opportunities for afterschool learning," Johnson said. Native American families nationwide have a need for afterschool programs that outpaces current community resources, according to a recent Afterschool Alliance report. An author of the report, Nikki Yamashiro, vice president of research at Afterschool Alliance, said the report revealed a "huge unmet demand" for afterschool programs among Native American families.

Also: America After 3PM for Native American Families: <https://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/AA3PM/AA3PM-Native-American-Families-2022.pdf>

Unseen: A California crisis of missing, murdered Indigenous women - Part 1 (Includes video)

CBS News – April 17, 2023

It is a brutal and silent crisis: the growing number of missing or murdered Indigenous women across the U.S., including right here in California. Many of these cases are under investigation and remain unsolved.

'Where is Emmilee Risling?' Missing, murdered Indigenous women cases hampered by 50s-era law (Unseen: A California Crisis, Part 2)

CBS News – April 17, 2023

It's a largely unseen crisis in California - the growing reports of missing and murdered Indigenous women. A little-known

federal law passed in the 1950s may actually be hindering the investigations, leaving loved ones desperate for action and answers.

[Crisis of missing, murdered Indigenous women rooted in historical wrongs](#) (Unseen: A California crisis – Part 3) CBS News – April 18, 2023

Tonight, we shed more light on the Unseen - the missing and murdered Indigenous women in California and some factors that make them more vulnerable, by turning the page to one of the most heinous chapters in the state's history and how the consequences continue to be felt.

[California's Yurok Tribe reclaiming lost lives with old tribal values, spiritual healing](#) (Unseen: A California Crisis – Part 4)

CBS News – April 19, 2023

The Yurok Tribe is taking bold steps to address the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women. The tribe has issued an emergency declaration, is building its first crime database, and seeking a way to regain sovereignty in investigating the cases. It is also using centuries-old tribal values as building blocks of a new tribal justice system, [including starting up a wellness court](#).

[Why I'm Fighting for the Indian Child Welfare Act](#) (Opinion)

Imprint - April 23, 2023

Being a grandparent comes with trials and triumphs, sleepless nights and days that fly by, boundless joy and a sense of purpose. I've loved all of it, and it was only made possible by a law that is essential to keeping Native American families like mine together. It's called the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), and it's at risk of being overturned by the highest court in the country this year. Passed in 1978, ICWA came as a response to the alarming rate of Native American children taken from their homes and families, even when fit and willing relatives were available to care for them. Under ICWA, tribes can play a role in the foster care process, helping to ensure that Native American families stay together whenever safe and possible.

[North Dakota Passes State ICWA Bill](#)

Native News Online - April 26, 2023

As Indian Country waits for the U.S. Supreme Court to pass down a historic ruling on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), North Dakota has passed its own ICWA protections. North Dakota House Bill 1536 passed the state legislature yesterday, April 25. The bill codifies ICWA into state law, meaning if the Supreme Court were to make changes to the federal law, it would not apply to North Dakota law unless the North Dakota Legislature chose to amend the law adopted in HB 1536 in a future legislative session.

[Committee approves most of Windy Boy's amendments to ICWA bill](#) (Includes audio) (Includes video)

Independent Record - April 28, 2023

After deliberating for nearly two hours on Friday, a conference committee accepted the majority of an amendment brought for a bill that would codify parts of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act into state law. Known as ICWA, the Indian Child Welfare Act determines how Native children are put in foster or adoptive homes, prioritizing family and tribal placements. The federal law was enacted in 1978 in response to decades of state child welfare and private adoption agencies separating Native children from their families. House Bill 317, which has received strong public support in its committee hearings, comes as the federal ICWA is under threat. The federal Supreme Court in July will issue a ruling on a case that challenges ICWA's constitutionality.

Also: [House Bill 317](#)

Also: [ICWA for whom?](#) (Opinion)

PUBLICATIONS

[Working With American Indian Children and Families in Adoption](#). [Webpage]. *Child Welfare Information Gateway Topic Webpage* Child Welfare Information Gateway. 2022

[New Report Available on Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls](#)

The [Office of Hawaiian Affairs](#) and the [Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women](#) have published the "[Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls Task Force Report](#)." This is the first of a two-part report on violence against Native Hawaiian women and girls.

Key findings include:

- Native Hawaiian women and girls experience violence at rates disproportionate to their population size.
- More than a quarter of missing girls in Hawaii are Native Hawaiian.
- The average profile of a missing child in Hawaii is a Native Hawaiian 15-year-old female.
- Hawaii has the eighth highest rate of missing persons in the United States.

[Tribal Legal Code Resource: Juvenile Justice - Guide for Drafting or Revising Tribal Juvenile Delinquency and Status Offense Laws](#)

Matt Ficaglia, Ron Whitener, Heather Torres, Jacob Metoxen, Tribal Law and Policy Institute

[ICRA'S Exclusionary Rule](#), Seth E. Montgomery, Boston University Law Review Vol. 102:2101

Abstract: The Fourth Amendment does not limit the actions of the 574 federally recognized Indian tribes. In an affront to tribal sovereignty, Congress enacted the Indian Civil Rights Act ("ICRA") in 1968. The ICRA provides limitations on tribal governments that parallel the Bill of Rights.

[Restorative Justice as Regenerative Tribal Jurisdiction](#), Lauren van Schilfgaarde, California Law Review (forthcoming)

Abstract: For more than a century, the United States has sought to restrict Tribal governments' powers over criminal law. These interventions have ranged from the imposition of federal jurisdiction over Indian country crimes to actively dismantling Tribal justice systems. Two particular moves – diminishing Tribal jurisdiction and imposing adversarial approaches on Tribal courts, respectively – have had particularly devastating impacts on Tribal justice and criminal governance systems. In the contemporary era, these developments have severely constrained Tribal approaches to criminal justice reform.

[Assimilation, Removal, Discipline, and Confinement: Native Girls and Government Intervention](#). (Article in Strengthened Bonds: Abolishing the Child Welfare System and Re-Envisioning Child Well Being, Special Issue of Columbia Journal of Race and Law). Rolnick, Addie C. 2021

[Using Peacemaking Circles to Indigenize Tribal Child Welfare](#). (Article in Strengthened Bonds: Abolishing the Child Welfare System and Re-Envisioning Child Well Being, Special Issue of Columbia Journal of Race and Law). Schilfgaarde, Lauren van., Shelton, Brett Lee. 2021

[Abolition, Settler Colonialism, and the Persistent Threat of Indian Child Welfare](#). (Article in Strengthened Bonds: Abolishing the Child Welfare System and Re-Envisioning Child Well Being, Special Issue of Columbia Journal of Race and Law). Beardall, Theresa Rocha., Edwards, Frank.

[Special Issue: Examining ICWA—Implementation Practice and Research](#), Juvenile Family Court Journal Volume 74, Issue 1

[Article III and Indian Tribes](#), Grant Christensen, Minnesota Law Review (forthcoming)

Abstract: Among the most basic principles of our federal courts is that they are courts of limited jurisdiction, exercising only those powers delegated to them in Article III. In 1985 the Supreme Court inexplicably created an exception to this constitutional tenant, and unilaterally declared a plenary judicial power to review the exercise of an Indian tribe's inherent sovereign authority. This exception is unmoored from all other Supreme Court precedent outside Indian law, and unjustifiably assumes the judicial power in direct contrast to the Court's ordinarily thoughtful jurisprudence on Article III and deference to the separation of powers.

The Journal of Appellate Practice and Process – Winter 2023 Issue Now Available

The [Winter 2023](#) issue of [The Journal of Appellate Practice and Process](#) (Volume 22, Issue 1) is now available. This special issue focuses on appellate issues in and around Indian country. It features the following articles:

- Tessa L. Dysart—[Appellate Issues In and Around Indian Country](#)
- Todd R. Matha—[An Unexpected Challenge: The Consequence of a Limited Tribal Appellate Caseload](#)
- Derrick Beetso, Stacy Leeds, Robert Miller, Kevin Washburn—[Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta—Rebalancing Federal–State–Tribal Power](#)

- Barbara Ann Atwood—[Standing Matters: *Brackeen*, Article III, and the Lure of the Merits](#)
- Adèle Auxier Keim—[The Religious Freedom Restoration Act and Indian Law: From Individual Advocacy to Collective Action](#)
- Victoria Sutton—[Appellate Courts: Stop Accepting an “Absurd” First Amendment Analysis for Native Nations’ Sacred Site Destruction](#)
- Neoshia R. Roemer—[Reading American Indian Law](#)

[Brackeen and the “Domestic Supply of Infants”](#), Marcia Zug in ABA’s Family Law Quarterly, April 2023
 In November 2022, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *Brackeen v. Haaland*. The case concerns the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), a statute enacted in 1978 to help keep Indian children connected to their families and culture.

[After Brackeen: Funding Tribal Systems](#), Kathryn E. Fort in ABA’s Family Law Quarterly, April 2023
 The purpose of the Indian Child Welfare Act was to allow tribes to make decisions for their own families, rather than state courts and agencies. Again and again, tribal leaders stated that they knew what to do for their tribes. Lost in our current fights over ICWA in the Supreme Court is the history of tribal leaders trying to secure funding for *tribal* systems of child welfare. There are pages of testimony often overlooked today where tribal leaders and tribal child welfare workers tried to pin down the section of law that would fund their systems and ensure the purpose of ICWA wasn’t lost.

[“The Gold Standard” of Child Welfare Under Attack: The Indian Child Welfare Act and Haaland v. Brackeen](#), Julia Gaffney in ABA’s Family Law Quarterly, April 2023
 Our country was built on the systemic erasure of Indigenous persons, their communities, and their culture. While one might consider this erasure a thing of the past—a phenomenon belonging more to colonization or the country’s period of Western expansion—many of the legal, social, and political structures in the United States still operate in ways that disparately affect Indigenous communities. One such structure is the child welfare system. In 1978, Congress enacted the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) to rectify the historic wrongs that the U.S. government has committed against Indigenous tribes, namely the forced removal of Indigenous children from their tribes with the intent to whitewash them and systemically eradicate Indigenous communities.

[Restorative Justice for Indigenous Culture](#), Trevor Reed, [UCLA Law Review, Vol. 70, No. 2, 2023](#)
 One still unresolved aspect of North American colonization arises out of the mass expropriation of Indigenous peoples’ cultural expressions to European-settler institutions and their publics. Researchers, artists, entrepreneurs, missionaries, and many others worked in partnership with major universities, museums, corporations, foundations, and other institutions to capture and exploit Indigenous cultural creativity, often in violation of Indigenous peoples’ laws, protocols, and standards of care.

[An Intertribal Business Court](#), Adam Crepelle, American Business Law Journal Volume 60, Issue 1, Spring 2023
 Few Indian reservations have any semblance of a private sector. Consequently, poverty and unemployment are major problems in much of Indian country. While there are many reasons why private enterprise is scarce in Indian country, one of the foremost reasons is businesses do not trust tribal courts. Businesses’ distrust of tribal courts is not unique as outsiders often fear bias in foreign tribunals. Similarly, businesses are often concerned about a court’s capacity to adjudicate complex disputes. Federal diversity jurisdiction was developed to allay fear of bias, and many states have developed business courts to address questions about court capacity. Tribes can overcome these issues by creating an intertribal business court (IBC).

[Best Interest Determinations: Lessons Learned from Tribal Child Welfare Agency, Court Professionals, and Youths](#). (Article in Family is Best Interest, Special Issue of Family Integrity and Justice Quarterly). Family Integrity and Justice Quarterly vol.1, no. 4, p. 50-59 Day, Angelique.,Grinnell-Davis, Claudette.,Roundtree-Swain, Dakota. , Family Integrity & Justice Works.

[Beyond Brackeen: Active Efforts Toward Antiracist Child Welfare Policy](#), Andrea Martin, forthcoming in Yale Law and Policy Review

Due to structural racism, legal protections afforded to families of children in the foster care system have been significantly eroded and continue to be challenged. As a result, families of color, who are disproportionately represented in the foster care system, do not receive the support needed to maintain or regain custody of their children and preserve their families.

[Legal Violence and Restorative Justice](#), Julie Shackford-Bradley, Hastings Journal on Gender and the Law, Volume 34, Number 2, Spring 2023

This essay explores the use of “legal violence” as a key concept for unlocking and unpacking discussions of structural violence and structural racism in law and policy. The concept of legal violence has been put forth in multiple articles by sociologists Leisy Abrego, Cecilia Menjivar, and other colleagues with the intention of understanding the impact of immigration policy and law on individuals and communities.

[American Indians, Indian Tribes, and State Government. \[Minnesota\]](#). Minnesota. House of Representatives. Research Department. 2023

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.

[America After 3PM for Native American Families](#). America After 3PM., Afterschool Alliance. 2023

In 2020, among Native American children who were not enrolled in an afterschool program, 45 percent would have been enrolled if a program were available. While higher than unmet demand nationally in 2014 (41 percent), the current unmet demand among Native American children is lower than unmet demand among Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) (62 percent); Black (58 percent); Latinx (55 percent); and White children (46 percent).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bureau of Indian Affairs Publishes new [Indian Child Welfare Act: Designated Tribal Agents for Service of Notice](#) Published 3/22/2023 in the Federal Register.

[Tribal Alert: Veterans Affairs Co-Payment Exemption Rule](#)

California Indian Legal Services

Under a new regulation that took effect on April 4, 2023, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will no longer require co-payments for hospital care, nursing home care, or outpatient medical care provided by the VA to patients who provide documents showing that they are Native American (including Alaska Native). This regulation also waives any copayments the VA would otherwise require for prescription and over-the-counter medications (not including medical devices, medical supplies, or nutritional supplements like vitamins) that the VA provides. The VA additionally will retroactively reimburse any such copayments already made by qualifying individuals for services provided on or after January 5, 2022.

ONLINE RESOURCES

[Child Victims and Witnesses Support Materials: Children and Youth in Tribal Communities.](#)

Office for Victims of Crime

Based on the input of national experts, the materials are designed to educate children and youth in Tribal communities between the ages of 2–18 about—

- how the justice system works,
- what their rights are,
- the roles of the different practitioners they might meet, and
- how they can cope with the difficult feelings they might have.

For each age group, there are materials about criminal investigations and criminal court and another set about child welfare intervention and dependency court.

[The Role of Tribal Advocates in Indian Child Welfare Act Cases \(Podcast\)](#)

In lieu of attorneys, many tribes exercise their right to participate in ICWA cases through tribal advocates. In this podcast you will hear from tribal advocates about the work that they do, some common practices and situations that make their job more difficult, and strategies that help address those challenges. You will also hear from two California State Court Judges about the value of tribal advocates and how they help facilitate tribal participation in their court rooms.

Speakers:

Liz Elgin DeRouen, executive director, Indian Child and Family Preservation Program; ICWA Advocate
Hon. Joyce Hinrichs, Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Humboldt
Hon. Ann Moorman, Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino
Melissa Norwood, Trinidad Rancheria social worker; ICWA Advocate
Angela Sundberg, Trinidad Rancheria Social Services Director; ICWA Advocate

- [Listen](#)
- [Transcript](#)

[Building Capacity Around Suicide Prevention in Tribal Child Welfare Programs](#)

Capacity Building Center for Tribes

The resources compiled here can support the development or enhancement of suicide prevention efforts and tribal child welfare best practice within your program and community.

[Resources to Create a Circle of Protection to Prevent Trafficking of Indigenous Children](#)

Capacity Building Center for Tribes

The crime of commercial sexual exploitation, or sex trafficking, is affecting tribal communities everywhere. Tribal child welfare agencies can collaborate with others to create a circle of protection by recognizing the issue and its effect on tribal communities, protecting children by incorporating responsive strategies, and preventing future occurrences.

[Common Problems, Common Solutions: Looking Across Sectors at Strategies for Supporting Rural Youth and Families Tool-Kit](#)

Center for Juvenile Justice Reform

The tool kit provides an overview of barriers that rural communities face in preventing youth involvement in the juvenile justice system. It also provides examples of innovative practices serving justice-involved youth and their families in rural communities that can be adapted by other juvenile justice practitioners.

[Resource Center on Justice-Involved LGBTQ2S+ Youth Newsletter](#)

National Center for Youth with Diverse Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression (The National SOGIE Center)

The Resource Center on Justice-Involved LGBTQ2S+ youth will be a hub of information and resources to address the specific challenges faced by justice-involved LGBTQ2S+ youth.

[Just Investigative Support for Indigenous Communities](#) (Podcast) February 2023.

Episode three of our *Unidentified Human Remains* mini season, Just Science sat down with **Mark Pooley**, founder of Native Search Solutions, and **Dustin Driscoll**, Research Public Health Analyst at RTI International, to discuss the many barriers faced by indigenous communities when it comes to identifying missing and murdered persons.

[Reclaiming the Child Welfare NarrATIVE](#) (Podcast)

Capacity Building Center for Tribes

Join Jackie Crow Shoe, enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, as she connects with child welfare experts across Indian Country to address the importance of building tribal child welfare programs that are reflective of their community values and culture – reclaiming the narrative from a dominant system to one that reflects Indigenous worldviews and emphasizes responsibilities to children.

[Making the Most of Your Data: Information Interpretation – Ready Your Data, Tell Your Story](#)

Capacity Building Center for Tribes

Tribal child welfare programs collect a lot of data for many different reasons, often reasons that are externally driven, i.e., grant and program reporting requirements. We often overlook how important data is to program improvement and a

great way for programs to tell their story of their work. Viewers will learn how to ask questions of the data, understand the answers it gives, and ways to tell the story of how they serve children, families and community.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, WEBINARS AND TRAININGS

[Talking Circle: Supporting Families of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People](#)

May 03, 2023

12:00 - 1:15 pm

When a loved one goes missing or is murdered, the family experiences profound trauma, grief, and pain; the long-lasting impacts of a Missing or Murdered Indigenous Person (MMIP) are felt by entire communities. Support and services are available to assist families as they search for a loved one or seek justice on behalf of a family member.

Join this no-cost webinar and hear from American Indian and Alaska Native panelists as they share services benefiting MMIP families, financial resources to support these efforts, and the healing impact survivor services can have on MMIP families.

[2023 Indian Law Conference](#)

May 05, 2023

Minnesota CLE Conference Center

600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 370, Minneapolis

Can't attend the live seminar?

View the online replay Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at www.minncle.org

National and local experts provide the latest updates and guidance on legal and policy developments affecting Indian tribes, tribal businesses, tribal members and Indian lawyers.

[Maximizing the First 3 Hours for a Child Abduction in Indian Country](#) (Virtual)

Criminal Justice Training Center

May 11, 2023

7:00 - 8:00 am

Gain knowledge and information on tribal nations and rural communities to maximize the response of the first hours of a child abduction. Special attention will be provided to updates on techniques and methods for community response to a missing or abducted child from Indian Country.

[Indian Child Welfare Act \(ICWA\) in Probate Guardianships](#) (Virtual)

May 15, 2023

12:00–1:00 P.M.

Location: Zoom for Government

ICWA applies to probate guardianships, but probate courts and litigants do not have the same resources available and procedures in place to comply with ICWA requirements. In this webinar our panel of experts will discuss ICWA's legal requirements and challenges for probate guardianship courts in meeting these requirements and will provide some practical strategies for meeting these challenges. To register click [here](#).

[Building the Bridge from Planning to Implementation: 2023 Statewide Collaborative Prevention Convening](#) (Hybrid)

California Department of Social Services (CDSS)

May 16 & 17, 2023

Our convening this year will take on a hybrid format. On **May 16th**, we'll be meeting **virtually**, while on **May 17th**, we'll be having a **hybrid** event. For the latter, county teams have the opportunity to gather in person at a local site, while still being able to connect virtually with presenters and other teams for plenary sessions. The purpose of this convening is to help local teams gather to share their experiences moving from planning to implementation, discuss what has worked well, and focus on the engagement of Tribes and people with lived expertise.

To register for May 16, 2023: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkd-yspzoIH9G4SvaPthF4a9Q6jPbD-T3l#/registration>

To register for May 17, 2023:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdeqhqjMsHtamsNRP2CuRDnCaYqZxlfG#/registration>

TLPI Celebrates National Treatment Court Month (Virtual)

Please join the [Tribal Law and Policy Institute](#) (TLPI) as we celebrate National Treatment Court Month. During the week of May 22-26, 2023, TLPI will host a series of 75-minute webinars each day to provide your program with the knowledge to design an innovative and successful wellness court model, to heal and restore members of your community. The webinars will cover topics related to the history and evolution of Healing to Wellness Courts, drafting wellness courts into tribal law, and joint jurisdiction collaboration.

This event is free to all participants. Digital copies of all training materials, including publications, handouts and PowerPoint presentations, will be available at [WellnessCourts.org](#).

This event is pending Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit approval from the California State Bar.

Monday, May 22, 2023

10am AKDT / 11am PDT / 12pm MDT / 1pm CDT / 2pm EDT

Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts: History and Evolution

Session Description: This session will look back at lessons learned from the first four Healing to Wellness Courts and a look to the future. Healing to Wellness Courts have evolved from responses to addiction issues in tribal communities to respected programs that work collaboratively with non-tribal jurisdictions. Healing to Wellness Courts are opportunities for tribal communities to become innovative in their response to addiction issues and the criminal justice system, some of these innovations will be highlighted in this presentation.

Presenters:

- Kristina Pacheco, Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Specialist, Tribal Law and Policy Institute
- Grace Carson, Skadden Fellow, Tribal Law and Policy Institute

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

10am AKDT / 11am PDT / 12pm MDT / 1pm CDT / 2pm EDT

Putting the Wellness Court into Code

Session Description: This session will discuss the recent TLPI publication: [Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts: Formalizing Healing to Wellness Courts in Tribal Law](#) (2022), which tracks ways in which tribes have drafted Wellness Courts into tribal law. Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts are restorative justice components of the Tribal Court. To the extent they operate a docket, adjudicate cases, and most critically, heal and restore members and the community, some tribes have noted their existence in the tribal code. Because each tribe is structurally and culturally unique, there is no one correct way to promulgate a Wellness Court into tribal law, or if that exercise is even necessary. This session will identify the considerations for code drafting, identify variations, and push tribes to contemplate how the Wellness Court operates in relation to other parts of the tribal judiciary and tribal law.

Presenter: Lauren van Schilfgaarde, Assistant Professor of Law, UCLA School of Law

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

10am AKDT / 11am PDT / 12pm MDT / 1pm CDT / 2pm EDT

An Overview of Legal Issues & Support for Native American and Alaska Native Veterans

Session Description: The webinar will set forth basic demographic and historical information about the diverse backgrounds of Native American veterans including common experiences many share. It will highlight key issues of importance to medical and legal practitioners seeking to connect with veterans, including cultural issues and stereotypes affecting veterans; issues related to entering and exiting the military; the impacts of trauma; the benefit of linking services with medical and mental health systems and/or wellness and treatment courts; and the importance of tribal members and veterans in leadership roles with broad consultative influence in designing program models and outreach.

Presenters:

- Raymond Daw, Behavioral Health Consultant
- Regina Roanhorse Begay, Court Administrator, Navajo Nation Judicial Branch Judicial District of Alamo and Judicial District of To'Hajilee
- Andrea Seielstad, Professor of Law, School of Law, University of Dayton and Tribal Law Consultant, National American Indian Court Judges Association

Thursday, May 25, 2023

10am AKDT / 11am PDT / 12pm MDT / 1pm CDT / 2pm EDT

Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts as Restorative Justice

Session Description: “Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts as Restorative Justice” will explain how the foundations of Healing to Wellness Courts (HTWC) are rooted in restorative justice principles, and how HTWCs have since evolved from these restorative foundations. This webinar will explore restorative justice approaches, current restorative justice practices found in HTWCs, and how to increase restorative approaches in HTWCs. There will also be discussion about why restorative justice is an important aspect of HTWCs, the wellbeing of our community members, and tribal sovereignty.

Presenter: Grace Carson, Skadden Fellow, Tribal Law and Policy Institute

Friday, May 26, 2023

10am AKDT / 11am PDT / 12pm MDT / 1pm CDT / 2pm EDT

Joint Jurisdiction Healing to Wellness Courts 101: An Overview

Session Description: Tribal, state, federal and local courts have overlapping jurisdictions and face common challenges and resource limitations. To address these concerns, several jurisdictions have come together in a joint jurisdictional Healing to Wellness Courts (HTWC) model that acknowledges each other’s autonomy, while sharing resources for better outcomes for everyone. This workshop will discuss what joint jurisdictional courts are, how they began, and how through different forms of intergovernmental collaboration, tribes have been successful in operating joint jurisdictional HTWC courts.

Presenter: Hon. Korey Wahwassuck, Judge, Ninth Judicial District, Itasca County, Minnesota

[Child Abuse and Neglect Institute \(CANI\)](#)

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)

June 13-16, 2023

Reno, NV

The NCJFCJ’s training for dependency court judges, the Child Abuse and Neglect Institute (CANI), provides instruction for new or experienced judges on the knowledge and skills necessary to preside over an effective child abuse and neglect court process. Participants will also receive instruction on emerging and promising practices to improve outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system.

[CSEC Action Team meeting \(Virtual\)](#)

June 14, 2023

We are excited to announce that the next CSEC Action Team meeting will focus on better understanding and elevating the needs of youth experiencing substance use issues and CSE. Throughout this discussion we will provide some background information on substance use, hear directly from lived experience experts, as well as highlight service providers utilizing harm reduction practices as they engage with this work.

[Women Are Sacred Conference 2023](#)

June 26-28, 2023

Albuquerque, NM

The Women Are Sacred (WAS) Conference is one of the oldest and largest gatherings of advocates, survivors, Tribal domestic and sexual violence programs, Tribal community members, Tribal leadership, law enforcement, and Tribal court personnel dedicated to ending violence against Native American women and children.

[2023 Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Enhancement Training](#)

Agua Caliente Reservation in Palm Springs, California

September 12-14, 2023

The [Tribal Law and Policy Institute \(TLPI\)](#) looks forward to welcoming back new and returning attendees in-person for the 2023 Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Enhancement Training (Enhancement Training). The Enhancement Training will be held September 12-14, 2023 on the Agua Caliente Reservation in Palm Springs, California.

The Enhancement Training will be oriented around the Tribal Ten Key Components and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) National Drug Court Standards. The Enhancement Training is a unique opportunity to receive information on current drug court best practices, learn innovative approaches to substance abuse and treatment, and engage with other Healing to Wellness Courts practitioners from across the country.

This training focuses upon tribal issues, including jurisdictional and legal issues unique to Indian country; the incorporation of custom and tradition into the phases, case management, treatment curriculums, and tangential services; and the peer-to-peer sharing of successful Healing to Wellness Courts models in operation. Training topics will cover adult criminal, juvenile delinquency, family dependency, DWI/DUI, and veterans models. For any questions or comments, please contact Wellness@TLPI.org

COVID-19 SPECIFIC GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

[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

[Law Enforcement Agency De-Escalation Grants -Community Policing Development Solicitation](#)

Department of Justice

Community Oriented Policing Services

O-COPS-2023-171550

Deadline: May 15, 2023

COPS Office will provide grant funding to support whole agency training efforts in de-escalation, implicit bias, and duty to intervene, including overtime to participate in training programs and support for training officers to attend nationally certified train-the-trainer programs in these topic areas. Funding can also be used to support use of force data analysis; after-action reviews; the development of internal marketing and promotional materials, policies, and procedures that encourage a de-escalation mindset; and other organizational change efforts that work toward the creation of a culture of de-escalation within an agency.

[Tribal Resources Grant Program - Technical Assistance](#)

Department of Justice

Community Oriented Policing Services

O-COPS-2023-171555

Deadline: May 15, 2023

The FY22 TRGP-TA program will fund projects that develop knowledge, increase awareness of effective community policing strategies, increase the skills and abilities of law enforcement and community partners, increase the number of law enforcement agencies and relevant stakeholders using proven community policing practices, and institutionalize

community policing practice in routine business. This year's program has one open solicitation: *“Improving Public Safety and Criminal Justice for Native Americans and Addressing the Crisis of Missing Indigenous People”*

[Opioid Affected Youth Initiative](#)

**U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
O-OJJDP-2023-171693**

Grants.gov Deadline: May 16, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: May 30, 2023

OJJDP will support states and communities to develop coordinated responses to opioid and other substance use-related challenges that impact youth and community safety. Funding may be used to support programs and services to youth and families impacted by both opioids and other substance use disorders.

[Second Chance Act Youth Reentry Program](#)

**U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
O-OJJDP-2023-171707**

Grants.gov Deadline: May 23, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: June 05, 2023

This program will provide funding to support states, units of local government, and community-based organizations to develop programs to provide comprehensive reentry services for moderate- to high-risk youth before, during, and after release from confinement; support transitional services to assist youth's successful reintegration into the community; deliver relevant training to key stakeholders positioned to impact youth's reentry process; and support a robust training and technical assistance program.

[Transforming America's Response to Elder Abuse: Enhanced Multidisciplinary Teams \(E-MDTs\) for Older Victims of Abuse and Financial Exploitation and T&TA](#)

**U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office for Victims of Crime
O-OVC-2023-171702**

Grants.gov Deadline: May 24, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: May 31, 2023

OVC seeks to support the development or enhancement of multidisciplinary teams to better identify and respond to cases of abuse of older adults and more comprehensively serve and support older victims of financial exploitation and other forms of elder abuse. The program will also support a National Elder Abuse Training and Technical Assistance Center.

[Anti-Trafficking Housing Assistance Program](#)

**U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office for Victims of Crime
O-OVC-2023-171705**

Grants.gov Deadline: May 30, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: June 05, 2023

The purpose of this program is to develop, expand, and/or strengthen funded organizations so they can provide housing and associated support services to victims of human trafficking.

[Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children](#)

**U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
O-OJJDP-2023-171713**

Grants.gov Deadline: May 30, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: June 12, 2023

This program supports activities that foster positive family engagement between incarcerated parents and their children within detention and correctional facilities, including juvenile detention and correctional facilities with young fathers, and implement programs and services that support the children of incarcerated parents to reduce the likelihood of antisocial behaviors and future involvement in the juvenile justice system.

[Child Victims and Witnesses Support Materials: Outreach and Implementation Project](#)

**U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office for Victims of Crime
O-OVC-2023-171724**

Grants.gov Deadline: June 05, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: June 12, 2023

The goal of this project is to increase access and availability of the OVC-published Child Victims and Witnesses Support Materials, fulfilling their intended purpose of supporting young victims and witnesses that interact with the justice system.

[Field-Generated Solicitation: Increasing Options and Expanding Access for Victims of Crime](#)

**U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office for Victims of Crime
O-OVC-2023-171714**

Grants.gov Deadline: June 05, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: June 12, 2023

The goal for this program is to generate proposals that reflect the authentic needs and challenges of the victim services field in responding to the current realities of crime victimization in our country. Specific goals for OVC include identifying innovative approaches to issues that have challenged the victim services field for years; identifying relevant and cost-effective solutions that can be replicated and sustained over time; building knowledge about what strategies may increase service options for those victims who have very few service options available to them; and enhancing the access points through which crime victims can receive the services they need.

[National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative: Training and Technical Assistance Program](#)

**U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Assistance
O-BJA-2023-171749**

Grants.gov Deadline: June 05, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: June 12, 2023

The overall goal of the National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative TTA Program is to build state and local capacities to address violent crime associated with unsubmitted SAKs, sexually motivated homicides, and corresponding crime scene evidence by supporting the needs of SAKI sites and, as resources allow, other jurisdictions engaged in community-based sexual assault reform.

[Smart Reentry: Expanding Jail Programs and Services](#)

**U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Assistance
O-BJA-2023-171719**

Grants.gov Deadline: June 05, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: June 12, 2023

BJA seeks to fund units of local government and federally recognized Indian tribal governments to plan, implement, or expand effective reentry practices and service delivery systems within local correctional facility (nonprison) settings, including jails, and for incarcerated persons transitioning from these facilities to the community. This funding is available to support the development and provision of innovative evidence-based reentry programming and services that address the needs of individuals returning to the community from jail and that reduce recidivism for the local population. Services can be provided in a wide range of local correctional settings, including jails, halfway houses, and in the community.

[Census of Prosecutor Offices](#)

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics
O-BJS-2023-171690

Grants.gov Deadline: June 06, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: June 13, 2023

BJs seeks to administer the Census of Prosecutor Offices (CPO) through its National Survey of Prosecutor (NSP) series. BJS has collected data from state court prosecutors through a survey or census since 1990. The last census was conducted in 2007 and the last survey was conducted in 2020. The 2023 census seeks to collect data from the more than 2,330 prosecutor offices across the nation.

[Integrated Services for Minor Victims of Human Trafficking](#)

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office for Victims of Crime
O-OVC-2023-171716

Grants.gov Deadline: June 06, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: June 13, 2023

The purpose of this program is to enhance the quality and quantity of services available to assist minor victims of human trafficking.

[NICS Act Record Improvement Program](#)

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics
O-BJS-2023-171710

Grants.gov Deadline: June 07, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: June 14, 2023

This funding will assist states and tribes with finding ways to make more records available to the NICS, including records in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), criminal history record information available through the Interstate Identification Index (III), and records in the NICS Indices.

[Basic Center Program](#)

Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children & Families - ACYF/FYSB
HHS-2023-ACF-ACYF-CY-0021
Deadline: June 09, 2023

The Basic Center Program (BCP) provides temporary shelter and counseling services to youth who have left home without permission of their parents or guardians, have been forced to leave home, or other homeless youth who might otherwise end up in the law enforcement or in the child welfare, mental health, or juvenile justice systems. BCPs work to establish or strengthen community-based programs that meet the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth and their families. BCP grant recipients provide youth under 18 years of age with emergency shelter, food, clothing, counseling, and referrals for health care. BCP grant recipients can provide up to 21 days of shelter for youth and seeks to reunite young people with their families, whenever possible, or to locate appropriate alternative placements.

[Developing Future Victim Specialists to Serve American Indian/Alaska Native Victims of Crime](#)

Department of Justice
Office for Victims of Crime
O-OVC-2023-171529

Grants.gov Deadline: June 12, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: June 20, 2023

OVC seeks to develop a workforce of victim service providers to serve American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) victims of crime in isolated locations. By identifying and training prospective victim service professionals in, or from, the communities to be served, Tribal and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) victim service programs will be better able to fill

these positions in remote Indian Country and Alaska Native locations, and in turn ensure that victims in these locations get the services they need.

[Law Enforcement Core Statistics \(LECS\) Program](#)

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics
O-BJS-2023-171706

Grants.gov Deadline: June 12, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: June 19, 2023

The LECS will focus on the organizational characteristics of LEAs to provide accurate and timely national statistics about the personnel, operations, policies, and procedures of federal, state, county, local, and tribal LEAs in the United States.

[Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program](#)

Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration
HRSA-23-081

Deadline: June 12, 2023

The purpose of this program is to promote behavioral health integration into pediatric primary care by supporting the planning and development of statewide, regional or tribal pediatric mental health care tele-consult access programs. These networks of pediatric mental health care teams will provide tele-consultation, training, technical assistance, and care coordination support for pediatric primary care providers (PCPs) to diagnose, treat, and refer children with behavioral health conditions.

[Supporting Children, Youth, and Families Affected by the Drug Crisis: Recruiting and Developing Peer Recovery Coaches](#)

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office for Victims of Crime
O-OVC-2023-171726

Grants.gov Deadline: June 12, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: June 20, 2023

OVC seeks to fund one lead organization that will (1) competitively select and fund subawards to recruit, train, and deploy paid peer recovery coaches who will assist a family member or caregiver's recovery from substance misuse in order to support the well-being of youth who have experienced victimization as a result of the drug use; (2) provide technical assistance to the selected sub awardees; and (3) assist in the development of a peer recovery coach paraprofessional program.

[Youth Violence Prevention Program](#)

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
O-OJJDP-2023-171718

Grants.gov Deadline: June 12, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: June 26, 2023

OJJDP seeks to provide funding for applicants to develop and/or enhance strategies to prevent youth violence, including youth gang involvement and youth gang/group violence.

[Rural and Small Department Violent Crime Reduction Program](#)

Department of Justice
Bureau of Justice Assistance
O-BJA-2023-171729

Grants.gov Deadline: June 13, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: June 20, 2023

BJA seeks to support small and rural agencies in their efforts to combat violent crime.

[State-Tribal Partnerships to Implement Best Practices in Indian Child Welfare](#)

Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families - ACYF/CB
HHS-2023-ACF-ACYF-CW-0055
Deadline: June 13, 2023

The purpose of this notice of funding opportunity is to create and implement intergovernmental partnership models to improve implementation of child welfare best practices that are culturally appropriate for federally recognized AI/AN children to prevent maltreatment, removal from families and communities, and improve safety, permanency, and well-being. Recipients will serve as demonstration sites to design and implement projects to effectively implement culturally appropriate best practices in Indian child welfare, including research and evaluation of improvements in child welfare practice, Indian child welfare codes, legal and judicial processes, case monitoring, case planning, data collection, in-home family preservation services, infrastructure, and systems change.

[Reimagining Justice: Testing a New Model of Community Safety](#)

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Assistance
O-BJA-2023-171745

Grants.gov Deadline: June 20, 2023
JustGrants Deadline: June 27, 2023

This solicitation will fund applications proposing an innovative strategy or model to improve community safety, build trust, limit unnecessary involvement in the criminal justice system, and improve residents' perceptions of law enforcement and procedural fairness and legitimacy.

[Street Outreach Program](#)

Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children & Families - ACYF/FYSB
HHS-2023-ACF-ACYF-YO-0019
Deadline: June 20, 2023

The Street Outreach Program provides street-based services to runaway, homeless, and street youth who have been subjected to or are at risk of being subjected to sexual abuse, prostitution, sexual exploitation, and severe forms of human trafficking in persons. These services, targeted in areas where street youth congregate, are designed to assist such youth in making healthy choices and providing them access to shelter as well as basic needs, including food, hygiene packages and information on a range of available services.

[Youth Homeless Demonstration Program](#)

Department of Housing and Urban Development
FR-6700-N-35
Deadline: June 27, 2023

NOFO Highlights HUD will select up to 25 communities to participate in the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) to develop and execute a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness.

[Advancing Equity in Child Support](#)

Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families - OCSE
HHS-2023-ACF-OCSE-FD-0022
Deadline: June 30, 2023

The recipient of this grant award will examine child support guidelines, policies, and procedures to address the disproportional access to child support services.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

[COPS Hiring Program](#)

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

O-COPS-2023-171633

Grants.gov Deadline: May 04, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: May 11, 2023

The goal of the COPS Hiring Program (CHP) is to provide funding directly to law enforcement agencies to hire and/or rehire additional career law enforcement officers in an effort to increase their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts.

[Mentoring for Youth Affected by Opioid and Other Substance Misuse](#)

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

O-OJJDP-2023-171665

Grants.gov Deadline: May 04, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: May 18, 2023

With this solicitation, OJJDP seeks to enhance and expand mentoring services for children and youth impacted by opioids and other drug misuse.

[Services for Victims of Human Trafficking](#)

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office for Victims of Crime

O-OVC-2023-171660

Grants.gov Deadline: May 04, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: May 11, 2023

The purpose of this program is to develop, expand, or strengthen victim service programs for victims of human trafficking.

[Planning and Developing Infrastructure to Promote the Mental Health of Children, Youth and Families in American Indian/Alaska Native \(AI/AN\) Communities](#)

Department of Health and Human Services

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

SM-23-022

Deadline: May 5, 2023

The purpose of this program is to provide tribes and tribal organizations with tools and resources to plan and design a family-driven, community-based, and culturally and linguistically competent system of care.

[Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program](#)

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

O-OJJDP-2023-171678

Grants.gov Deadline: May 09, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: May 23, 2023

OJJDP seeks to build the capacity of states, state and local courts, units of local government, and federally recognized Tribal governments to implement new and innovative approaches to enhance existing juvenile drug treatment courts and improve outcomes for youth with substance use or co-occurring mental health disorders, including histories of trauma.

[Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction Grant Program](#)

U.S. Department of Justice

Office on Violence Against Women

O-OVW-2023-171481

Grants.gov Deadline: May 09, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: May 11, 2023

The OVW Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction Grant Program (Tribal Jurisdiction Program) (CFDA# 16.025) supports tribes in their efforts exercise special Tribal criminal jurisdiction (STCJ) over non-Indians who commit

“covered crimes” within the Tribe’s jurisdictional boundaries and provides technical assistance for planning and implementing changes in their criminal justice systems necessary to exercise the jurisdiction. “Covered crimes” are limited to assault of Tribal justice personnel; child violence; dating violence; domestic violence; obstruction of justice; sexual violence; sex trafficking; stalking; and violation of a protection order

[Supporting Effective Interventions for Youth with Problematic or Illegal Sexual Behavior](#)

Department of Justice

Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention

O-OJJDP-2023-171641

Grants.gov Deadline: May 11, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: May 25, 2023

OJJDP seeks to provide funding to communities to develop intervention and supervision services for youth with problematic or illegal sexual behavior, and to provide treatment services for their victims and families/caregivers.

[Advancing the Use of Technology to Assist Victims of Crime](#)

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office for Victims of Crime

O-OVC-2023-171676

Grants.gov Deadline: May 15, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: May 22, 2023

The goals of this program are to increase greater access to victim services and build the technological capacity of victim-serving organizations to meet the needs of crime survivors through innovative solutions and trauma-informed approaches.

[Preventing Trafficking of Girls Program Sites and Training and Technical Assistance](#)

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office for Victims of Crime

O-OVC-2023-171685

Grants.gov Deadline: May 16, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: May 23, 2023

This program supports prevention and early intervention services for girls who are at risk of, or are victims of, sex and/or labor trafficking.

[Emmett Till Cold Case Investigations and Prosecution Program](#)

Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Assistance

O-BJA-2023-171639

Grants.gov Deadline May 17, 2023

JustGrants Deadline May 24, 2023

BJA seeks to support state, local, and tribal law enforcement and prosecution agencies, working with their partners, to investigate and prosecute unsolved cold case homicides suspected to have been racially motivated or otherwise associated with civil rights violations. This includes support for victims’ families and stakeholder communities impacted by these cases. Funds are limited to address incidents that resulted in death that occurred no later than December 31, 1979.

[Upholding the Rule of Law and Preventing Wrongful Convictions Program](#)

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Assistance

O-BJA-2023-171677

Grants.gov Deadline: May 17, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: May 24, 2023

The program supports efforts by wrongful conviction review entities (WCR entities) that represent individuals with postconviction claims of innocence to review individual cases, and conviction integrity or review units (CIUs) to enhance criminal justice system integrity.

[Office of Justice Programs Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative \(CVIPI\)](#)

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Office for Victims of Crime

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

O-BJA-2023-171647

Grants.gov Deadline: May 18, 2023

Application JustGrants Deadline: May 25, 2023

Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI) seeks to prevent and reduce violent crime in communities by supporting comprehensive, evidence-based violence intervention and prevention programs. These programs include efforts to address gang and gun violence, based on partnerships among community residents, local government agencies, victim service providers, community-based organizations, law enforcement, hospitals, researchers, and other community stakeholders.

[Community Courts Initiative](#)

Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Assistance

O-BJA-2023-171688

Grants.gov Deadline: May 24, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: May 31, 2023

BJA seeks to support efforts by state, local, and federally recognized American Indian tribal governments to establish and enhance community courts in their jurisdictions. This program furthers the DOJ's mission by providing resources to communities to enhance public safety and build trust between law enforcement and the community.

[Advancing Equity in Child Support](#)

Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families - OCSE

HHS-2023-ACF-OCSE-FD-0022

Deadline: May 25, 2023

State and tribal child support agencies applying for this funding will be expected to engage with other state and tribal agencies and related entities (public assistance agencies, courts, employment programs, domestic violence organizations, fatherhood organizations, military and veterans' associations, etc.), as well as equity experts to assess current inequities in a sample of jurisdictions.

[Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Program](#)

Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Assistance

O-BJA-2023-171642

Grants.gov Deadline May 25, 2023

JustGrants Deadline May 30, 2023

The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Program supports efforts by state, local, and tribal law enforcement and prosecution agencies and their partners in conducting outreach, educating practitioners and the public, enhancing victim reporting tools, and investigating and prosecuting hate crimes committed on the basis of a victim's perceived or actual race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability.

[Youth Mentoring Research and Evaluation](#)

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

National Institute of Justice

O-NIJ-2023-171663

Grants.gov Deadline: May 30, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: June 13, 2023

With this solicitation, in collaboration with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), NIJ seeks applications for rigorous youth mentoring research and independent evaluation projects that address one or both of the following two topical areas: 1. Barriers/impediments for youth involved in the justice system to access mentoring services. 2. Mentoring programs that serve youth involved in the justice system.

[Criminal Justice Technology Testing and Evaluation Center](#)

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

National Institute of Justice

O-NIJ-2023-171681

Grants.gov Deadline: June 06, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: June 20, 2023

NIJ seeks proposals to host a Criminal Justice Technology Testing and Evaluation Center. The Center will provide testing, evaluation, and other activities to support the safety, effectiveness, efficiency, and efficacy of technologies in use or adaptable by criminal justice and juvenile justice communities.

[Community Connect Grant Program](#)

Department of Agriculture

Rural Utilities Service

RDRUS-CC-2023

Deadline: June 20, 2023

The Community Connect Grant Program provides financial assistance to eligible applicants that will provide service at or above the Broadband Grant Speed to all premises in rural, economically-challenged communities where broadband service does not exist.

[State-Tribal Partnerships to Implement Best Practices in Indian Child Welfare](#)

Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families - ACYF/CB

HHS-2023-ACF-ACYF-CW-0055

Deadline: June 21, 2023

These five year grants are intended to generate evidence for how best to effectively implement child welfare practices and ongoing active efforts to maintain AI/AN families by funding state and tribal partnerships to jointly design and operate Indian child welfare best practice implementation demonstration sites.

[Victims of Human Trafficking in Native Communities Demonstration \(VHT-NC\) Program](#)

Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families-IOAS-OTIP

HHS-2023-ACF-IOAS-OTIP-TV-0046

Deadline: June 30, 2023

The VHT-NC Demonstration Program's goal is to directly fund organizations that will build, expand, and sustain organizational and community capacity to deliver services to Native American (i.e., American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and/or Pacific Islanders) adults and minors who have experienced a severe form of human trafficking as defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended, through the provision of direct services, assistance, and referrals. Under the VHT-NC Demonstration Program the following activities are required: 1) provision of comprehensive, culturally and linguistically responsive, case management to Native Americans who have experienced sex and labor trafficking; 2) increase identification of Native Americans who have experienced sex and labor trafficking through outreach; and 3) public awareness activities for the local community and organizations that may encounter individuals who have experienced sex and labor trafficking.

[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.

[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.