



36th ANNUAL PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect

**Embracing Resilience and Gratitude through Indigenous Subsistence and Medicine
April 15–18, 2018 • Anchorage, Alaska**

Call for Presentations 2018 Workshop Submission Document–Instructions

A special invitation is being extended to everyone who would like to participate as a workshop presenter during our 36th Annual Protecting Our Children National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Anchorage, Alaska on April 15–18, 2018.

2018 NICWA Annual Protecting Our Children Conference Theme:

Embracing Resilience and Gratitude through Indigenous Subsistence and Medicine

Long before the United States developed formal family support and child welfare systems in the 1900s, Alaska Native and American Indian families, clans, and tribes were supporting one another through traditional subsistence and medicine. Children learned the rhythms of when and where to gather life-sustaining foods and to be grateful for the sacrifice of their providers through complex and multi-faceted relationships with relatives, elders, and their communities. Indigenous medicine saw families through times of change and crisis with ceremony, sweat, and the subsistence harvest of plants and animals. Alaska Native and American Indian tribes and clans have been experts on taking care of one another long before European contact and the imposition of U.S. child welfare policies and practices.

The colonization of Native land and thought has devastated our communities, but we are still here. Our resilience to historical trauma arises from our strong cultural identities, which resist stereotypes; the relationships to our ancestors and our children; and our connection to our lands. We are grateful for our strength, knowing that the path to healing and balance lies within what we already knew all along.

While we continue to address social problems and the disproportionately high rates at which Alaska Native and American Indian children are removed from their families, using tools such as the Indian Child Welfare Act, we simultaneously implement traditional and emerging best practices in urban and rural Native communities to ensure that our children are safe, healthy, and thriving.

Anyone who is interested in presenting a workshop that they feel can contribute to the knowledge and understanding base of professionals and community members working toward improving the well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children and families is invited to submit a proposal. Topical areas that NICWA would like to see covered by conference presenters include the following:

Child Welfare, Foster Care, and Adoption Services

Spanning areas such as grant writing for child welfare programs, implementing differential response, identifying best practices in family team decision making, and cutting edge research practices, this track includes the latest and most up-to-date information in child welfare. Explore topics including providing effective prevention services and planning for youth engagement while establishing transitional services. Workshops will support improvements in your child welfare, foster care, and adoption services as well as the skills of program staff and educators, which could impact your program, tribe, community, and schools for generations to come.

Children's Mental Health

Leaders in the field of children's mental health will share experience, research, and information on the issues that impact Indian children everywhere. Learn how to support and nurture families dealing with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and empower young people using new community engagement techniques. Learn about Systems of Care, how to address the difficult topic of youth suicide, and what can be done to change the future for young people to bring promising results. Incarceration is a common result of historical trauma; explore new techniques for culturally appropriate services, including traditional healing and other ways to heal our children, families, and communities.

Judicial and Legal Affairs

The well-being of AI/AN children and families is impacted by tribal, federal, and state laws and policies that guide practice in child welfare, juvenile justice, and mental health services. In this track, participants will learn about these laws and policies and how they are implemented. Workshops will discuss effective legal practice on behalf of AI/AN children and families, programmatic challenges to implementing federal policies, tribal code development, innovative tribal court practices, intergovernmental agreements, and how effective collaboration can lead to meaningful systems change.

Youth and Family Involvement

Youth and families are the experts in their own lives; they should have an active role in their care management. Learn to engage and empower youth and families involved with systems using a strengths-based perspective. Gain insight on trauma-informed methods of engaging youth and families in productive ways; learn steps to developing successful youth leaders. Become informed of what diverse AI/AN communities across the country are currently doing and have done in the past to involve Native youth and families. Reflect on what your community can do to improve youth involvement and family engagement at every level, ensuring that youth and families have decision-making power in their home, schools, communities, and tribes.

Below is the required information for submitting a workshop proposal to the 36th Annual Protecting Our Children Conference in Anchorage, Alaska. Incomplete submissions may be returned with a request for needed materials.

About the workshops

Workshop sessions will be 90 minutes in length. Participation varies depending on topic, but on average workshops will have between 20–70 participants.

To submit

Submissions must be made online at: www.nicwa.submittable.com no later than November 16, 2017. Participants should expect to hear back regarding the outcome of the review by January 15, 2018.

You may prepare your information using the Word document found at www.nicwa.org/call-for-presenters/ but submissions must be made online.

Please note that NICWA highly values interactive and participatory workshops. Please share in your submission how your workshop will help conference attendees learn through interactive learning.

Registration requirement

All presenters of selected workshops are required to register for the conference. NICWA offers a reduced registration rate for workshop presenters of \$300 at a maximum of three reduced rates per workshop. Additional presenters must register at the prevailing registration rate. By submitting a proposal to this Call for Presentations, you agree to pay registration costs and your own travel costs.

AV information

Please review the submission sheet carefully for what AV NICWA provides. NICWA will provide a projector. It is your responsibility to provide your own laptop and speakers if needed.

Conference Information

All conference events will be held at:
Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center
600 West 7th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

For information on hotels:

www.nicwa.org/travel-lodging/

Contact Information:

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