



**NICWA**

National Indian Child Welfare Association  
*Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture*

## **Call for Presentations 2020 Workshop Submission Instructions**

A special invitation is being extended to everyone who would like to participate as a workshop presenter during our 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Protecting Our Children National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Denver, Colorado, on March 29–April 1, 2020.

### **Honoring Our Past, Present, and Future Generations: Living Our Tribal Cultural Values and Beliefs**

Indian Country—including tribal nations, tribal consortia, and urban Indian centers—is incredibly diverse. Each tribal community and its history, culture, and set of beliefs and teachings is unique and requires culturally responsive best practice models to support children and families. Formal family services and supports are complemented by natural helpers and healers, culture bearers, and traditional medicine practitioners. Tribal communities facilitate intergenerational healing and wellness by recognizing that the teachings, ideas, and answers to the challenges our communities face are in the hearts, minds, and spirits of what has been, what is, and what is yet to come.

It is only through recognition, encouragement, collaboration, and nurturing that true healing can take place. Uplifting tribal elders, families, and youth is central to intergenerational healing and wellness. The healing and wellness we attain, surrounded and supported by our family and community, is our legacy for the generations to come. Future generations rely on us to shape the environment in which they will live and grow. Our creation stories, traditional teachings, and protocols instruct us in our relationships and appropriate behavior. By living out our tribal cultural values and beliefs, we honor past, present, and future generations.

#### **About the tracks**

Anyone who is interested in presenting a workshop that they feel can contribute to the knowledge and 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 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Protecting Our Children Conference in Denver, Colorado. Incomplete submissions may be returned with a request for needed materials.*

### **About the workshops**

New this year, there are two types of educational sessions: workshops and seminars. Workshop sessions will be 90 minutes in length, whereas seminars are two 90-minute sessions. Workshops are a great opportunity for sharing best practice, data and research, and programming whereas seminars (usually smaller rooms) are more in-depth and involve practice and dialogue with attendees. Presenters will also have the option of repeating their workshop throughout the conference dates. Attendance varies depending on topic, but on average workshops will have between 70–100 participants.

### **To submit**

Submissions must be made no later than **October 31, 2019**. Participants should expect to hear back regarding the outcome of the review by December 20, 2019. Find more instructions on online submissions on our call for presentations webpage.

You may prepare your information using the Word document found at <https://www.nicwa.org/call-for-presentations>, but submissions must be made via the link on the above webpage.

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 (early bird rate until February 28) at a maximum of three reduced rates per workshop. After that date the rate is \$350. Additional presenters

must register at the prevailing registration rate. By submitting a proposal to this Call for Presentations, you agree to pay registration fees and your own travel costs.

**AV information**

Please review the submission sheet carefully for what AV NICWA provides. NICWA will provide an LCD projector, screen, and one wired microphone. It is your responsibility to provide your own laptop and speakers if needed.

**Conference Information**

All conference events will be held at:  
Denver Marriott Tech Center  
4900 South Syracuse Street  
Denver, CO 80237

**For information on hotels:**

NICWA has room blocks at several area hotels. For more information on this visit <https://www.nicwa.org/travel-lodging/>

**Contact Information:**

Sarah Wittmann, event manager  
National Indian Child Welfare Association  
5100 SW Macadam Avenue, Ste. 300  
Portland, OR 97239  
Phone: (503) 222-4044, ext. 124  
*Email: [training@nicwa.org](mailto:training@nicwa.org)*