

ICWA 2050 PRIORITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2025-2030 »

ICWA
2050

» **Goal 1: Increase funding and support to Tribal Nations so that every Tribe can provide the full range of child welfare services needed by their children and families.**

Objective 4: Equip Tribal leaders with information on developing and operating effective Tribal child welfare programs and services, the importance of representation in state child protection cases, supporting Tribal-state relationships, and proper implementation of ICWA.

Objective 6: Equip Tribal Nations with access to information and resources that address critical issues in recruiting, hiring, and maintaining a professional and qualified Tribal child welfare workforce that aligns with each Tribe's current capacity and local conditions. Advocate for increased state and federal support for education, hiring, and training for the Tribal child welfare workforce, including front-line workers, supervisors, program managers, and department directors.

Objective 7: Increase federal funding and access to information and resources to support culturally based and culturally adapted child welfare services for urban Indian organizations, including training, peer-to-peer consultation, technical assistance, and a variety of easily accessible materials.

» **Goal 2: Strengthen Tribal advocacy in ICWA cases, vigorously defend ICWA against challenges, and establish strong working relationships between Tribes and states so that ICWA is rigorously implemented and all Native children and families in child welfare systems have the benefits of culturally based services and supports that improve outcomes.**

Objective 1: Encourage every state, in coordination with Tribal leaders, to enact comprehensive state ICWA laws and to develop intergovernmental agreements that support and improve the implementation of the federal ICWA and address local implementation concerns.

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» **Goal 3: Establish a federal-Tribal relationship that rigorously monitors and supports ICWA compliance and establishes increased child welfare capacity for every Tribal Nation and urban Indian organization to provide the culturally based services their communities need and assist them in helping support state ICWA implementation.**

Objective 1: Federal agencies, in consultation and collaboration with Tribal Nations, intertribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations, will establish a formal comprehensive review system to measure state ICWA compliance and Tribal engagement and create mechanisms to improve state ICWA compliance and Tribal engagement.

» **Goal 4: Increase public awareness about ICWA as the gold standard of child welfare policy and the importance of honoring Tribal sovereignty in child welfare through the voices of lived experience spokespeople, the use of data that identifies positive outcomes related to ICWA implementation, and strong media relationships with Indian Country and its allies.**

Objective 1: Ensure every Tribal Nation and ICWA ally has access to resources, training, and support to effectively engage in media relations that highlight ICWA as the gold standard of child welfare policy and the importance of honoring Tribal sovereignty to support improved services to, and better outcomes for, Native children and families. This will involve training and resources for Tribal leaders, social workers, policy advocates, service providers, and community advocates.

Objective 2: Center media and communications on ICWA and the role of Tribal sovereignty in child welfare around the voices of those with lived experience, such as birth parents, extended family, foster care alumni, adult adoptees, relative care providers, Tribal child welfare directors, and Tribal leadership. This includes launching a campaign to recruit, prepare, and support those spokespeople in effectively engaging with the media.