



# **Commission on Native Children**

**Tribal Capacity to Prevent and Respond to  
Child Maltreatment and Increased  
Coordination of Services Hearing**

**Child Advocacy Centers and Trauma Responsive  
Systems of Care**

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# Child Advocacy Centers Serving Tribal Nations

- AI/AN children experience maltreatment at rates exceeding all other racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. This rate of maltreatment on a national level is more than double that of white children, and in some states their rate of maltreatment is as high as nine times that of white children (Source: ACF)
- AI/AN children are not overrepresented in the CAC service population: they accounted for 1.9% of children served by accredited CACs in the U.S. in 2021 (Source: NCA)

# Child Advocacy Centers

- Coordinated response to victims of child abuse through multidisciplinary teams involved with intervention, prevention, prosecution, and investigation
- Native Child Advocacy Resource Center
  - Supports the development of Tribal Child Advocacy Centers and the expansion of existing Child Advocacy Centers to serve Tribal Nations

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# Trauma Responsive Systems of Care: Lessons Learned from our Work

- Comprehensive Trauma Systems Integration
  - Individual, Family, Staff, Supervisor, Organization, Systems
- Includes the (Interventions) “What” and the (Approach)“How”
- Clinical -> Universal Culturally Responsive Interventions
- Honoring Tribal Sovereignty and Culturally Responsive Interventions
  - Culturally adapted
  - Community grounded
  - Traditional healing

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# Recommendations

- Support the development of accredited Tribal Child Advocacy Centers and expand the capacity of existing CAC's to serve Tribes
- Support the enhancement of existing Tribal Multidisciplinary Team functioning
- Continue to infuse Trauma Informed Care into service delivery
- Address workforce shortage and comprehensive secondary traumatic stress mitigation
- Provision of specialized training, education, equipment and infrastructure to meet the unique needs of Tribal Nations
- Increase culturally responsive interventions developed by and for Tribal Nations

# Contact Information

National Native Children's Trauma Center  
[www.nnctc.org](http://www.nnctc.org)

Native Child Advocacy Resource Center  
[www.nativecac.org](http://www.nativecac.org)

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