









NATIONAL TRIBAL 
CHILD WELFARE CENTER
FOR INNOVATION AND ADVANCEMENT

Weaving Knowledge, Collaboration, and Care

An Introduction to the National Tribal Child Welfare Center
for Innovation and Advancement

September 10, 2025

Housekeeping

-  **Chat:** Use chat for comments or tech help.
-  **Q&A:** Please ask questions throughout!
-  **Closed Captions:** Captions can be toggled on/off in the toolbar.
-  **Recording:** Today's webinar is being recorded.
-  **Materials:** Slides and resources will be shared after the session.
-  **Need Support?** Message the *Hosts and Panelists*.





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Opening Prayer



Priscilla Day, Ed.D., MSW

Agenda

- 👋 Welcome & Introductions
- 📄 Overview of NTCWCIA
- 🔍 Our Approach & Services
- 🤝 How We Work With You
- 💬 Q&A and Discussion
- 📄 Next Steps & Resources





Today's Speakers



Kimee Wind-Hummingbird
Tailored Services Manager
Moderator



Sarah Nelson
Co-Director/Co-PI
Panelist



Sonja Ulrich
Co-Director
Panelist



Melissa McGee
Service Integration Manager
Panelist



Nancy Mason
Tribal Liaison
Panelist



Brittany Madros
Tribal Liaison
Panelist

Center Overview

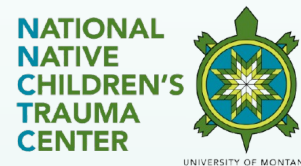
National Tribal Child Welfare Center for Innovation and Advancement

- Referred to as *The Center* or *NTCWCIA*

Cooperative agreement with Children's Bureau

- Current project cycle: *October 2024 – September 2029*

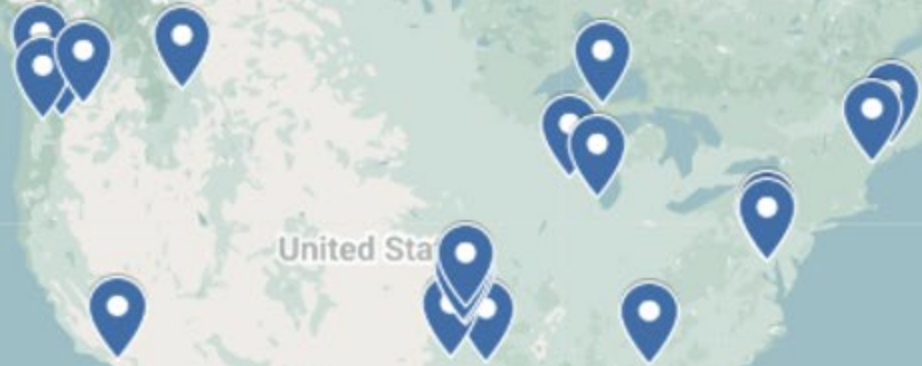
Collaborative partnership across five organizations:





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Where We Are



United States

Mexico

Cuba

Puerto Rico

Greenland

Iceland



Center Goals



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Assist Tribes receiving funding under title IV-E and IV-B with improving their child welfare systems in compliance with federal requirements.

Support Tribes in achieving comprehensive, long-lasting system transformation; enhancing the safety, stability, and well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native children, youth, and families through effective technical assistance that respect their beliefs, traditions, and customs.



Center Vision



Streamlined process for requests received by a single point of contact, improving access to services and breaking down silos



Build and maintain strong, collaborative partnerships across organizations and service delivery areas to create a cohesive approach in our response to the needs of the communities



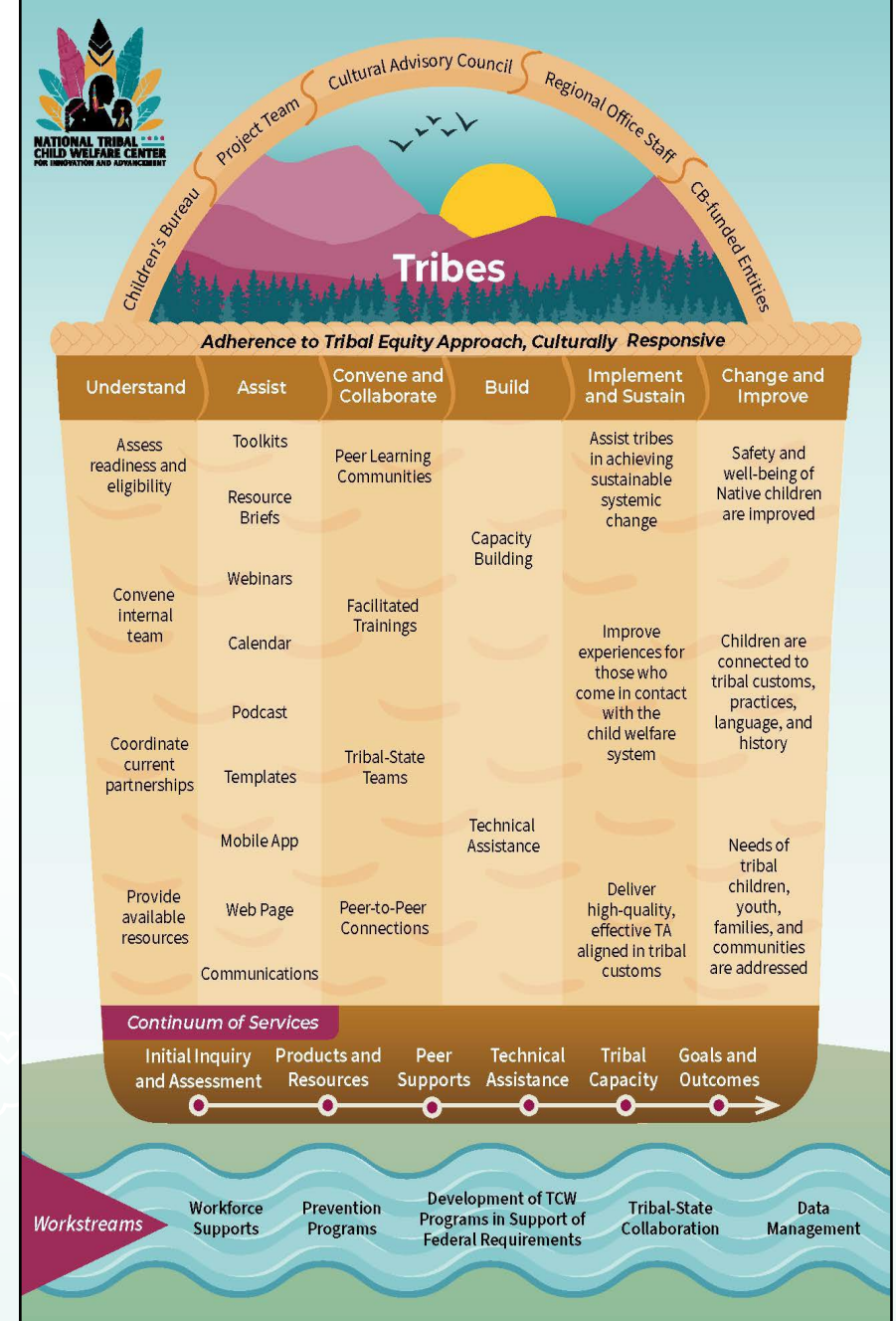
Ensure strong cross-system collaboration and include continuous quality improvement as a core component of the work – being willing to learn, grow, and build



Utilize our highly skilled team to support each Tribe in achieving their individual goals and program outcomes

Interwoven Approach

The Center is like a woven basket, where each strand—resources, peer supports, tailored technical assistance, and partnerships—is carefully woven together to strengthen and protect our children and families.



Center Services

Resource Development and Dissemination
Peer Services
Individualized Technical Assistance





Resource Development and Dissemination

Culturally relevant tools to strengthen Tribal child welfare programs

Resources include:

- Webinars and podcast episodes
- Downloadable guides, templates, and checklists
- Tools from Tribes (real examples shared by Tribal programs)
- Resource collections by topic (e.g., ICWA, prevention, data, workforce)

Available to all Tribal programs with no eligibility requirements

Introducing Our Website: ntcwcia.org



www.ntcwcia.org



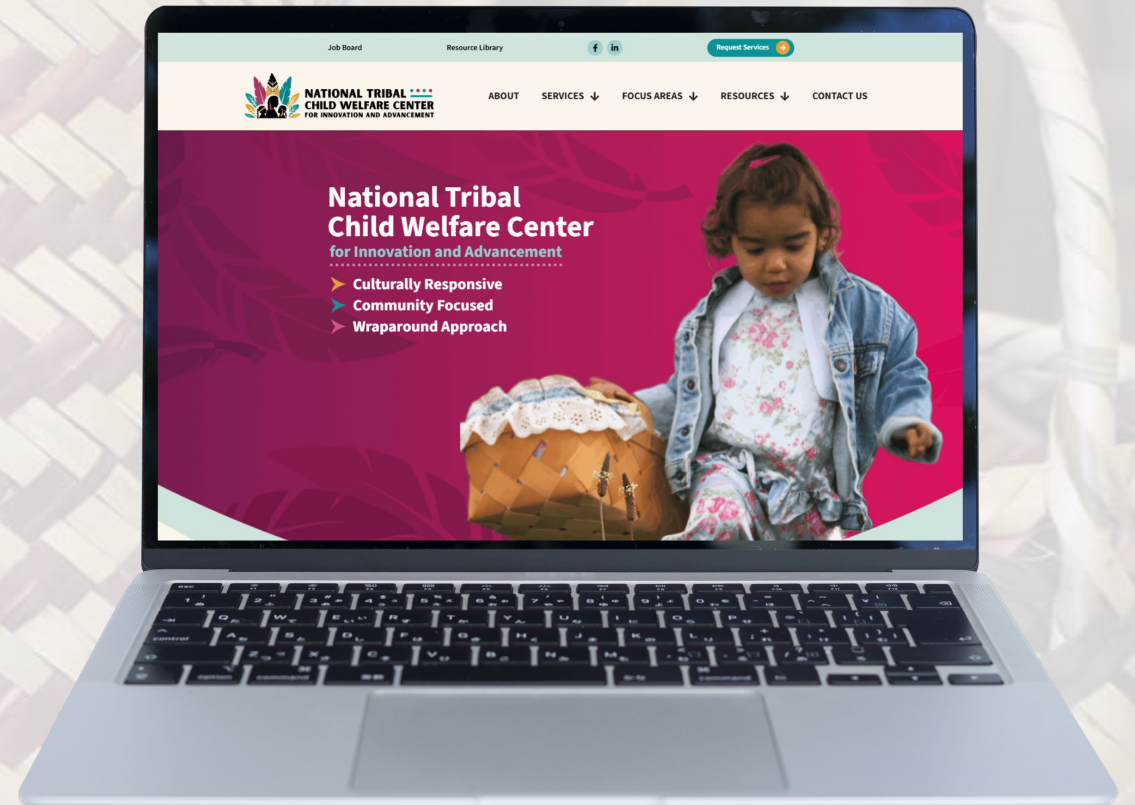
Resource Library



Tools from Tribes



Tribal Child Welfare Job Board



Navigating Our Website: Resource Pages

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the logo and menu items: ABOUT, SERVICES, FOCUS AREAS, RESOURCES, and CONTACT US. Below is a 'Focus Areas' section with five cards:

- Workforce Supports**: Strengthen the Tribal child welfare workforce through culturally grounded training, coaching, and strategies to support recruitment, retention, and staff wellness.
- Prevention Programs**: Design, expand, or enhance prevention and family preservation programs that reflect community values and are rooted in Native knowledge and protective factors.
- Federal Requirements**: Navigate and implement federal requirements (e.g., Title IV-E, BIC, ICWA) in ways that honor Tribal sovereignty and align with cultural practices and local needs.
- Tribal-State Collaboration**: Build meaningful, trust-based relationships with state partners to improve coordination, communication, and outcomes for Native children and families.
- Data Management**: Strengthen capacity for collecting, analyzing, and using data in ways that reflect community priorities—support includes case management systems, reporting tools, and data sovereignty practices.

Explore Resources

The National Tribal Child Welfare Center for Innovation and Advancement offers a growing collection of resources designed to support and strengthen Tribal child welfare programs. Whether you're seeking tools developed by peers, federal guidance made accessible, or culturally responsive materials to guide your work—this is a space to find what you need and share what you know. The Center's resources are grounded in **Indigenous Ways of Knowing** and created to save time, reduce barriers, and support programs where they are. Explore the three sections of our Resource Hub:

Resource Library

A curated collection of over 150 resources to support Tribal child welfare programs. This library includes tip sheets, reports, templates, and training materials from past and present Children's Bureau projects—organized by topic and designed to help programs meet their goals with clarity and cultural grounding.

[Suggest a Resource](#)

[Search the Library](#)

Tools from Tribes

A space for reciprocity and peer connection, Tools from Tribes offers real-world resources created by Tribal child welfare professionals. This space make it possible for Tribes to easily share their resources with each other. Find templates, forms, and practice tools that reflect the daily work of Tribal programs—and share your own contributions to support the broader community.

[Explore Tools From Tribes](#)

[Submit a Tool](#)

Navigating Our Website: Resource Library

The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with the following items: Job Board, Resource Library, social media icons for Facebook and LinkedIn, and a Request Services button with a right-pointing arrow. The main navigation bar includes: ABOUT, SERVICES ↓, FOCUS AREAS ↓, RESOURCES ↓, and CONTACT US. A dropdown menu is open under RESOURCES, listing: Resource Library (highlighted in pink), Tools from Tribes Resources, and Job Board. The page features a large pink curved banner with the text "Resource Library" in white. Below the banner, a paragraph reads: "The National Tribal Child Welfare Center for Innovation and Advancement offers a curated library of over 150 resources to support the work of Tribal child welfare professionals, programs, and communities. This library is more than a collection of documents—it is a reflection of years of wisdom, innovation, and dedication from across Indian Country." At the bottom, a button with a right-pointing arrow icon is labeled "Types of Resources".

Job Board Resource Library Request Services →

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ABOUT SERVICES ↓ FOCUS AREAS ↓ RESOURCES ↓ CONTACT US

Resource Library
Tools from Tribes Resources
Job Board

Resource Library

The **National Tribal Child Welfare Center for Innovation and Advancement** offers a curated library of over 150 resources to support the work of Tribal child welfare professionals, programs, and communities. This library is more than a collection of documents—it is a reflection of years of wisdom, innovation, and dedication from across Indian Country.

→ **Types of Resources**



Peer Services

Learning together through relationship, reflection, and shared purpose

Structured Learning Communities for Tribal Child Welfare Professionals

- Foster mutual support, storytelling, and cultural grounding
- Focus areas include prevention and family preservation, data management and systems, workforce development and support, and managing federal requirements

Peer-to-Peer Exchanges

- Connect Tribal programs with shared interests or challenges to learn directly from each other's experiences

Peer services are available to staff representing title IV-B Tribal child welfare programs

Multiple members of a Tribal child welfare program can participate within or across groups

Upcoming Learning Communities

Data Management for Tribal Child Welfare Programs (Ongoing Group)

- Meets monthly on third Wednesdays
- Open to title IV-B and IV-E TCWPs
- Next session: **Selecting System Vendors** on 9/10 (today!) from 3-4 pm EDT
- October session: **Data Visualization** on 10/8 from 3-4 pm EDT

Culture Camps (Two-Part Series)

- Open to all Tribal child welfare programs
- Session 1: **Foundations of Culture Camps** on 9/17 from 3-4 pm EDT
- Session 2: **Designing Your Own Culture Camp** on 10/15 from 3-4 pm EDT





Individualized Technical Assistance

Grounded in respectful partnership, cultural humility, and Tribal sovereignty

Guided by experienced Tribal professionals with deep knowledge of Tribal and state systems

Available to title IV-B Tribal child welfare programs

What TA Includes:

- **Dedicated Tribal Liaison** – consistent point of contact to build trust and understanding
- **Mutual Agreements** – safeguard Tribal data, stories, and community knowledge
- **Collaborative Workplan** – co-designed with the Tribe, flexible to meet emerging needs
- **Responsive Support** – virtual or in-person assistance, typically 3–12 months
- **Respectful, Culturally Grounded Process** – aligned with each community’s protocols, context, and vision



Examples of Supports by Focus Area

Workforce Supports

- Sample job descriptions
- Workforce learning community
- Tailored training modules
- Supporting development of policy and procedures
- Trauma-informed training
- Supportive supervision techniques

Prevention Programs

- Levels of prevention tools
- Culture Camp Series
- Community Readiness Assessment
- Culturally Based Prevention Program Policies
- Indigenous Ways of Knowing
- Mobilize Community Supports

Federal Requirements

- IV-B Diligent Recruitment Plans, Health Care Oversight and Coordination Plans, and Disaster Planning
- IV-E Tools, Templates and Training
- IV-E pre-print
- Programmatic Supports
- Develop policies and procedures aligned with IV-E

Tribal-State Collaboration

- Sample Tribal-State agreements
- Webinars learning from other Tribes' experiences
- Support establishing and maintaining relationships
- Training and resources

Data Management

- Data sovereignty resources
- Data management community of learning
- Video and virtual data system demonstrations
- Data mapping
- Data visualization
- Assist in AFCARS reporting



Our Approach



Connecting with the Center



Complete the form on ntcwcia.org



Email info@ntcwcia.org



Call 1-855-780-4047

Contact Us

Connect with the Center

The National Tribal Child Welfare Center for Innovation and Advancement welcomes inquiries from Tribal child welfare programs, partners, and collaborators. Whether a program is ready to request technical assistance or simply wants to stay connected, the Center is here to help.

Request Technical Assistance

Eligible title IV-B Tribal child welfare programs interested in receiving technical assistance can submit a request using the form below. A member of the Center's team will respond within **two business days** to schedule an initial meeting and begin the partnership process.

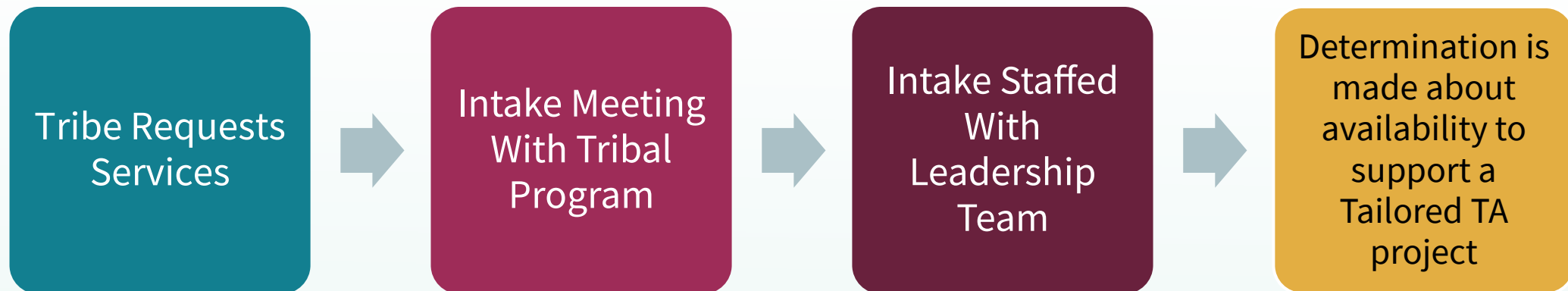


Contact Form



From Intake to Service Delivery

- During the Intake Meeting, the TCW program and Center's Service Integration Manager discuss the TCW program's history, strengths, challenges, and the Tribe's interest in technical assistance.
- Resources and learning opportunities are suggested based on the Tribe's needs
- The Intake Meeting is staffed with the Project Leadership Team; determinations are made about suggestions for services and if the TCW program will engage in a TA project.





Eligibility for Services

Tribal Federal Funding Status

Non-IV-B

Schedule Intake
Refer to Resources
Send List of Materials and Online Accessible Information
Provide information on how to become IV-B

IV-B/IV-E

Schedule Intake
Refer to Resources
Connection to Community of Practices
Individualized Technical Assistance Project w/ the Tailored Team

How the Center Supports Programs



A Tribal child welfare program is struggling with high staff turnover.

TCW Program Challenge



- Staff feel overwhelmed and may have low morale
- Leadership concerned for staff burnout, turnover, and loss of institutional knowledge
- Constant onboarding and relationship building of new staff takes away from serving families
- Supervisors are stretched thin, limiting their ability to support employees
- Reactive vs. Preventative responses to families, due to limited staffing

How the Center Can Help



- Provide self-care resources for staff and supervisors
- Offer communities of learning and opportunities to connect with other Tribal child welfare programs
- Build supervisor tools in coaching, leadership, and organizational wellness
- Helps the program design staff wellness strategies rooted in community strengths

Impact on TCW Program



- Staff feel more supported
- Turnover decreases
- Program has a sustainable plan for nurturing workforce
- Supervisors gain tools to mentor and support staff effectively
- Staff and supervisors feel valued, supported, and connected
- Institutional knowledge is retained and strengthened
- Families experience consistent, trusted relationships

A Tribal child welfare program has limitations tracking child welfare outcomes.

Challenge



- Tools don't reflect community values, Indigenous Ways of Knowing
- Limited infrastructure to track cases and information on services provided (or infrastructure no longer meets the needs).
- Accessibility issues
- High costs for data systems and staff training
- Limited staff capacity to collect, manage, and interpret data

How the Center Helps



- Tailors tribally rooted resource materials and toolkits to support Tribe's capacity
- Provides access to a resource library and Tools from Tribes
- Learning Circles with other Tribes and shared opportunities to view systems
- Provide project support to develop information system requirements and support implementation
- Co-design programs/systems that honor tribal sovereignty and local knowledge.

Impact



- Tribe meets federal compliance standards
- Builds a record that honors Tribal lifeways
- Data is reliable, valid, and accessible by community leaders and programs
- Tribes can show impact while using their own traditional knowledge to tell their story
- Indigenous Knowledge is preserved for the Tribes' future generations.



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Questions and Discussion

Thank You!



ntcwcia.org



info@ntcwcia.org



1-855-780-4047

