

CULTURE IS PREVENTION: A STRENGTH BASED, CULTURALLY GROUNDED JOURNEY TOWARD PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND HEALING

Indigenous People

October 2023

OVERVIEW

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is committed to harnessing its resources to confront the crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP), which has disproportionately harmed Native communities. For generations, Indigenous people and Native communities have struggled with high rates violence and trauma caused by the devastating legacy of assimilationist policies of forced removal, boarding school, and bureaucratic oppression. To counter the cumulative impacts of this historical trauma, ACF will prioritize working in partnership with proportionately

DEFINING MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and the Indigenous peoples of Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands who have been victims of violence, homicide, human trafficking, and sexual exploitation. Over generations of repeated traumatic experiences, Indigenous people have become vulnerable to these forms of violence, their resilience diminished, and their health weakened. Preventing that susceptibility and healing from inter-generational trauma are directly associated with positive health outcomes.

BACKGROUND

Historical Trauma, Culture, and Social Determinants of Health

According to the research of social scientist [Dr. Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart](#), the collective phenomenon of historical trauma stems from centuries of disastrous federal policies targeting Native lands and

unique Indigenous determinants of health that shape conditions of daily life in many Native communities and impact their vulnerability to violence.

At the same time, Native culture is steeped with traditional knowledge and holistic health

American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian survivors of the federal Indian boarding school system provided the opportunity to share their stories, help connect communities with trauma informed support, and facilitate collection of a permanent oral history.

r 14053 (2021)

On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order (EO) [14053](#) *Restoring Public Safety and Criminal Justice for Native Americans and Addressing the Crisis of Missing or*

Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) and set out several mandates that directly connect to the

ACB MMIP Action Plan tra syu26(tr)17()4(-)40(s)-8(c)2dian (n)-7u-14(h)-6()-6(io)-5(w)-17(l)30(e)-34(

Support of culture, language, and traditional Knowledge

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extensive range of technical assistance to better support community partners in their grant administration.

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~ Seven Directions A Center for Indigenous **Plib** Health

Programmatic Actions

Through the ACF Native American Affairs Advisory Council (NAAAC), ACF will inquire and make recommendations on four main approaches to curtailing the MMIP crisis: Prevention; Intervention; Healing; and Response

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