



## **Our Families, Our Future**

**Celebrating 40 Years of the Indian Child Welfare Act**

**March 31–April 3, 2019 • Albuquerque, New Mexico**

### **Call for Presentations 2019 Workshop Submission Instructions**

A special invitation is being extended to everyone who would like to participate as a workshop presenter during our 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Protecting Our Children National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on March 31–April 3, 2019.

#### **Our Families, Our Future: Celebrating 40 Years of the Indian Child Welfare Act**

Description: As we celebrate 40 years of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), the spirit of ICWA continues to keep our focus on what really matters—the sacredness of Indian children and the relationships that they have with their families, communities, and culture.

For 40 years, ICWA has provided important protections for Indian children and families. The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), alongside countless tribal communities, Native organizations, and partners in Indian child welfare, continues to advocate for full implementation, compliance, and the continued need for ICWA’s protections.

In October 2018, a United States District Court declared ICWA unconstitutional, jeopardizing the landmark legislation protecting tribal children. *Brackeen (Texas) v. Zinke* is a turning point. Protecting ICWA is not only about countering the misunderstanding of the U.S. Constitution and the birthright of tribal citizenship; it is fundamentally about the authority to exercise tribal sovereignty. While the private adoption industry and conservative think tanks fight to subvert ICWA in its 40th anniversary year, we will not back down.

We will continue to advocate for the spirit and practice of ICWA because we know that Indian children do best when they remain safely with their families, within their communities, and connected to their culture. Our ancestors have known for thousands of years how to keep our children safe. Our tribal child-rearing practices allow a natural system of child protection to flourish. At the heart of this natural system are beliefs, traditions, and customs involving extended family with clearly delineated roles and responsibilities. Child-rearing responsibilities are often divided between parents, extended family, and community members. In this way, the protection and well-being of children in the tribe is the responsibility of all people in the community.

Please join us in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the National Indian Child Welfare Association’s 37th annual conference. Together, we will work to put the spirit of ICWA into action. Together, we will strengthen our families and protect future generations.

## **About the tracks**

Anyone who is interested in presenting a workshop that they feel can contribute to the knowledge and understanding 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 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Protecting Our Children Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Incomplete submissions may be returned with a request for needed materials.*

## **About the workshops**

Workshop sessions will be 90 minutes in length. Participation varies depending on topic, but on average workshops will have between 20–90 participants.

## **To submit**

Submissions must be made online at: [www.nicwa.submittable.com](http://www.nicwa.submittable.com) no later than November 15, 2018. Participants should expect to hear back regarding the outcome of the review by January 15, 2019.

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

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 at a maximum of three reduced rates per workshop. Additional presenters must register at the prevailing registration rate. By submitting a proposal to this Call for Presentations, you agree to pay registration costs 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 wired microphone. It is your responsibility to provide your own laptop and speakers if needed.

**Conference Information**

All conference events will be held at:  
Albuquerque Convention Center  
401 Second Street Northwest  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

**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:**

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