



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

JUL - 8 2022

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Department of the Interior (DOI) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are committed to partnering to ensure the wellbeing of tribal children. In response to requests by tribal leaders for updates on our collective efforts, we invite you to a virtual briefing on August 8, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

The DOI and HHS recognize the importance of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), 25 U.S.C. 1901 *et seq.*, in preventing the unlawful removal of Indian children from their home and keeping tribal children connected to their families, communities, and cultures. The DOI Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is working to promote the consistent application of ICWA and protect Indian children, families, and tribes.

The HHS Administration for Children and Families (ACF), through the Children's Bureau (CB), oversees the implementation and improvement of federal child welfare programs authorized by titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. In carrying out these responsibilities, CB provides funding and capacity building services to tribal and state child welfare agencies, as well as to state and tribal courts to strengthen and improve the handling of legal and judicial matters relating to child welfare proceedings.

As part of the briefing, BIA will provide an update on social service programs, grants, and other actions in support of ICWA. The ACF will share information on funding, training, and technical assistance resources that it provides to tribes, state child welfare agencies, and courts to strengthen practice in support of the wellbeing of tribal children. The ACF awarded state-tribal collaboration grants to recipients in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Oklahoma to strengthen practices around ICWA. Following the updates, grantee officials will share the outcomes of their work. Tribal leaders will be able to provide comments and ask questions.

You may register for the virtual briefing using this site:

https://acf-hhs.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_8Ax3thPZRea9ch3IfDMetw. We also welcome written comments or questions to tribalaffairs@acf.hhs.gov by September 7, 2022. If you have questions regarding this virtual briefing, please feel free to contact Mirtha Beadle, Senior Policy Advisor, at mirtha.beadle@acf.hhs.gov.

We look forward to this important briefing and receiving your comments.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Bryan Newland in blue ink.

Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior

Handwritten signature of January Contreras in blue ink.

January Contreras
Assistant Secretary for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services