



NACS News

*A Tradition
of Caring*

December 2022

Volume 26, Issue 12

Native American Community Services of Erie & Niagara Counties, Inc.

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- 76 West Avenue, Lockport, New York, 14094, (716) 302-3035, Fax (716) 302-3037
- 100 College Avenue, Rochester, New York, 14607, (585) 514-3984

December is HIV/AIDS Awareness Month

submitted by George T. Ghosen, Editor

An Overview of HIV/AIDS

At the end of 2015, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) affected over 1.1 million people in the United States. In response, the U.S. Government currently invests roughly \$26 billion every year in funding for domestic HIV services and activities. But what exactly is this virus, how does it affect people, who is susceptible to it and what HIV medical treatment is available to fight against it?

About HIV/AIDS

HIV is a virus that can quickly spread through blood fluids and can be transmitted through contact with infected blood, semen or vaginal fluids. This virus attacks the human immune system, specifically the CD4 cells, also known as T-cells. By attacking these cells, it makes it extremely difficult for the body to fight off any infections or disease that may invade the body. If left untreated, it will lead to the most severe phase of the HIV infection, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

Who It Affects

HIV often spreads through shared needles or intercourse, whether that be through a heterosexual, gay or bisexual partner. Gay and bisexual men are most commonly affected though. HIV facts and statistics show that in 2016, African American gay and bisexual men represented the largest number of those who were diagnosed with HIV. While African Americans represent only 12% of the U.S. population, they accounted for 44% of those diagnosed with HIV in 2016.

Symptoms

Symptoms will vary depending on what stage the virus is at and on the individual themselves. In the early stage, within two to four weeks of being infected, many may have flu-like symptoms which include but are not limited to fatigue, chills, fever, night sweats and even mouth ulcers. These symptoms may last anywhere from a few days to several weeks, or in some cases, may not appear at all. In this very early stage, this virus can be difficult to detect in HIV tests, but it is still highly infectious.

The next stage is Clinical Latency Stage, also known as Chronic HIV Infection. During this stage, the HIV is still very much active, but at low levels. Those that are on Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) may stay in this stage for decades while those that are not will stay in this stage for a shorter period of time.

The final and harshest stage of the infection is AIDS. This is when the virus eventually completely weakens the immune system which will lead to AIDS and is accompanied by rapid weight loss, extreme tiredness, pneumonia, memory loss, depression, fever and profuse night sweats amongst other symptoms.

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MOVING/CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

If you are planning on moving or changing your address, please contact NACS so we may update our mailing list. Send an email to Newsletter Editor:

gghosen@nacswny.org

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While there are AIDS and HIV symptoms that may be noticed, they can only tell you so much and could possibly be caused by something else. The only way to fully know whether or not they are related to HIV is by getting tested at one of the HIV Testing Sites & Care Services.

Prevention

It is vital to start Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) if you are in the Pre-exposure prophylaxis phase which is when you are at a high risk for HIV and are quickly diagnosed. This will help prevent the virus from spreading through intercourse or needle sharing by keeping the immune system functioning and fighting away various illnesses. This treatment is highly effective if taken as prescribed. There is also Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) which is a way to prevent HIV after recently being exposed to the virus. This would involve taking ART and may help prevent you from being infected. This should only be done in emergency situations and needs to be started within 72 hours after exposure.

Treatment

Unfortunately, there has not been any cure that has been discovered to fight against HIV/AIDS but it can be controlled if addressed early. The latest treatment involves taking a combination of drugs from different classes, also known as ART, which is meant to suppress the virus, preventing it from spreading. In order for it to be effective though, it must be taken in the correct dosage on a daily basis.

Inevitably, there are HIV treatment costs which can be covered either through private insurance by your employer or individual plans, federal resources such as Medicaid, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, Medicare, Federal Programs for Women and Children or the Health Center Program. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in 2010, a lifetime of treatment cost can cost \$379,668.

When Does HIV Turn Into Full-Blown AIDS?

Without medication, HIV turns into full-blown AIDS approximately 10 years after initial infection with the HIV virus. According to AIDS.gov, those who take medication to help their body fight the HIV virus may not progress past the clinical latency stage of infection for several decades. During this period, the HIV virus produces no symptoms, but the virus continues to reproduce at very low levels, destroying the body's immune system.

AIDS.gov details the three distinct stages of HIV infection: acute infection, clinical latency and AIDS. Undergoing medical treatments and following a healthy lifestyle are the two most effective ways to prevent the HIV virus from advancing to AIDS. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases explains that medication works by reducing the amount of the virus present in the body. Medications also work to preserve T-cells in the blood and keep the immune system operating properly. The Mayo Clinic cautions that patients need to take special care when attempting to treat the HIV virus in conjunction with other medical issues. As the antiviral drugs many patients take do not interact well with other medications, it is often challenging to find the right mix of medications for HIV-positive individuals.

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What Are Signs of HIV?

The signs and symptoms of human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, occur in three distinct stages and include aching muscles, fatigue and a red rash on the torso in the first stage, according to WebMD. The second stage can include an absence of symptoms for up to 10 years, while the third stage causes symptoms and signs such as unexplained weight loss, swollen lymph nodes and purple-colored spots on the skin.

During the primary infection stage of HIV, individuals can develop symptoms such as fever, headache and a sore throat, as listed by Mayo Clinic. During this stage, the virus floods the system, and it spreads particularly well during this time period. Clinical latent infection is the second stage, and people taking antiretroviral medications can stay in this phase for decades. The third phase can involve symptoms such as oral yeast infections, chronic diarrhea and white spots that develop on the tongue.

HIV causes a life-threatening condition known as acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, or AIDS, according to Mayo Clinic. HIV damages the immune system so severely that it impairs the body's ability to fight disease. Even without medication, it can take years for HIV to develop into AIDS, but taking medication can dramatically slow the progression of the disease.

Fast Facts

- Approximately 1.2 million people in the U.S.^a have HIV. About 13 percent of them don't know it and need testing.
- HIV continues to have a disproportionate impact on certain populations, particularly racial and ethnic minorities and gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men.
- In 2019, an estimated 34,800 new HIV infections occurred in the U.S.
- New HIV infections declined 8% from 37,800 in 2015 to 34,800 in 2019, after a period of general stability.
- In 2020, 30,635 people received an HIV diagnosis in the U.S. and 6 dependent areas—a 17% decrease from the prior year, likely due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on HIV prevention, testing, and care-related services.^b
- HIV diagnoses are not evenly distributed across states and regions. The highest rates of new diagnoses continue to occur in the South.

New HIV Infections (HIV Incidence)

HIV incidence refers to the estimated number of new HIV infections during specified period (such as a year), which is different from the number of people diagnosed with HIV during a given year. Some people may have HIV for some time but not know it, so the year they are diagnosed may not be the same as the year they acquired HIV.

According to the latest estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 34,800 new HIV infections occurred in the United States in 2019. Annual infections in the U.S. have been reduced by more than two-thirds since the height of the epidemic in the mid-1980s. Further, CDC estimates of annual HIV infections in the United States show hopeful signs of progress in recent years. CDC estimates show new HIV infections declined 8% from 2015 to 2019, after a period of general stability.

Much of this progress is likely due to larger declines among young gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (male-to-male sexual contact - MSM) in recent years. From 2015 to 2019, new infections among young MSM (ages 13-24) dropped 33% overall, with declines in young men of all races, but Blacks/African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos MSM continue to be severely and disproportionately affected.

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Key Points: HIV Incidence

HIV incidence declined 8% from 2015 to 2019. In 2019, the estimated number of HIV infections in the U.S. was 34,800 and the rate was 12.6 (per 100,000 people).

By age group, the annual number of HIV infections in 2019, compared with 2015, decreased among persons aged 13–24 and persons aged 45–54, but remained stable among all other age groups. In 2019, the rate was highest for persons aged 25–34 (30.1), followed by the rate for persons aged 35–44 (16.5).

By race/ethnicity, the annual number of HIV infections in 2019, compared with 2015, decreased among persons of multiple races, but remained stable for persons of all other races/ethnicities. In 2019, the highest rate was for Blacks/African American persons (42.1), followed by Hispanic/Latino persons (21.7) and persons of multiple races (18.4).

By sex at birth, the annual number of new HIV infections in 2019, as compared to 2015, decreased among males, but remained stable among females. In 2019, the rate for males (21.0) was 5 times the rate for females (4.5).

By HIV transmission category, the annual number of HIV infections in 2019, compared with 2015, decreased among males with transmission attributed to male-to-male sexual contact, but remained stable among all other transmission categories. In 2019, the largest percentages of HIV infections were attributed to male-to-male sexual contact (66% overall and 81% among males.) In 2019, among females, the largest percentage of HIV infection was attributed to heterosexual contact (83%).

Need More?

For information about how HIV affects your state or county, visit [America's HIV Epidemic Analysis Dashboard \(AHEAD\)](#), an interactive dashboard that lets you examine [Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.](#) indicator data for all 50 states with a focus on 57 priority areas. Tracking this data at the community level serves to highlight our progress as a nation.

To learn about the United States' response to the HIV epidemic, view the [National HIV/AIDS Strategy](#). The Strategy provides stakeholders across the nation with a roadmap to accelerate efforts to end the HIV epidemic in the United States by 2030. The Strategy reflects [President Biden's commitment](#) to re-energize and strengthen a whole-of-society response to the epidemic while supporting people with HIV and reducing HIV-associated morbidity and mortality.

Resources:

Life 123: <https://www.life123.com/article/an-overview-of-hiv-aids>

Help Stop The Virus - <https://www.helpstopthevirus.com/>

Reference.com/World View: <https://www.reference.com/world-view/hiv-turn-full-blown-aids>

Reference.com/World View: <https://www.reference.com/world-view/signs-hiv>

Gilead HIV: <https://www.gileadhiv.com/community-involvement/events/>

HIV.gov: <https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/overview/data-and-trends/statistics>

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

By *National Today*, December, 2022

Each December, we go out for fun, parties and drinks with family and friends. But we ask you to stop and think for a second about being responsible. December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month and since the holiday season has a higher accident rate than others on average, it is important to echo the message of consciousness of being in a proper state behind the wheel. According to the National Safety Council, over 40,000 people died in alcohol-related traffic accidents last year. So this year, stay safe during the holidays.

History

Since 1981, high officials all across America have worked their hardest promoting the importance of staying sober while driving during the month of December, proclaimed National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month or National Impaired Driving Prevention Month, and it all stemmed from one woman and her resolve.

On May 3, 1980, thirteen-year-old Cari Lightner was struck and killed by Clarence Busch in a drunk driving accident. When police arrested Clarence, they found this was not his first occurrence, even down to a hit-and-run drunk driving fine less than a week before his accident with Cari. At the time, driving while intoxicated was a misdemeanor that was barely prosecuted, meaning that Busch was very unlikely to have gone to jail.

This unacceptable fact motivated Cari's mother, Candy Lightner, to take action. The result was the non-profit organization known as MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Candy's movement quickly grew across the nation. She pushed to a stricter definition of what drunk driving was, having legislators pass stricter laws and prosecutions that included jail time and license suspensions, up to having President Reagan establish 21 as the minimum drinking age and appointing Lightner as part of a commission developed to tackle the issue.

To this day, Candy continues to advocate for anti-drunk, drugged and distracted driving legislation as president of We Save Lives. "I am not against drinking. I am for responsible drinking. We don't let people walk around with a loaded gun in our neighborhood. But we let them drive when they drink."

FAQ's

When is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month?

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month occurs annually in the month of December, as it is the height of the holiday season.

What is blood alcohol content?

Blood Alcohol Content, or BAC, is the scale used to describe the level of alcohol in the bloodstream of a person. It can be used to determine the sobriety status of a person, as well as being of use in court as evidence for DUI charges

What other kinds of testing is used to determine BAC?

Besides blood and urine tests, the other most used method are Field Sobriety Tests, which are cognitive and balance tasks law enforcement uses to determine a person's well-being. Walking in a straight line or saying the alphabet backwards are an example of field sobriety tests.

How to Observe National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

1. Do a sober period

During December, try to challenge yourself and set a period of time without drinking alcohol. Be it one week, two weeks, make it as long as you would like. You may even see some benefits on laying off the drinks for a while, save money, lose weight, and much more.

2. Take a cab or use a ride-sharing app after a party or visiting a bar

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No one says you can't party and let loose for a while. But if you've had too much, get home safely. Call a cab, or better yet, use your ride-sharing app and let the professionals do the driving. That way, you'll be around for the festivities next year.

3. Be a Designated Driver

You'll make a great impression for being the one friend others can trust to drive back home. It is an overall small sacrifice for a night that won't affect your chances to have a great time, so offer yourself up and give your friends a helping hand!

5 Facts About Drunk Driving

1. 27 people daily

Is the amount of people who die in a drunk driving accident in the US

2. South Africa has the highest rate

Around six out of every ten fatalities on South Africa's roads are drunk-driving related accidents.

3. The first ever arrest was in 1897

George Smith was the first person ever convicted of drunk driving after he slammed his cab into a building.

4. The two deadliest holidays

On Average, New Year's Eve is the day with most DUI arrests, but Fourth of July has the most drunk driving related deaths.

5. There is no "sobering" element

Neither coffee or showers will make a person sober up, only time does.

Why National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month is Important

A. Traffic-related deaths spike between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day

With all the drinking during the holiday season, it's not a stretch to see why so many people are dying on the roads. Consider this dreadful statistic: Over 45 people are killed each day by an alcohol-impaired driver and those numbers climb at the end of the year. Additionally, in 68 percent of traffic fatalities involving a drunk driver, there was a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.15 or higher with the legal limit being 0.08.

B. Drugs also contribute to traffic deaths

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) has expanded its mission statement to include drug-impaired driving. Mixing alcohol with opioids may increase a driver's sedation, which can lead to serious consequences on the road. In 2017, researchers at Columbia University reported a seven-fold jump (since 1995) in the number of drivers killed while operating a vehicle under the influence of prescription drugs.

C. Pedestrian deaths increase

It's especially true on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays when holiday parties are in full swing and the bars are packed. So, the fatality risk goes both ways. It's more likely that an alcohol or drug-impaired driver will accidentally kill either themselves, their passengers, or a pedestrian - or that an inebriated pedestrian will walk into the path of an innocent driver.

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month Timeline

1980 - Speaking Up

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) founder Candy Lightner challenged legislators to take drunk driving seriously.

1990 - Becomes Law

The Supreme Court ruled that police sobriety checks on public roads are constitutional.

July 2004 - Setting the Limit

All 50 states adopted .08 as the legal blood alcohol limit.

July 3, 2014 - Safety Bill

Rep. Nita Lowey sponsored national legislation requiring car ignition interlocks.

National Impaired Driving Prevention Month – Responsible Drinking Tips

submitted by Brittnie Zurbrick, Prevention Specialist

December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. The holiday season is one of the most dangerous times on the roads. In 2019 between the week of Christmas and New Year's day 210 people died in alcohol related crashes. The good news? Impaired driving crashes are 100% preventable! Here is what you can do to help keep your family and the community safer this holiday season, and all year round.

Lead by example. Never drive after using substances that can alter your mind and body, this includes some prescription medication. Talk to your children about the dangers of underage drinking and make sure they know you have a zero-tolerance policy on driving while impaired. Your teenager might be good at resisting pressure to drink but make sure they also know the dangers of riding in a car with an impaired friend.

Plan ahead. If you are planning on attending a social gathering with alcohol, arrange how you are getting home before you even leave your house. A designated driver, public transportation, ride share such as lyft or uber? This also goes for your teens. If your children are attending social events this holiday season help them plan how they are getting home before going. Make sure they know you can call them anytime, no questions asked, if they get themselves in a tricky situation.

Know your limits. There is no trick to sobering up faster. If you are going to have a few drinks make sure you give yourself plenty of time for the alcohol to get out of your system, for most people it will take more than an hour. Coffee will not magically get you sober sooner either.

Have an alternative for sober guests. Are you hosting a social gathering? Plan some fun festive mocktails for your guests. Many stores that decide to sell non alcoholic “fun” beverages are finding that the demand for these alternatives are growing.

Celebrate safe and drive sober! 😊

Peltola Wins Alaska House Seat, Defeating Palin and Begich

By Jenna Kunze, [Native News Online](#), November 23, 2022

“Good morning!” U.S. Rep. **Mary Peltola (Yup'ik)** tweeted on Wednesday morning. “Let's win this election.” Seven hours later, she did.

Peltola, a Democrat and the first Alaska Native woman to serve in Congress, won a full term in the House, defeating a pair of conservative Republican challengers: former Gov. Sarah Palin and Nick Begich III.

On Wednesday evening, Alaska Division of Elections employees tabulated votes in its new ranked-choice voting system to determine the outcome of Alaska's governor, U.S. House, and U.S. Senate races. Under the voting system, results aren't final until a candidate has garnered more than 50 percent of votes. If the leading candidate doesn't cross that threshold, the winner will be determined by second and third-choice votes.

“I am honored to have earned the trust of Alaska voters,” Peltola said after the results were announced on Wednesday evening.. “Whether you voted for me or not, I want you to know I'm going to

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continue serving all of Alaska and all Alaskans. This campaign has never been about partisan politics. It has been about Alaska's future."

"This campaign has proven that we are more successful when we work together," said Peltola. "I'm looking forward to getting back to Washington and working with both parties to better our state and our country."

Peltola first won the seat in August in a special election to finish the term of longtime Republican Rep. Don Young, who died in March. Just two months later, she ran for reelection against Palin and Begich in the November midterms.

The Associated Press called the race for Peltola after the Alaska Division of Elections reported that she had won 136,839 votes (55 percent) compared to Palin's 112,255 (45 percent).

In the race for the U.S. Senate, incumbent Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski beat challenger Kelly Tshibaka, who was endorsed by former President Donald Trump.

Murkowski, vice chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and Peltola endorsed each other in the election, despite their party differences.

Earlier this year, Peltola, 49, made history as the first Alaska Native member of Congress and the first Democratic woman to represent Alaska in the U.S. House of Representatives when she beat out Alaska governor and GOP vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin in the special election held in August. She was sworn in on September 13, 2022. Peltola is only the fifth person to represent the state in the House since Alaska gained statehood in 1959. She will now serve a full two year term.

Less than two weeks after being sworn in, Rep. Petola introduced her first piece of legislation - the Food Security for all Veterans Act (H.R.8888), which calls for the creation of an Office of Food Security within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

On Wednesday, Sept. 21, the bill was advanced out of the House's Veterans Affairs committee.

After three weeks on the job, Peltola worked with Murkowski and Alaska's other Senator, Republican Dan Sullivan, to pressure the Biden Administration to fully fund disaster relief support after a major storm devastated primarily Native communities in Western Alaska.

Shortly after the news broke that Peltola had won the election, she was back on social media, tweeting "WE DID IT!!!"

Associate editor Brian Edwards contributed reporting on this story.

Welcome New Employee - Samantha VanEvery!

Hello, my name is **Samantha VanEvery**, I would like to introduce myself as the new Clubhouse Site Manager for Erie County. I'm very proud to be working for the organization and the community. I am excited to dive in. As I get to know our team more, everyone has been so welcoming. A little bit about myself, I am Snipe Clan from the Tuscarora Nation. I enjoy making jewelry and dreamcatchers. I like playing volleyball and going for long walks with my dogs. I love cooking and spending time with my family. I have participated in the NACS' Youth Programs so, I know just how valuable our resources can be to our children and community. I am fortunate enough to have had great leaders who provided me with experiences I might not otherwise have had without this program. I wish to continue the amazing work that's already set in place to provide our children with a safe comfortable place they can be their best selves. I'm looking forward to putting my skills to good work and working with our community.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



A Tradition of Caring

Services we provide:

- ⇒ Case management/career counseling
- ⇒ Job search and placement assistance
- ⇒ Assistance in identifying employment barriers
- ⇒ Occupational skills training/skills upgrade
- ⇒ Interview preparation
- ⇒ Resume writing assistance
- ⇒ Educational resources and information
- ⇒ Resources for entrepreneurs
- ⇒ Referrals and Linkages to other services
- ⇒ Status card/Tribal documentation assistance

Funding Available to Eligible Native Americans for:

- * Work Experience Positions
- * On-the-job Training
- * Tuition/Books/Educational Support
- * Work Clothes/Tools
- * Training/Certification Programs
- * Other Supportive Services

For more information and/or
to make an appointment, contact:
Native American Community Services

Buffalo Office
716-574-9731

Rochester Office
585-514-3984

Syracuse Office
315-322-8754

We have offices in
Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Lockport,
Rochester and Syracuse

Counties we serve:

Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee,
Wyoming, Monroe, Livingston,
Wayne, Ontario, Yates, Seneca,
Cayuga, Oswego, Onondaga,
Cortland, Oneida, Madison

Funded by the US Department of Labor

Workforce Development Services

Submitted by Colleen Casali – Economic Empowerment Services Director

Native American Community Services has a workforce development program that offers employment and education services to the Native American community in 17 Counties in New York State. The following is a list of services that are available to eligible participants which includes limited financial assistance.

Services provided to eligible participants:

- Case Management related to workforce activities
- Assistance in identifying barriers to employment
- Career counseling/exploration
- Job search and placement assistance
- 6-week Work Experience program
- Interviewing preparation
- Occupational skills training/Skills upgrade
- On-the-job training
- Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) classes—Formally GED
- Educational resources and information
- Tuition/Book Assistance
- Entrepreneurial/small business technical assistance training information
- Follow-up services
- Referral and linkage services
- Status Card/Tribal documentation assistance

The following are requirements needed to qualify as an eligible participant:

- ❖ 18 years of age or older
- ❖ Reside off the reservation
- ❖ Reside in one of the 17 counties we serve
- ❖ Native American, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian
- ❖ Tribal documentation of enrollment in a federal or state recognized tribe
- ❖ Unemployed or under-employed
- ❖ Laid-off, furloughed or dislocated workers
- ❖ Veteran or Spouse of a Veteran
- ❖ Meet all WIOA eligibility guidelines

If you live in one of these counties:

Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, Livingston, Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Yates, Seneca, Cayuga, Oswego, Onondaga, Cortland, Oneida, Madison - You may qualify for services.

To make an appointment for an initial assessment call Buffalo Office at (716) 574-9731; Rochester Office at (585) 514-3984 or Syracuse Office at (315) 322-8754 Office hours **Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.**

If you prefer email you can reach Tianna at tporter@nacswny.org; Colleen at cacasali@nacswny.org or Becky at rwaterman@nacswny.org.

Native American Community Services

FOOD PANTRY

1005 Grant St
Buffalo NY, 14207

Hours: 10:00AM-1:00PM
Tuesdays & Wednesdays



We are committed to providing nutritious food for our community, especially in times of crisis.
If you or your family are eligible based on the following criteria, please visit us during our food pantry hours.

You are eligible for food assistance if you live in zipcodes [14207](#) or [14216](#), and if you meet one of the following criteria:

| Household Size | Annual Income |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 | \$25,520 |
| 2 | \$34,480 |
| 3 | \$43,440 |
| 4 | \$52,400 |
| 5 | \$61,360 |
| 6 | \$70,320 |
| 7 | \$79,280 |
| 8 | \$88,240 |
| Each Additional | \$8,960 |

- **Your family income lies within these guidelines, including if you have recently become unemployed.**
- **You or someone in your household participates in SNAP, WIC, TANF, Unemployment, Disability, SSI, or Free/Reduced lunch program.**
- **You are experiencing food insecurity and/or having trouble making ends meet.**

Job Posting



NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES OF ERIE & NIAGARA COUNTIES, INC.

1005 Grant Street ● Buffalo, NY 14207-2854 ● (716) 874-4460 ● Fax (716) 874-1874
1522 Main Street ● Niagara Falls, NY 14305 ● (716) 299-0914 ● Fax (716) 299-0903
76 West Avenue ● Lockport, NY 14094 ● (716) 302-3035 ● Fax (716) 302-3037
100 College Avenue, Suite 200 ● Rochester, NY 14607 ● (585) 514-3984
Syracuse Office: TBD

Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Family Preservation Caseworker

Type: Hourly / Non-Exempt

Salary/ Range: \$19.23 / hour

Offices: Erie & Niagara Counties (multiple open positions)

Summary :

The Family Preservation Caseworker works in conjunction with the Local County Department of Social Services (LCDSS /DSS) and is responsible for providing prevention services to families referred from DSS. Incumbent helps children remain safely in their homes and prevent placement outside of their home. All efforts will be performed with understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES: This position description is not intended to be all-inclusive but to give a general outline of duties to be performed.

- Provide effective and efficient case management for assigned families
- Maintain strong communication with the family working toward stabilizing and strengthening the family unit, with regular face-to-face contact
- Make use of appropriate counseling, parent training, home management, support, and advocacy services
- Work collaboratively with referral sources, community service providers, and family members to meet goals
- Produce accurate, thorough, and timely progress notes in CONNECTIONS
- Ensure all court mandated or recommended services are applied and supported
- Provide transportation for meetings, services, and appointments in a safe, reliable vehicle, as necessary
- Maintain confidentiality per agency standards and all applicable codes of ethics
- Other duties as assigned

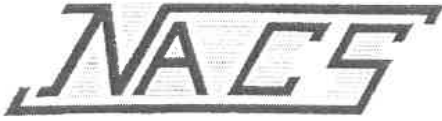
EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS

- Bachelor's degree in human service or related field of study preferred, with experience in child welfare required.
- Knowledge of ICWA, ASFA, Federal and State regulations, as well as mandated reporting requirements.
- Must be able to work remotely and in-person and be flexible to evening and weekend hours.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements.
- Must have clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300K.
- Intermediate computer skills and understanding of office applications including MS Office Suite.
- Interpersonal skills to work cooperatively and effectively with individuals, groups, and diverse populations.
- Knowledge of local Native American communities.
- Ability to become certified in CPR and First Aid
- Must be able to lift minimum of 30 lbs.
- Must be able to perform in a smoke-free environment.

ForConsideration: Send Resume to:

humanresources@nacswny.org

Job Posting



NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES OF ERIE & NIAGARA COUNTIES, INC.

1005 Grant Street • Buffalo, NY 14207-2854 • (716) 874-4460 • Fax (716) 874-1874
1522 Main Street • Niagara Falls, NY 14305 • (716) 299-0914 • Fax (716) 299-0903
76 West Avenue • Lockport, NY 14094 • (716) 302-3035 • Fax (716) 302-3037
100 College Avenue, Suite 200 • Rochester, NY 14607 • (585) 514-3984
Syracuse Office: TBD

Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Workforce Development Specialist

Type: Hourly / Non-Exempt

Salary / Range: \$19.00 / hour

Office: Rochester (Extensive Travel Required)

Summary:

The Workforce Development Specialist assists in planning and implementing goals and objectives of the Workforce Development Component as well as ensuring quality of service provision to clients. Incumbent will be flexible to evening and weekend schedules. All efforts will be performed with understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind Principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conducts Initial intake and comprehensive testing to determine client eligibility and needs.
- Develops an Individual Employment Plan (IEP) with client.
- Develops and provides workshops to clients in such areas of academic, life skills, and technical areas.
- Keeps abreast of current trends in the local job market.
- Establishes an effective support network and provides referrals for clients.
- Attends and participates in weekly component staff and other required meetings.
- Maintains necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.
- Develops an outreach action plan to successfully recruit and retain participants and employers into the program.
- Conducts outreach to academic entities, unions, coalitions, service providers, and other individuals/agencies to promote services, develop linkages, build network opportunities and advocate for issues in the Native American Community.
- Develops and nurtures relationships with employers for on-the-job training agreements and work experience opportunities for clients.
- Other duties as assigned

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS

- Bachelor's degree in human service or related field of study preferred, with three (3) years' experience in workforce development including supervision and program management, or a combination of education and work experience
- Knowledge of local area service providers
- Must be able to work remotely and in-person
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements
- Must have clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300K
- Intermediate computer skills and understanding of office applications including MS Office Suite
- Interpersonal skills to work cooperatively and effectively with individuals, groups, and diverse populations
- Knowledge of local Native American communities
- Must be able to lift minimum of 30 lbs.
- Must be able to perform in a smoke-free environment

For Consideration: Send Application & Resume to:

humanresources@nacswny.org

Native American Community Services
of Erie & Niagara Counties, Inc.
1005 Grant Street
Buffalo, New York, 14207

Happy Holidays and our Wish
for a Joyous and Healthy New Year
from the NACS Board of Directors
and Staff!



.....

YES, I'D LIKE TO HELP NACS CONTINUE ITS TRADITION OF CARING!!

Please accept my contribution of:

☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50

☐ \$100 ☐ Other: _____

I'd like to volunteer my time. I can...

Name

Address

City / State / Zip Code

Phone

☐ Please add me to your mailing list!

Please detach and return to:

Native American Community Services of Erie & Niagara Counties, Inc.
1005 Grant Street, Buffalo, New York 14207

FUNDED BY: Erie County Department of Social Services; Erie County Youth Bureau; New York State Office of Children & Family Services; New York State Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services; NYS DOH/Family Health; Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo; Niagara County Department of Social Services, Niagara County Office of the Aging; US Department of Labor; Administration for Native Americans (ANA); Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation; The Tower Foundation, The Oishei Foundation as well as businesses, foundations and caring individuals.