



NACS NEWS

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Men's Health Month – June 2025

Submitted by George T. Ghosen, Editor

June is Men's Health Month! This month is all about encouraging the men in your life (including you, men out there!) to take care of their bodies by eating right, exercising, and working to prevent disease. The official symbol for the month is a blue ribbon and the purpose of Men's Health Month is to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of diseases including cancer, heart disease, and depression ([National Today](#))

Whether you work in public health, are a man, or are a person who loves a man, raising awareness about specific men's health concerns is a great way to recognize Men's Health Month this June. ([National Public Health Coalition](#))

How Can Men Stay Healthy Over the Long Term?

Staying healthy as a man means maximizing one's longevity and taking steps to avoid the development of disease. This lifelong mission boils down to a few key pillars of healthy living that include exercising, healthy eating, and sleeping enough. And avoiding habits that can impact on your long-term health, such as smoking cigarettes or drinking heavily.

Physical Exercise for Men

The first pillar of men's health is exercising weekly. The American Heart Association (AHA) recommends [150 minutes of moderate aerobic activity weekly](#) or 75 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity. Additionally, men should do exercises specifically designed to increase muscle strength (such as bodyweight maneuvers or weightlifting) twice weekly. Avoiding

sedentary behaviors, such as prolonged periods of sitting in a chair, can also help men stay physically healthy.

Healthy Eating for Men

The second pillar for men is a healthy eating plan that should be easy to stick to and provide enough variety to be practical. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that men eat a variety of fruits and vegetables, lean meats, nuts, and seeds. Avoiding foods that are high in added sugar and unhealthy fats is also crucial.

Sleep Recommendations for Men

Beyond exercising and eating right, a third essential pillar for supporting men's health is sleep. During sleep, several recovery processes kick into high gear. Sleep is a time when your brain rests and stores information, preparing for the next awake period.

Sleep is also a time for your muscles and other cells to rest, repair, and regenerate. The National Sleep Foundation recommends that men (and all adults ages 18- 64) get between 7 to 9 hours of sleep each night.

Other Ways Men Can Improve Health

Many other factors play into optimizing men's health. Avoidance of known health threats (such as cigarettes and heavy drinking) is a big key to better health. Developing and nurturing social connections help men stay active too. Men who are more involved socially and within the community may be more

motivated to follow healthy living patterns that can optimize their wellness.

What Are Specific Issues That Impact Men's Health?

Men are often reluctant to seek medical care, even when a health concern is getting in the way of daily life. An important part of raising awareness about Men's Health Month is addressing this reluctance and encouraging men to get routine healthcare such as annual physical exams. It's also essential to seek consultation when they have a specific health concern instead of simply waiting and hoping a problem will go away on its own.

Specific health concerns pertaining to men include:

- ♥ Fluctuating levels of testosterone
- ♥ Conditions of the prostate
- ♥ Conditions of the penis and testes
- ♥ Concerns with sexual performance and function

Men in minority groups may face additional hurdles when addressing their health concerns. For example, according to statistics from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), men of Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander descent are less likely to have good communication with their physicians compared to men of other backgrounds.

Poor communication can have a significant impact on one's health and, unfortunately, can negatively impact health outcomes. For example, it is estimated by the HHS that American Indian/Alaskan Na-

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tive men have a 47 percent higher incidence of death when compared to non-Hispanic white men.

How to Learn More About National Men's Health Month

Spreading awareness about National Men's Health Month is all about encouraging good habits and emphasizing the importance of disease prevention. To learn more about getting involved in Men's Health Month, check out this [helpful page](#) from the HHS.

References:

- ♥ <https://www.heart.org/en/healthy-living/fitness/fitness-basics/aha-recs-for-physical-activity-in-adults>
- ♥ <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/mens-health/>
([National Public Health Coalition](#))

How to Observe Men's Health Month

1. Tweak your diet

Men's Health Month is a great opportunity to change the way you eat. Cut back on alcohol this month or up your intake of healthy fermented foods like sauerkraut and kefir. You can do anything for a month, and if you do it for a month, you can do it for life!

2. Set some goals

Use this month to take stock of your health now and think about where you want it to be. Do you want to lose weight? Gain muscle? Simply eat more vegetables? Set small and achievable goals and work with your doctor to make them a reality.

3. Get educated

Take this opportunity to read about the common health issues that are specific to men and how you can prevent your-

self from getting hurt! Check out the [CDC](#) for information on health issues that men face.

Why Men's Health Month is Important

1. That checks out

If you're stressing about a symptom—a busted knee, a persistent headache—it can be easy to get in a cycle of worrying about it. But going to the doctor can do two incredible things: one, it can figure out what's wrong, but two, it can keep you from worrying! Men's Health Month encourages you to get yourself checked out so you can feel better—and stop worrying.

2. A conversation starter

Men's Health Month gets people talking about health, which gets people acting about health. Gyms get joined, appointments get made, and resolutions get promised. It's a beautiful thing. Join in!

3. An excuse for pampering

Lots of things that are good for your body are also good for your soul! Play some golf, get a massage, take an extra long nap. It's all healthy, and if anyone asks the occasion, you've got an answer at the ready: Men's Health Month!

([National Today](#))

National Men's Health Week – June 9-15, 2025

National Men's Health Week is June 9-20, the week leading up to Father's Day, because what better way to celebrate dad than to encourage him to take care of his health? The week is all about healthy bodies, hard exercise, good diet, and regular visits to

the doctor. It's part of National Men's Health Month, a month-long recognition of men's health with activities and events to remind men to take care of their bodies. So whether you are a man or just love them, take some time this week to celebrate the male form and keeping it in tip-top shape!

National Men's Health Week Activities

1. Make an appointment

One of the best ways to celebrate Men's Health Week is to make an appointment you've been putting off! Have a mole you need looked at, or an elbow injury that keeps flaring up? Feel like your digestion has been off or maybe it's just time for you schedule a test? Use Men's Health Week as an excuse to make a call and get that appointment on the calendar.

2. Head to the gym

Use Men's Health Week to get yourself moving! Go to the gym, take a long walk, swim some laps, or take a bike ride. Your body will thank you, and just maybe it'll be the start of a weekly ritual.

3. Wear a blue ribbon

The blue ribbon is the symbol for Men's Health, and wearing one this week will show your commitment to the cause. It also does double duty as a conversation starter, helping you spread the good news about Men's Health Week to anyone curious enough to ask!

Why We Love National Men's Health Week

1. We love men

We all have fathers, brothers, sons, grandfathers, and friends that are men! Some of us are even men ourselves! We want

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the men in our life to be healthy, happy, and with us for a long time, and encouraging them to take care of themselves is a big part of that. Men's Health Week helps us talk to the men in our life about their health!

2. Health is hard

Especially in America, many

men are encouraged to be macho and invincible, and oftentimes that means they ignore symptoms and put off doctor appointments because "they're fine." Men's Health Week is all about peer pressure in the other direction!

3. An excuse to follow your bliss

It can be hard to find time to do the things we love to do, but Men's Health Week is a good reminder that health is also about happiness. Take a hike, go on a walk, play a round of golf, read a book, take a nap. Do what relaxes you! It's all healthy.

([National Today](#))

What are some Native American Men's Health Issues in 2025?

Submitted by George T. Ghosen, Editor

In 2025, Native American men continue to face significant health challenges, many of which are deeply rooted in systemic inequities, historical trauma, and underfunded healthcare infrastructure. Here are some of the most pressing health issues:

1. Chronic Diseases

♥ **Diabetes:** Native American communities have some of the highest rates of Type 2 diabetes in the U.S., with men particularly affected due to limited access to preventive care and healthy food options¹.

♥ **Heart Disease:** Undiagnosed and untreated cardiovascular conditions remain prevalent. Cultural barriers and lack of awareness contribute to late diagnoses².

2. Mental Health and Substance Use

♥ **Suicide and Depression:** Native American men, especially youth, experience disproportionately high rates of suicide and depression. This is exacerbated by intergenerational trauma and limited access to culturally competent mental health services¹.

♥ **Substance Use Disorders:** Alcohol and opioid misuse are significant concerns, often linked to coping mechanisms for trauma and socioeconomic stressors.

3. Access to Healthcare

♥ **Underfunded Indian Health Service (IHS):** Budget cuts and facility closures are threatening the already limited healthcare infrastructure. In 2025, the termination of leases for IHS facilities and staff reductions have worsened access to care³.

♥ **Geographic Barriers:** Many Native men live in rural or remote areas, making it difficult to access timely and specialized care.

4. Environmental and Social Determinants

♥ **Housing and Water Access:** Unsafe housing and lack of clean water continue to impact health outcomes in many Tribal communities¹.

♥ **Transportation:** Limited public transportation options hinder access to healthcare and employment opportunities.

5. Cultural Disconnect in Healthcare

♥ **Lack of Cultural Competency:** Many healthcare providers are not trained to understand or respect Native traditions and values, which can lead to mistrust and underutilization of services².

(¹ [National Indian Health Board](#), ²

[American Heart Association](#), ³ [Cascade PBS](#))

Some Initiatives aimed at improving Native American men's health in 2025?

In 2025, several initiatives are actively working to improve the health of Native American men by addressing systemic disparities and promoting culturally grounded care. Here are some key efforts:

1. National Indian Health Board (NIHB) Initiatives

During Tribal Public Health Week 2025, the NIHB emphasized the importance of **health equity through sovereignty and cultural strength**. Their initiatives include:

♥ **Advocating for full and mandatory funding** for the Indian Health Service (IHS).

♥ **Fighting for Tribal Medicaid parity** to ensure equal access to healthcare.

♥ **Supporting Native-led mental health programs**, especially those addressing youth depression and suicide.

♥ **Building Tribal public health infrastructure**, including clean water, housing, and transportation.

♥ **Promoting culturally rooted health solutions**, ensuring that care respects Native traditions

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and values¹.

2. IHS National Native Hearts Clinical Strategic Initiative

This 2025 initiative by the Indian Health Service focuses on:

- ♥ **Raising awareness and treatment of cardiovascular disease**, a leading cause of death among Native men.
- ♥ **Integrating physical, mental, social, and spiritual health** into care models.
- ♥ **Expanding access to cardiac care** in Tribal communities through local partnerships and telehealth².

3. Community-Based Heart Health Programs

Tribal communities have identified five key strategies to reduce heart disease:

- ♥ **Heart health education** tailored to Native populations.
- ♥ **Cultural considerations** in care delivery.
- ♥ **Multigenerational engagement** to promote wellness across age groups.
- ♥ **Improved access to local, patient-centered cardiac care.**
- ♥ **Resources for general wellness**, including nutrition and exercise programs³.

These initiatives reflect a broader movement toward **Tribal self-determination in health**, where Native communities lead the de-

sign and implementation of solutions that reflect their unique needs and strengths.

(¹ [National Indian Health Board](#), ² [Indian Health Service](#), ³ [American Heart Association](#))

Here are some success stories and positive outcomes from **Native American men's health initiatives in 2025**:

1. Strategic Initiative Celebrates Two Years of Impact

The Indian Health Service (IHS) celebrated the second anniversary of its **National Native Hearts Clinical Strategic Initiative**, which has shown measurable success in:

- ♥ **Reducing undiagnosed heart disease** through culturally tailored screening programs.
- ♥ **Training Tribal health workers** in cardiovascular care and prevention.
- ♥ **Expanding telehealth services** to remote Tribal communities, improving access to specialists¹.

2. Tribal-Led Mental Health Programs

During **Tribal Public Health Week 2025**, the National Indian Health Board highlighted several Tribal nations that:

- ♥ **Launched culturally grounded mental health programs** for men and youth, incorpo-

rating traditional healing practices and language revitalization.

- ♥ **Reduced youth suicide rates** in pilot communities by integrating elders and cultural mentors into school-based wellness programs².

3. Community-Based Heart Health Education

A study published by the American Heart Association in May 2025 found that:

- ♥ **Culturally aware health education** significantly improved awareness of heart disease symptoms among Native men.
- ♥ Programs that **engaged families and respected Tribal traditions** saw higher participation and better health outcomes³.

These stories reflect a broader trend: **when Native communities lead their own health initiatives, outcomes improve.** The integration of **cultural identity, community leadership, and modern medicine** is proving to be a powerful formula for change.

(¹ [Indian Health Service](#), ² [National Indian Health Board](#), ³ [American Heart Association](#))

You may also check out: [Why Achieving Health Equity for Indigenous Peoples Requires Indigenizing the Social Determinants of Health](#)

June is National Cancer Survivor Month

From [Cancer Survivors Month 2025: All You Need to Know](#)

Thanks to cancer research, there are currently more than 18 million people living with a history of cancer in the United States. Each person diagnosed with cancer faces a unique set of challenges, but one in four survivors reports a poor physical quality of life and one in 10 reports poor mental health-related quality of life. We need to do better.

Cancer Survivors Month reflects on the resilience and courage of those who have survived a cancer diagnosis. With over [20 million new cancer cases diagnosed](#) globally in 2022 and more than [32 million cancer survivors](#) around the world, this observance is a powerful reminder of their strength while also bringing awareness to the chal-

lenges they face. So, we had to ask: What is the most important information you need to know about this year's Cancer Survivors Month?

The Most Important Information About Cancer Survivors Month at a Glance

1. The big picture: [Cancer Survi-](#)
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- [Cancer Survivors Month](#) honors the more than [18 million cancer survivors](#) in the US and [millions more worldwide](#). Moreover, it highlights the [unique hurdles](#) that cancer survivors face, including physical and mental health challenges, financial strain, and setbacks in education and career opportunities. Cancer Survivors Month is an opportunity to recognize their strengths, provide resources to aid recovery, and highlight the importance of continued research and care.
2. **Why it is important:** Global cancer diagnoses are [steadily rising](#), with new cases projected to reach [35 million by 2050](#)—a staggering [77% increase](#) from 2022. As more individuals become cancer survivors each year, the need to address their [unique challenges](#) grows. Furthermore, [healthcare inequity](#) significantly impacts global cancer survivorship, with patients in [low-income countries](#) often facing limited access to early detection, treatment, and follow-up care. This disparity leads to [higher mortality rates and poorer quality of life](#) for survivors, especially for those in underserved communities.
 3. **How you can get involved:** You can show your support for cancer survivors by hosting or attending events, getting involved with cancer organizations, and spreading awareness via social media.
 - **Host or attend survivor events:** Communities often hold celebrations, survivor walks, or gatherings to honor local survivors that you can attend. You can even consider setting up your own event in your community.

- **Donate or volunteer:** Support organizations like the [American Cancer Society](#) or [Cancer Support Community](#) by volunteering, donating, or fundraising.
- **Spread awareness:** Share stories of survivorship or resources using hashtags like #CelebrateSurvivors on social media.

A Brief History of Cancer Survivors Month

When was this event established: [National Cancer Survivors Day](#), the foundation event for [Cancer Survivors Month](#), was first celebrated in 1988 and led by the [National Cancer Survivors Day Foundation](#). It aimed to unite survivors and provide a platform for sharing experiences.

How has it developed since then: Cancer Survivors Month has grown into a [global effort](#) to raise awareness about the challenges survivors face and to create solutions that make a real difference. Over the years, it has contributed to the [development of resources](#) like support groups, financial aid programs, and specialized healthcare services for survivors. Organizations like the [American Cancer Society](#) now offer practical help, such as free rides to treatment and guidance on managing life after cancer. This growing movement has also pushed for better policies, access to mental health care, and programs that help survivors get back on their feet.

3 Interesting Facts About Cancer Survivors Month

Diverse survivorship journey: Cancer survivors span all ages, from [children who beat childhood cancers](#) to [older adults](#) managing life post-diagnosis.

Each group faces unique challenges, such as navigating education disruptions for young survivors or managing comorbidities for older individuals.

Global disparities: Around [70% of global cancer-related deaths](#) occur in low- and middle-income countries, often due to delayed diagnoses and limited access to treatment. This stark disparity highlights the critical need for advocacy during Cancer Survivors Month to address these inequities and improve healthcare access worldwide.

Famous survivors: [Many individuals](#) who have overcome cancer have gone on to achieve incredible things, using their experiences to inspire others. For example, actor and director [Ben Stiller](#), who survived prostate cancer, has become a vocal advocate for early detection and screenings, while feminist icon [Gloria Steinem](#), who overcame breast cancer, continues to be a powerful voice for women's rights and social justice.

About the author: [Alycia O'Dell](#)

Alycia loves to research and write about organizations that invest in the health and welfare of marginalized communities. She holds a master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis and works with children with autism. Outside of work, she is a new mom to twins and loves helping them learn and explore.





June is Gay Pride Month

Submitted by Bonnie LaForme, IHAWP Facilitation Assistant

Pride Month, celebrated annually in June, is a time to honor the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) community. It commemorates the Stonewall Uprising, a pivotal event in the fight for LGBTQ rights, which occurred on June 28, 1969. The month-long celebration includes events, marches, and other activities aimed at raising awareness, promoting acceptance, and celebrating LGBTQ identities.

Buffalo, NY:

- Buffalo Pride Parade and Festival. Held on June 1st at Elmwood Avenue at Forest Avenue for the parade, and then at Canalside for the festival.
- Theme: This year's theme is "High Visibility".
- Event Details: The parade starts at 11 AM, and the festival runs from 1 PM to 7 PM.

Resources: For Testing:

- [National HIV Testing Day](#)

LGBTQ+ Organizations:

- [Amnesty International](#)
Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people who take injustice personally. We are campaigning for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all.
- [GLAAD](#)
GLAAD rewrites the script for LGBTQ acceptance. As a dynamic media force, GLAAD tackles tough issues to shape the narrative and provoke dialogue that leads to cultural change. GLAAD protects all that has been accomplished and creates a world where everyone can live the life they love.
- [GLSEN](#)
GLSEN (pronounced "glisten")

was founded in 1990 by a small, but dedicated group of teachers in Massachusetts who came together to improve an education system that too frequently allows its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQ) students to be bullied, discriminated against, or fall through the cracks.

Over 25 years later, that small group has grown into the leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe and affirming schools for LGBTQ students.

- [ILGA](#)
Since 1978, we have been committed to equal human rights for rainbow communities and their liberation from all forms of discrimination. We support LGBTI civil society worldwide through advocacy and research projects, and give grassroots movements a voice within international organisations.
- [Interpride](#)
InterPride believes that all people are born free and equal with dignity and rights. However, we are keenly aware that around the world, there remains many incidents where an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity can lead them to face discrimination, violence, imprisonment, torture or even execution. InterPride believes that the Pride movement is integral to advancing the legal and social equality of LGBTI people around the world.
- [LGBT Movement Advancement Project](#)

Organizations working to improve the lives of LGBT Americans

- [PFLAG](#)
Founded in 1973 after the simple act of a mother publicly supporting her gay son, PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization. PFLAG is the first and largest organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people, their parents and families, and allies. With over 400 chapters and 200,000 members and supporters crossing multiple generations of families in major urban centers, small cities, and rural areas across America, PFLAG is committed to creating a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed.
This vast grassroots network is cultivated, resourced, and serviced by the staff of PFLAG National, the National Board of Directors, and the all-volunteer Regional Directors Council.
- [The Trevor Project](#)
Founded in 1998 by the creators of the Academy Award®-winning short film TREVOR, The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer & questioning (LGBTQ) young people under 25.
- [True Colors United](#)
True Colors United implements innovative solutions to youth homelessness that focus on the unique experiences of LGBTQ young people.

National HIV Testing Day – June 27, 2025

Submitted by George T. Ghosen, Editor

Each year, America observes National HIV Testing Day on June 27, raising awareness about the importance of testing for HIV and getting an early diagnosis. Called NHTD in short, this day is crucial for encouraging people to increase HIV testing and know their status, and thus get the care they need to treat this illness.

History of National HIV Testing Day

The HIV virus itself was identified in the 19th century by French and American scientists. Dr. Robert Gallo co-discovered HIV as the cause of AIDS. This breakthrough meant companies could begin testing for antibodies produced in response to this virus and hopefully protect people from the effects of HIV. Initial tests conducted in this period were not to diagnose people with HIV or AIDS but to screen donated blood for a possible infection. As “TIME” magazine reported at the time, the fear of contaminated blood was running high, even though a very small fraction of people had contracted HIV through blood transfusions. The nature of these tests meant scientists and labs got a lot of false positives; medical uncertainty meant people did not know if the positive result meant people were infected, or if they had simply been exposed. A label on one of the early tests — which is in the Smithsonian Museum of American History, clearly states that it was not to be used as a test to screen for HIV or AIDS. The advance of HIV testing among the common public was marred by the stigma attached to the illness. These reasons turned the testing process on its head. New protocols were added, new experimental studies were conducted, and test-

ing awareness drives were conducted.

The future looks promising, however. An American called Timothy Ray Brown was the first person to ever be cured of HIV. Contracting the illness at university in the late nineties, he received a stem cell transplant ten years later, after being diagnosed with leukemia. Luckily for Timothy, his donor had a rare genetic mutation conferring resistance to HIV. Timothy remained HIV-free ever since. Scientists have been trying to replicate this success ever since, and are using this lesson to try and develop a broadly applicable cure.

In the late 19th century, dozens of scientists worked round-the-clock to create a revolutionary new HIV test that changed how this illness was diagnosed. Ten years later, the National Association of People With AIDS founded National HIV Testing Day to increase the number of people testing themselves for this illness. The program got off to a very successful start and has been running ever since.

National HIV Testing Day timeline

1984 - HIV is Identified

A group of French and American scientists discovers that the HIV virus causes AIDS, and they successfully identify and isolate it in a lab.

March 2, 1985 - A New HIV Test is Here

The Food and Drug Administration approves a new HIV drug, called an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay or ELISA test.

April 1985 - “TIME” Report

An article in “TIME” magazine reports fear of contaminated blood runs high, even as only 142 out of 9600 HIV-affected Americans got the illness from a blood transfusion.

1987 - A New Drug is Here

The Food and Drug Administration approves the use of a new experimental drug called AZT that improves patients’ immune systems.

1995 - Our Day is Founded

The National Association of People With AIDS creates a day to increase the number of people being tested for HIV.

2010 - A Silver Lining

Timothy Ray Brown, who was previously known as the Berlin patient (and the only one to be cured of HIV four years before this), releases his name to the public.

National HIV Testing Day FAQs

When is National HIV Day?

National HIV Testing Day is observed on June 27 every year.

Can HIV be detected in 20 days?

An antibody test performed on blood obtained from a vein can detect HIV within 18 to 45 days of exposure.

Is HIV the same as AIDS?

HIV is not the same as AIDS. When clinically latent infections progress to the third and final stage of HIV, only then is it referred to as AIDS.

How To Observe National HIV Testing Day

1. Stay in the know

The National Association of People With AIDS and partner organizations distribute literature and content about the many ways we can raise awareness among ourselves about HIV and AIDS. This day

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also encourages us to get more informed about HIV testing and when it is appropriate, along with broader knowledge about this illness and how to manage it. Some information also focuses on self-testing when outside visits are not an option or are limited.

2. Promote HIV testing

Do your part to reduce the stigma and support HIV testing. Get tested as a part of routine health care — something the CDC recommends for everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 — and promote HIV testing on your social media too.

3. Participate in a clinical trial

If you are healthy and willing, some clinical trials run by vaccine companies may be on the lookout for volunteers to run vaccine studies on. This clinical research can go a long way towards developing new and effective treatments, and hopefully, find a cure for HIV and AIDS.

5 Facts About HIV

1. A high global number

HIV is prevalent worldwide, with nearly 38 million people affected by it.

2. U.S. numbers are substantial too

Data shows nearly 1.1 million Americans are living with HIV; around 39,000 people are infected each year.

3. People don't know they are infected

Studies estimate around 14% of the people who live with HIV in the U.S. don't know they have been infected.

4. There is no vaccine to prevent HIV

While researchers have been working for over 20 years to develop an effective vaccine for

HIV, they have been unsuccessful so far.

5. One person has been cured of HIV

Timothy Ray Brown - known as the 'Berlin patient,' is the first and only person in the world to be cured of HIV.

Why National HIV Testing Day Is Important

A. It reduces the stigma associated with HIV

National HIV Testing Day normalizes this illness, striving to bring people into testing centers all over America. Observing this day sensitizes all of us to this illness, allowing the stigma linked to HIV and AIDS to fade gradually. Ultimately, we see days and programs like these as a critical resource in the fight against HIV and related disorders.

B. It empowers communities and the hardest-hit populations

National HIV Testing Day empowers communities, partners on the ground, and healthcare providers by normalizing HIV testing. In consequence, this increased testing allows us to prevent HIV among the hardest hit population and help the people already infected to stay healthy and positive.

C. It helps people manage HIV

For all the people with undiagnosed HIV, National HIV Testing Day encourages testing, which is the first step towards managing this illness. The earlier people test themselves, the more steps people can take towards maintaining a healthy life and reducing the spread of HIV.

Source: [National Today](#)

Where are there HIV testing sites in Western NY?

1. Evergreen Health – Buffalo & Jamestown

- **Locations:** Buffalo (206 S Elmwood Ave) and Jamestown
- **Services:** HIV testing, STI screening, PrEP/PEP, Hep C testing
- **Website:** [Evergreen Health](#)¹

2. New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)

- **Resource:** Statewide directory of HIV testing sites
- **Includes:** Local health departments, community clinics, and mobile testing units
- **Website:** [NYSDOH HIV Testing Sites](#)²

3. HIV.gov Locator Tool

- **Tool:** Search by ZIP code to find nearby HIV testing, PrEP, and care services
- **Website:** [HIV Testing & Care Locator](#)³

4. Local Health Departments

Many counties in Western NY (e.g., Erie, Niagara, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus) offer:

- Free or low-cost HIV testing
- Walk-in or appointment-based services
- Partner services and prevention counseling

You can contact your **county health department** directly or use the NYSDOH site to find the nearest clinic.

(1 [Evergreen Health](#), 2 [NYS Dept. of Health](#), 3 [HIV.gov](#))

HIV testing sites in Buffalo, NY, offering confidential and accessible services:

1. Erie County Sexual Health Center

- **Location:** Jesse Nash Health Center, 608 William Street, Buffalo, NY 14206
- **Phone:** (716) 858-7687
- **Hours:** Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM (walk-in, first

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- **Services:** HIV testing, STI treatment, PrEP/PEP, free condoms and lube
- **Website:** [Erie County Sexual Health Center](#)¹

2. Evergreen Health

- **Location:** 206 S Elmwood Ave Ste 2, Buffalo, NY 14201
- **Phone:** (716) 847-2441
- **Hours:** Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Tue: 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- **Services:** HIV testing and care, PrEP/PEP, STI testing, primary care, mental health, and more
- **Website:** [Evergreen Health](#)²

3. Priority STD Testing

- **Location:** 1317 Jefferson Ave, Buffalo, NY 14208
- **Phone:** (888) 211-2365
- **Hours:** Daily, 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- **Services:** Confidential HIV and STD testing with online ordering
- **Website:** [Priority STD Testing](#)³

4. Planned Parenthood – Buffalo Health Center

- **Location:** 2697 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214
- **Services:** Rapid HIV testing, counseling, and other sexual health services
- **Website:** [Planned Parenthood Buffalo](#)⁴

(1 [Erie Co. DOH](#), 2 [Evergreen Health](#), 3 [PrioritySTD](#), 4 [Planned Parenthood](#))

What are the testing procedures?

HIV testing procedures vary slightly by provider, but here's a general overview of what you can expect at most clinics:

1. Rapid HIV Testing

- **Method:** A small blood sample from a finger stick or an oral swab.
- **Time for Results:** Typically 10–

40 minutes.

- **Where Offered:** [Planned Parenthood](#), [Erie County Sexual Health Center](#), [Evergreen Health](#)

2. Standard HIV Testing

- **Method:** Blood draw sent to a lab.
- **Time for Results:** Usually a few days.
- **Where Offered:** [Community Health Center of Buffalo](#), [Evergreen Health](#), and others

3. Counseling and Confidentiality

- **Pre- and Post-Test Counseling:** Most clinics offer this to help you understand the process and results.
- **Confidential Testing:** Your results are private and protected by law.
- **Anonymous Testing:** Some locations may offer this option, where your name is not linked to the test.

4. Insurance and Payment

- **Insurance Accepted:** Most clinics accept Medicaid and private insurance.
- **No Insurance?** Many offer sliding scale fees or free testing based on income.
- **What to Bring:** Photo ID and insurance card (if applicable).

5. Additional Services

- **PrEP/PEP Access:** Preventive medications for those at risk of HIV.
- **STI Testing:** Often offered alongside HIV testing.
- **Vaccinations and Condoms:** Many clinics provide these for free.

Is Having HIV survivable?

Yes, HIV is survivable—and with today's treatments, people living with HIV can lead **long, healthy, and fulfilling lives**.

Here's why:

✓ Modern HIV Treatment Is Highly Effective

- **Antiretroviral therapy (ART)** is the standard treatment. It suppresses the virus to undetectable levels, allowing the immune system to recover and stay strong
- In 2025, ART has become even more advanced, with **long-acting injectables**, **chewable tablets**, and **personalized treatment plans** improving adherence and outcomes¹

✓ Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U)

- People who maintain an undetectable viral load **cannot transmit HIV** to sexual partners²
- This has transformed both public health and personal relationships for people living with HIV

✓ Life Expectancy Is Near-Normal

- With consistent treatment, people with HIV can live **just as long** as those without it
- Regular medical care, a healthy lifestyle, and adherence to medication are key

✓ Hope for the Future

- Research continues into **vaccines** and even **functional cures**.
- New medications like **lenacapavir** and **monthly injectables** are making treatment easier and more accessible²

If you or someone you know is living with HIV, support and resources are widely available.

(¹ [Continental Hospitals](#), ² [Newsweek](#))



Supporting Someone Living with HIV

1. Listen Without Judgment

- Let them share their feelings at their own pace.
- Avoid offering unsolicited advice or reacting with fear or pity.
- Respect their privacy—don't disclose their status to others without permission.

2. Educate Yourself

- Learn about HIV: how it's transmitted, treated, and managed.
- Understanding the facts helps you offer informed support and reduce stigma.
- Resources like HIV.gov are great starting points.

3. Encourage Medical Care and Treatment

- Offer to help them find a doctor or clinic.
- Accompany them to appointments if they're comfortable with it.
- Support them in sticking to their treatment plan—this is key to living a long, healthy life.

4. Support Medication Adherence

- Help them set reminders or organize their meds if they ask.
- Be patient if they're adjusting to side effects or new routines.
- Celebrate their consistency—it's a big deal!

5. Be Mindful of Mental Health

- Living with HIV can be emotionally challenging.
- Encourage them to seek therapy or join a support group if they're open to it.
- Be a safe space where they can express themselves without fear.

6. Treat Them as You Always Have

- Don't let HIV define your relationship.
- Keep doing the things you enjoyed together before their diagnosis.
- Show them they are still the same person to you—valued and loved.

7. Help Fight Stigma

- Speak up against misinformation or discrimination.
- Share accurate information when appropriate.
- Be an ally in both private and public spaces.

Juneteenth 2025 in the United States

Submitted by George T. Ghosen, Editor

Juneteenth is an annual observance on June 19 to remember when Union soldiers enforced the Emancipation Proclamation and freed all remaining slaves in Texas on June 19, 1865. This day is an opportunity for people to celebrate freedom and equal rights in the United States.

What Do People Do?

A range of public, community and private events are held to celebrate Juneteenth, often on a weekend close to June 19. These include:

- ♦ Potluck outdoor cookouts, barbecues or picnics.
- ♦ Baseball games.
- ♦ Workplace lunches.
- ♦ Rodeos.
- ♦ Neighborhood or block parties.
- ♦ Community flag-raising ceremonies.
- ♦ Juneteenth displays in city halls, libraries, schools, and post offices.
- ♦ Essay or artwork competitions for young people.
- ♦ Presentations of community service awards.
- ♦ The distribution of Juneteenth buttons, t-shirts, mugs, and bags.

Some people also decorate conference rooms or corridors at their workplace, and their neighborhoods and yards with Juneteenth banners, yard signs, and flags to raise awareness of the event.

Background

Slavery in the United States can be traced back to the 16th century when Spanish explorers brought African slaves with them to the New World. It lasted until the Emancipation Proclamation came into effect on January 1, 1863. On that date Texas was largely controlled by forces fighting for the



Confederate States, which opposed the abolition of slavery.

On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers arrived to take control of Texas and enforce the emancipation of slaves in the state. In Galveston, Texas, the newly freed slaves held large public celebrations and so laid the base for future Juneteenth activities. The word 'Juneteenth' resulted from the words 'June Nineteenth' being combined together in speech.

After 1865, Juneteenth was mainly celebrated in Texas. Parks have been established on land bought by former slaves to hold Juneteenth celebrations in the Texan cities of Austin, Houston, and Mexia.

Today, it is a federal holiday and a state holiday or observance in more than half of the US states.

Juneteenth celebrations are also held in other countries around the world, including Ghana, Honduras, Japan, Taiwan, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Juneteenth is also celebrated by the [Mascogos](#), descendants of [Black Seminoles](#) who escaped from slavery in 1852 and settled in [Coahuila, Mexico](#)¹.

The day was recognized as a federal holiday in 2021, when the [117th U.S. Congress](#) enacted and President [Joe Biden](#) signed the

Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law. Juneteenth became the first new federal holiday since [Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#) was adopted in 1983¹.

(¹ [Wikipedia](#))

Symbols

The Juneteenth flag consists of a rectangle. The lower part of the rectangle is red and the upper part is blue and it has a solid white, five-pointed star at its center. The star is surrounded by a white outline of a 12-pointed star. The Juneteenth flag is often displayed with the United States flag to symbolize that slavery is illegal.

In Texas and some other southern states, the traditional drink on Juneteenth is Big Red soda. This variety of cream soda is a sweet, soft drink flavored with orange and lemon oils and vanilla. It is available in different flavors and with or without caffeine and sugar.

Source: [TimeAndDate.com](#)

- ⇒ Buffalo Juneteenth 2025
- ⇒ Celebrating Freedom, History, Culture & Resilience
- ⇒ #BuffaloJuneteenthStrong
- ⇒ Saturday, June 14th - Sunday, June 15th, 2025

CULTURE HISTORY COMMUNITY

Juneteenth of Buffalo is approaching a major milestone, a half century of celebrating freedom, resilience, and the rich cultural heritage of Buffalo's Black community.

This summer the Juneteenth 50th Anniversary Committee will pay tribute to this milestone by kicking off a historic 50 year celebration

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)
scheduled to run through June 2026.

As we approach this historic week-end, we will not forget the deep

roots in Buffalo—born from the efforts of dedicated community leaders, artists, and activists who saw the importance of commemorating Juneteenth not just as a moment in history but as a liv-

ing, evolving testament to Black excellence and unity.

Source: [Buffalo Juneteenth 2025](#)

Justin Hemphill Honored at April Council

From [SNI News](#), [April 25 2025](#) Issue

“for his outstanding basketball career and achievements”

In a regular session of Seneca Nation Council on April 12, 2025, Justin Hemphill was recognized for his outstanding basketball career and achievements.

A standout athlete at Daemen University, Justin made history as the first player to lead the Wildcats in rebounds, assists, and steals in a single season. He ranks 6th all-time in rebounds and 8th in blocks, with multiple accolades including All-ECC First Team, ECC Championship Most Outstanding Player, and NABC/D2CCA All-Region honors. His team was also ranked #1 in the nation for multiple weeks last season—a remarkable achievement.

Justin is a two-time NAYO Basketball Champion, and has proudly represented the Seneca Nation in NAIG (North American Indigenous Games) and NABI (Native American Basketball Invitational).

Justin, Onöndowa’ga, Hoswë’gai:yo’, is the son of Tina Kettle and Willie Hemphill Sr., and brother to Justina, Summer, and Willie Jr.

The Seneca Nation is proud to recognize Justin for his hard work, athletic excellence, and continued representation of the Seneca Nation with pride and dedication.

Ja:gö’h Justin, presented by SNI Councilor Jonathan D. Williams.



Pictured above: Center Left - Justin Hemphill with his family and SNI President and Councilors

Governor Hochul Visits Seneca Nation and Issues Formal Apology for New York State's Role in Operating Thomas Indian School

From [Governor.NY.gov](https://governor.ny.gov), May 20, 2025, Albany, NY

Governor Kathy Hochul today visited the Cattaraugus Territory of the Seneca Nation of Indians to issue a formal apology for New York State's role in the operation of the Thomas Indian School. Today's visit fulfills a pledge she made to President J. Conrad Seneca during a visit Nation leaders made to Albany earlier this year. Governor Hochul met with President Seneca and other leaders of the Seneca Nation before sitting down with survivors and those families still impacted by the atrocities that occurred at the Thomas Indian School. The event took place on the site of the current Seneca Nation Administration Campus which used to house the Thomas Indian School.

"In order to move forward and avoid repeating the sins of the past, New York must acknowledge its role in the historical atrocities committed at the Thomas Indian School - and the enduring trauma that was inflicted upon the Senecas and all Indigenous peoples across New York," **Governor Hochul said.** "Today, on behalf of the State of New York, I apologize to the Seneca Nation of Indians - and the survivors and descendants from all Nations - who attended the Thomas Indian School. We cannot change the horrors of the past, but I recommit to the truth, justice, reconciliation, accountability, and healing that are so essential to move forward together."

Seneca Nation President J.C. Seneca said, "Today is an important reckoning with a very dark and tragic period in history. It is a day that many people thought would never happen. Healing takes time,



This undated photo provided by the Library of Congress shows the Thomas Indian school in Irving, N.Y.

but it also requires accountability for the pain that people caused. We still feel the pain. Now, with Governor Hochul's words of apology, our healing process can continue."

Watch on [YouTube](#)

Originally established by Presbyterian missionaries on the Cattaraugus Territory in 1855, Thomas Indian School was owned and operated by the State of New York from 1875 until it closed in 1957. Thomas Indian School, and other residential boarding schools across the United States and Canada, operated under the government's policy of forced assimilation of Native children.

At least 2,500 children from various Indigenous Nations were separated from their families and forced to attend the school. Children from the Seneca, Cayuga, Tuscarora, Oneida, Onondaga, Mohawk, Poospatuck (Unkechaug), Shinnecock, and other Indigenous Nations passed through the doors of the school. Some of those children never re-

turned home. They were stripped of the traditional language and culture, and suffered abuse, violence, hatred, and sometimes death, at the hands of school officials. Thousands of children are known to have died at the residential boarding schools. It is believed that the deaths of hundreds — if not thousands — more were never documented. The devastating impacts the boarding schools had on Native American families and communities, including the decimation of family structures and traditional language, are still keenly felt today.

Additionally:

Around 200 Seneca Nation citizens turned out for the event, with many either having been survivors of the school or having a family connection.

One of those, Leslie McComber Sr., said his great-grandfather once owned the land where the Thomas Indian School sat. He said when New York State took over operation of the school from a Christian minister in 1875, the state brought about dark change.

"They wanted cultural change, they wanted assimilation," McComber said. "The message of the old narrative was to kill the Indian and save the man, and believe it or not, a lot of that has happened. Even amongst ourselves, it's hard. We find it hard for ourselves, some of us, to get along."

McComber said his family fought to get the land back, hoping to put an end to abuse of Native children.

Additional Source: [BTPM.org](https://btpm.org),
Courtesy of [Ryan Zunner](#)



REDISCOVERING OUR ONKWEHON:WE TRADITIONS

ABOUT US

ROOTS is here to increase the availability of cultural education programs and resources for the urban Haudenosaunee people. We aim to implement opportunities to learn about Haudenosaunee traditions and practices through an increased number of Haudenosaunee cultural programs

CLASSES

arts/cooking classes
cultural speaker series
elder and youth information exchange
community socials
singing and dancing classes
yearly marketplace

GOAL

The long-term community goal would be that all Native Americans have access to opportunity, knowledge, and the ability to incorporate traditional concepts and teachings within their families and communities

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FUNDED BY: THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-
ADMINISTRATION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

ROOTS Program

Submitted by Colleen Casali, ROOTS Program Coordinator

The Rediscovering Our Onkwehonwe Traditions program (ROOTS) at Native American Community Services (NACS) is a vital initiative aimed at reconnecting Indigenous youth and families with their cultural heritage. By offering hands on experiences rooted in Haudenosaunee traditions, ROOTS creates opportunities for community members to rediscover and strengthen their identity, language, and values. The program emphasizes intergenerational learning, cultural pride, and community building through a wide variety of culturally rich activities and events.

So far, ROOTS has hosted several successful workshops and classes that highlight traditional skills and arts. These have included moccasin making, where participants learned to craft traditional footwear, and beaded birds, which taught both intricate beadwork and the symbolic meaning behind the designs. The program also hosted baking sessions to share traditional recipes and foster community bonding through food. Social dance instruction has been another key component, encouraging participation in Haudenosaunee dance and song while promoting physical activity and cultural un-

derstanding.

Looking ahead, ROOTS has many exciting events planned. One major focus will be the continuation and expansion of racial healing circles, which are set to take place in both Erie and Niagara counties. These circles provide safe spaces for open dialogue, healing, and unity across communities. The social dance classes that began in Niagara County will soon wrap up, and ROOTS is preparing to launch similar classes in Erie County to ensure broader access to this important cultural experience.

In addition to classes and workshops, ROOTS hosts numerous socials throughout the year. These gatherings allow community members to come together in celebration of culture through music, dance, and food. A notable upcoming social will take place on June 13th at McKinley High School.

ROOTS also has been collaborating with the NACS clubhouse to offer a series of craft and beading classes specifically geared toward youth. These activities will include projects like keychains, medallions, and other meaning-

ful items that reflect Haudenosaunee culture. In addition, a variety of speaker events are planned, featuring knowledge keepers and cultural educators who will share insights on history, tradition, and wellness. Through all of these efforts, ROOTS continues to serve as a cornerstone of cultural revitalization and empowerment for the Onkwehonwe community.

Another important component of NACS is its dedicated effort to support and engage the elders in the community. The elders program offers regular opportunities for crafting, socializing, and sharing stories in a welcoming environment. These gatherings honor the knowledge and experience of our elders while providing them with meaningful social connections and a chance to participate in traditional activities, whether it's through beading or simply enjoying time with each other.

For more information on ROOTS programs contact:

ROOTS (716) 847-2797 ext. 334

Colleen Casali, Program Coordinator ccasali@nacswny.org

Dakota Jonathan, Project Specialist djonathan@nacswny.org

Arriana Smith, Project Specialist asmith@nacswny.org



Pic#1



Pic#2



Pic#3



Pic#4



Pic#5

Pictured Above left to right: Pic#1 - Teresa Kraft & Eric Stryker; Pic#2 - Joselyn Isaacs and Zoe Hill with Jes Ghosen; Pic#3 - Jessica Forgette; Pic#4 - YaLaunda Ground, SieAnna Hoover, YaVaun Ground, Christine Cook; Pic#5 - Allison Smith.



CLUBHOUSE CORNER



JUNE 2025 EDITION



"May, the month of sunshine, blooming flowers, and endless possibilities."
— Unknown

BUFFALO ZOO TRIP AND BEAD NIGHT!



Last month members of the NACS Youth Clubhouse spent the day at the Buffalo Zoo and had a bead night with the ROOTS Program!



To join us for our next outing event, please contact:

NACS Clubhouse (Erie County) Manager,
Kelly: 716-449-6472

NACS Clubhouse (Niagara County) Hotline:
716-983-1251

UPCOMING EVENTS!



NATURE WALK

WOODBURNING

MUSEUM TRIP

BEAD NIGHT

SOCIAL



STAY UPDATED ON OUR CLUBHOUSE
EVENTS WITH SOCIAL MEDIA!



NACS CLUBHOUSE CORNER - JUNE 2025



2ND ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

**MONDAY
JUNE 23, 2025**

Registration: 11am
Shotgun Start: 1pm
Dinner: 6pm

REGISTRATION FEES:

SINGLE PLAYER

\$175

TEAM OF 4

\$600

Seneca Hickory Stick
4560 Creek Rd.
Lewiston, NY 14092

[Register Here](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

716-574-0471

MARKETING@NACSWNY.ORG

Are you an Indigenous person interested in improving health and well-being for Indigenous communities?



Join the INDIGENOUS HEALTH COALITION

Learn more and apply to join at: surveymonkey.com/r/IHC2025

What are the values of this Coalition?

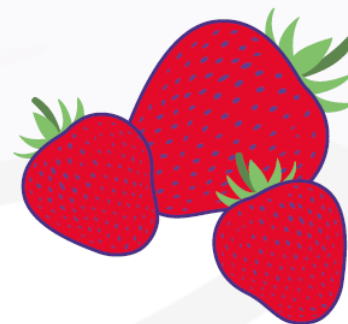
- **The next Seven Generations:** All decisions positively impact the next Seven Generations.
- **A Good Mind:** We use a Good Mind. Communication is respectful, engaging and empowering among all persons involved.
- **Inclusivity:** We strive to center the voices of all Indigenous people in our region, regardless of Tribal affiliation, enrollment status, or whether they live on or off territory.
- **Indigenous data sovereignty:** We are committed to using Indigenous methods of data collection and protecting data ownership.
- **Traditional methods of healing:** We uplift traditional methods of healing to be used in partnership with Western medicine.
- **Resilience:** We reframe intergenerational trauma as intergenerational resilience.

What will the time commitment be?

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 6-7:30 pm. Location varies between in person in Rochester, and virtually on Zoom. Members are expected to engage with the coalition at least 6 times per year.

Engagement opportunities include but are not limited to attending coalition meetings, tabling on behalf of the coalition at community events, presenting to an outside group on behalf of the coalition, and leading a coalition project outside of regular meetings.

Members of the coalition must be Indigenous and must fill out an application to be reviewed by the coalition.



Turtle Building Added to National 'Endangered Places' List

Submitted by George T. Ghosen, Editor

The Turtle, also known as the Native American Center for the Living Arts, is a powerful symbol of Indigenous heritage. Completed in 1981 and designed by Arapaho architect Dennis Sun Rhodes, its distinctive turtle shaped structure draws inspiration from the Haudenosaunee creation story of Sky Woman landing on the back of a turtle (also known as Turtle Island).

Founded 15 years after the closure of the last federally funded Indian Boarding School, it symbolizes the cultural reclamation and celebration of Native American languages, identity, and arts. Located adjacent to Niagara Falls, the Turtle became a hub for fostering education, cultural preservation, and healing.

The Turtle was once the largest center for Indigenous arts in the Eastern United States but closed in 1996 due to financial challenges. After purchase by a developer nearly 30 years ago, the Turtle has been vacant, and the owner previously shared plans to demolish the building and replace it with a high-rise hotel. The bold colored stripes that once emphasized the Turtle's zoomorphic form have been painted white, making the building's original design harder to visualize, and The Turtle is not a protected local landmark.

The [Friends of The Niagara Turtle](#) coalition, made up of over 1,000 Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people, has engaged extensively with the Haudenosaunee Nations and other Indigenous communities, garnering support for revitalizing The Turtle as a cultural resource. The coalition envisions reactivating the building as a cultural center, to include exhibitions, dance and music performances, and educational experiences highlighting Native American heritage, culture, and lan-

guages. However, partnerships and funding are needed to make this vision a reality and "reawaken" the Turtle once again.

Source: [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#)

The Turtle was named to the National Trust's [11 Most Endangered Historic Places list for 2025](#).



[Pinterest.com](#), Photo by [MJBarnes](#) on [flickr](#)

The inclusion of **The Turtle** on the **2025 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places** is highly significant for several reasons:

1. Cultural and Architectural Importance

⊕ Designed by **Arapaho architect Dennis Sun Rhodes** and completed in 1981, The Turtle is shaped to reflect the **Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) creation story** of Sky Woman landing on the back of a turtle—symbolizing Turtle Island¹.

⊕ It was once the **largest Indigenous arts center in the Eastern U.S.**, serving as a hub for Native American cultural expression, education, and healing¹.

2. Symbol of Indigenous Resilience

⊕ The building was established just 15 years after the closure of the last federally funded Indian Boarding School, marking a **turning point in cultural reclamation** for Native communities¹.

⊕ It represents a **celebration of Native identity, language, and arts**, making its preservation a matter of cultural justice.

3. Threat of Demolition

⊕ The building has been **vacant since 1996** and is not protected as a local landmark.

⊕ Its current owner has previously proposed **demolishing it to build a high-rise hotel**, and its original vibrant design has been painted over, diminishing its visual identity¹.

4. Community Mobilization

⊕ A grassroots coalition called **Friends of The Niagara Turtle**, including over 1,000 Indigenous and non-Indigenous supporters, is actively working to **revitalize the building** as a cultural center¹.

⊕ The endangered designation brings **national attention and potential funding**, which could be pivotal in saving and restoring the site.

5. Broader Impact

⊕ The National Trust for Historic Preservation's list has historically helped **mobilize resources and public support** to save over 350 sites, with only a few lost².

⊕ The Turtle's inclusion highlights a growing national commitment to **preserving Indigenous heritage** and telling a more **inclusive American story**².

(¹ [NewYorkAlmanack](#), ² [BPTM](#))

Friends of The Turtle

Excerpt from the [Niagara Gazette](#), May 7, 2025

Shaun Wilson, a member of the Mohawk and Turtle Clan who serves as the chairman of the board for the Friends of the Niagara Turtle, said he believes the Turtle could come alive and thrive once again as a center for celebrating Indigenous culture and arts, partly because times have

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)

changed a lot since the building closed in 1981.

Wilson believes a new group of operators would greatly benefit from something the earlier operators did not have: Access to the world through marketing and promotion on the internet. He said he believes operators of the building would be in a much better position today to attract visitors and support for an Indigenous cultural center inside a unique building that would be unlike any other attraction of its kind, not just in New York but in the United States.

"I think, historically, the Turtle was,

looking back on it, it probably could have been welcomed by the community more," he said. "It was a different time when it did operate. It was the first building of its kind and something like this here in New York state could have the Indigenous community re-learning its culture in this building. We have the community today that could operate this building."

Wilson said his group is working with local architect John Baptiste from Anowara Architecture as it moves forward with the preservation initiative. He said a key step in the process will likely involve a walk-through that would allow for a closer examination of the

building's condition, which Wilson said Friends of the Turtle members have been unable to do to date.

While he acknowledged the potential cost of renovation may be high, Wilson said Friends members are hoping that by increasing the public's understanding of the significance of the Turtle, they will be able to put together a "viable" plan that the building's owners have said no one has been able to produce.

"We had to start somewhere, so we started with community awareness and that there's potential to save the building," Wilson said.

Follow Friends of The Turtle on [Facebook](#).

This Day in History: Jim Thorpe Born – May 28, 1887

From [Native News Online](#), by Levi Rickert, May 28, 2025

This Day in History. On this day in history, May 28, 1887, one of the greatest athletes of all time, Jim Thorpe, was born near Prague, in what was then Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. A member of the Sac and Fox Nation mixed with Potawatomi blood, Thorpe would go on to become a symbol of excellence in sports and a trailblazer for Native American athletes in the United States.

Thorpe's athletic prowess became evident at an early age, but it was at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania that his talents truly began to shine. Under the guidance of legendary coach Glenn "Pop" Warner, Thorpe excelled in multiple sports, including football, track and field, baseball, and even ballroom dancing. His versatility and natural ability set him apart from his peers.

Thorpe gained international fame at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, where he competed in the decathlon and pentathlon. He dominated both events, winning gold medals and earning praise from around the



Jim Thorpe (Photo/Native News Online file photo)

world. King Gustav V of Sweden famously told Thorpe, "Sir, you are the greatest athlete in the world," to which Thorpe humbly replied, "Thanks, King."

However, controversy followed. In 1913, it was revealed that Thorpe had briefly played semi-

professional baseball, violating the strict amateurism rules of the Olympics. Despite the common practice of the time and Thorpe's relative lack of compensation, the International Olympic Committee stripped him of his medals. It wasn't until 1983, 30 years after his death, that Thorpe's medals were officially reinstated. Even though the gold medals were awarded, the Committee did not restore Thorpe's records in Olympic history.

In a turn of events, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in [July 2022](#), decided to display the name of [Jim Thorpe](#), whose original name **Wa-Tho-Huk** that means "Bright Path," as the sole gold medalist in pentathlon and decathlon at the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm. This change came on the 110th anniversary of Thorpe's medal in decathlon.

Thorpe went on to play professional football and baseball, becoming the first president of what would later become the NFL. His athletic achievements spanned decades and sports, breaking racial and cultural
(Continued on page 23)

(Continued from page 22)

barriers in the process. Despite his fame, Thorpe struggled financially after his athletic career ended, working in various jobs, including as a laborer and actor.

Jim Thorpe passed away in 1953, but

his legacy has endured. In 1950, the Associated Press named him the greatest athlete of the first half of the 20th century. More than just a sports icon, Thorpe is remembered as a resilient figure who overcame adversity, racism, and institutional injustice to etch

his name into history.

On this day, we honor the birth of Jim Thorpe—a champion on and off the field, whose story continues to inspire generations.



US Dept. of Education Declares New York Mascot Ban Discriminatory

By Levi Rickert, [Native News Online](#), June 01, 2025

In a decision with sweeping national implications, the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) ruled Friday that New York's ban on Native American-themed school mascots violates federal civil rights law. The agency's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) found the policy discriminatory under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits race- and national origin-based discrimination in federally funded programs.

The investigation stemmed from a complaint filed by the Native American Guardians Association (NAGA), which argued that the New York State Department of Education (NYSED) and Board of Regents unfairly targeted Indigenous names and imagery—such as the “Chiefs” mascot of the Massapequa School District—while allowing other mascots referencing European groups like the “Dutchmen” and “Huguenots” to remain.

The NAGA is a Native-themed advocacy group that primarily fights against the removal of Native American mascots—a position that puts it at odds with many Native American organizations, such as the National Congress of American Indians, and civil rights advocates.

The controversial policy was adopted in 2023 to eliminate Indigenous-themed names, mascots, and logos in public schools statewide. Although several Long Island school districts challenged the rule in court, a federal judge dismissed their First Amendment claims in March due to

insufficient evidence. The DOE's civil rights probe, however, reached a far more critical conclusion.



The school district uses a head-dress that was not worn by eastern tribes. (Photo/Facebook)

“The New York Department of Education and Board of Regents has set its sights on erasing Massapequa's history—while turning a blind eye to other districts' mascots that are derived from other racial or ethnic groups,” Education Secretary Linda McMahon said in a strongly worded statement. She pledged support for communities like Massapequa, calling the ban a violation of “commonsense and justice.”

The DOE has given New York ten days to rescind the regulation and issue written apologies to Native American tribes, acknowledging that the state “silenced the voices of Native Americans and attempted to erase Native American history.” If the state fails to comply, the case will be referred to the Department of Justice, potentially triggering enforcement action and a

loss of federal funding.

In response, New York education officials condemned the DOE's stance. NYSED spokesperson JP O'Hare dismissed McMahon's visit to the state as “political theater,” accusing her of disrupting student learning for partisan purposes.

O'Hare defended the mascot ban, citing consultations with Native tribes who argue that such imagery perpetuates racial stereotypes and harms students. “Massapequa is doing a grave disservice to its students by ignoring facts and refusing to consult with local tribes,” he said. He added that true respect for Native Americans comes not from mascots but from teaching students “the true history of the area's Indigenous people.”

The dispute underscores a broader philosophical and legal divide: whether cultural mascots honor heritage or perpetuate harm. While groups like NAGA support preserving Native-themed mascots as respectful tributes, many Indigenous organizations and civil rights groups—including the National Congress of American Indians—argue they reinforce outdated and offensive stereotypes.

As the deadline looms, New York appears poised for a prolonged legal battle. The outcome could redefine how schools nationwide navigate the intersection of cultural expression, civil rights, and educational policy.



WORKSHOPS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN PARENTS

ASU Global Center for
Applied Health Research
Arizona State University

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ten weekly classes
- Qualifying families may receive up to \$300 in gift cards
- Participation in a parenting and health research study
- Healthy food provided
- Childcare services available
- Transportation assistance provided

ELIGIBILITY

- ✓ **Self-Identify as Native American**
- ✓ **Lives in urban area of Erie & Niagara County**
- ✓ **Primary Caregiver of Native American youth 12-17 years old**

Workshops begin March 18, 2025



Scan QR Code
or Click Link
to Register

<https://forms.gle/Q3RQM7VSWbFHeiT67>



716-339-1831 or 716-874-4460



pjacobs@nacswny.org



ReZonance
PRODUCTIONS



JULY 19 & 20

2025

senecapowwow.org

**EVENT CENTER
SENECA ALLEGANY
RESORT & CASINO**
777 ALLEGANY CASINO BLVD.
SALAMANCA, NY 14779



**SENECA
ALLEGANY**
RESORT & CASINO

DANCE CONTEST

Golden Age (55+): \$1,200 / \$900 / \$600 / \$400
(Traditional/Grass & Fancy Combined/Jingle & Fancy Combined/Smoke)

Southern (18+): \$1,200 / \$900 / \$600 / \$400
(Cloth & Buckskin Combined/Straight)

Sr. Adult (40-54): \$1,200 / \$900 / \$600 / \$400
(Traditional/Grass/Jingle/Fancy/Smoke)

Jr. Adult (18-39): \$1,200 / \$900 / \$600 / \$400
(Traditional/Grass/Jingle/Fancy/Smoke)

Teens (13-17): \$400 / \$300 / \$200 / \$100
(Traditional/Grass/Jingle/Fancy/Smoke)

Juniors (5-12): \$250 / \$200 / \$150 / \$100
(Traditional/Grass/Jingle/Fancy/Smoke)

Tiny Tots (0-4): Daily Honorarium

DRUM CONTEST

\$12,000 / \$8,000 / \$6,000 / \$4,000 / \$2,000
\$2,000 drum split to non-placing drums

HEAD STAFF

Emcee: Vince Beyl

Emcee: Clifton Goodwill

Arena Director: Osceola Red Shirt

Drum Judge: Jared Brown

Head Male Dance Judge: Kevin Haywahe

Head Female Dance Judge: Brittany Pelkey

Head Smoke Dance Judge: Natasha Thompson

Head Smoke Dance Singer: Cameron Hill, Sr.

Head Iroquois Male Dancer: Jordan Smith

Head Iroquois Female Dancer: Mandy Bomberry

Head Male Dancer: Jonathon Windy Boy

Head Female Dancer: Marley Fairfield-Staats

Head Male Veteran: Clayton Logan

Head Female Veteran: Lisa Whiteface

HAND DRUM CONTEST

\$2,000 / \$1,000 / \$500



seneca designer & model call

**EXCLUSIVE
SENECA NATION
PRE-CALL**

**MAKE YOUR MARK
ON THE RUNWAY**

**SAT
NOV 1
6 PM**

**Seneca Niagara
Resort & Casino
Event Center**

All interested candidates will need to submit an application.

We look forward to hearing from you!

**Applications must be received
by Wednesday, April 30**

Applications will be open to other Indigenous communities starting in May. Selection not guaranteed. Demand and number of submissions received may require a selection process, resulting in some applicants not being selected.



SENECA INDIGENOUS FASHION SHOW

WHERE TRADITION MEETS TREND

DESIGNER QUALIFICATIONS

- Seneca Nation Fashion Designer or Fashion Student
- Have a design or fashion line to showcase
- All craft designs welcome, showcasing beadwork, purses, jewelry & more
- Must be available for travel (if necessary) and on-site from October 30 – November 2.

**SCAN
TO
APPLY
HERE**



MODEL QUALIFICATIONS

- Seneca Nation Member
- Age 18+
- Interest in showcasing Indigenous fashions
- Confident individuals with modeling, dancing, acting or runway experience
- Must be available for travel (if necessary) and on-site from October 30 – November 2.
- All genders and body types are welcome!

**SCAN
TO
APPLY
HERE**



Employment Opportunity



www.nacswny.org

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

MICHAEL N. MARTIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1005 Grant St. Buffalo, NY 14207 • Phone: 716-874-4460 • Fax: 716-874-1874
 1522 Main St. Niagara Falls, NY 14305 • Phone: 716-299-0914 • Fax: 716-299-0903
 76 West Ave. Lockport, NY 14094 • Phone: 716-302-3035 • Fax: 716-302-3037
 100 College Ave. Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14607 • Phone: 585-514-3984 • Fax: TBD
 960 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 • Phone: 315-322-8754 • Fax: TBD

Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Workforce Development Coordinator

Type: Full-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

Set Salary: \$28.00 / hour

Office: Buffalo (travel is required- Niagara Falls, Rochester, Syracuse)

SUMMARY:

The Workforce Development Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the component while assisting community members to further their education, upgrade job skills, obtain employment and secure a more improved financial status. Program areas include helping community meet basic needs (Food Pantry), Workforce Development, financial literacy/management, digital equity, and community asset building. WDC must be flexible to evening, weekend schedules (when necessary) and travel. The Workforce Development component provides services to 17 counties. All efforts will be performed with the understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Direct supervision of the Workforce Development component staff including establishing staff responsibilities and procedures necessary to attain contract goals and objectives.
- Evaluates staff performances and completes systematic, regularly scheduled personnel evaluations.
- Follow Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) guidelines to determine local service delivery techniques and methodologies.
- Develops an outreach action plan to successfully recruit and retain participants and employers into the program.
- Travels to all NACS' offices and service areas as necessary to provide support, supervision, trainings, partnership meetings, and outreach events as needed.
- Reports to and collaborates with the Manager of Economic Empowerment to ensure compliance with all contractual goals, objectives, and requirements.
- Assist the Manager of Economic Empowerment to prepare, submit, and secure additional grant proposals to continue or expand funding for the component program.
- Conducts regular reviews of case files and documentation to ensure high standards of care and service delivery.
- 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.
- Must do Workforce Development specialist responsibilities which include conducting initial intake and comprehensive testing to determine client eligibility and needs, develop an Individual Employment Plan (IEP) with client.
- Develops and nurtures relationships with employers for on-the-job training agreements and work experience opportunities for clients.
- Maintain necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping, including the utilization of database systems.
- Ensures the program remains compliant with all contractual obligations and requirements.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's degree from accredited institution with supervisory experience or relevant role. Work experience may replace some of the education requirements at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- Knowledge of local area service providers.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, conflict resolution and communication skills.

Employment Opportunity

Page 2 | 2

- Interpersonal skills to work cooperatively and effectively with individuals, groups, and diverse populations.
- Computer skills: ability to use Microsoft Office Suite.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Ability to become certified in CPR & First Aid. Must be able to do medium lifting.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements including a clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300k.

BENEFITS:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Paid Time Off (PTO) | • Health & Dental Insurance |
| • Life Insurance | • Employee Assistance Program |
| • Flexible Spending Account (FSA) | • 403 (b) Retirement Plan |

For consideration send resume to: humanresources@nacswny.org

Employment Opportunity



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960 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 • Phone: 315-322-8754 • Fax: TBD

Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Workforce Development Specialist

Type: Full-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

Salary/Range: \$19.00-\$20.00 / hour

Office: 100 College Ave. Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14607 – 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 as needed. All efforts will be performed with the 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 in 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.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's degree in human services or related field of study preferred, with three (3) years' experience in workforce development including supervision and program management.
- Work experience may replace some of the education requirements at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- Knowledge of local area service providers.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.
- Intermediate computer skills and understanding of office applications including MS Office Suite.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements including a clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300k.

BENEFITS:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Paid Time Off (PTO) | • Health & Dental Insurance |
| • Life Insurance | • Employee Assistance Program |
| • Flexible Spending Account (FSA) | • 403 (b) Retirement Plan |

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Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Foster Care Caseworker

Salary/range: \$21.00- \$23.00

Type: Full- time/ hourly/ non-exempt

Office: Erie & Niagara Counties – travel required

SUMMARY:

This position works in conjunction with the Local County Department of Social Services (LCDSS) and is responsible for protecting the health, safety, and well-being of the children on their caseload and provides support to foster parent(s) through case management services, crisis management, home visits, weekly contact, monitoring of service compliance, documentation, ongoing training, and advocacy. The main objective for this position is to effectively work towards reunification, achieving permanency for children while actively assessing the needs of the child, foster parents, and coordinating interventions when necessary. Incumbent will be responsible for day-to-day casework duties ensuring the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978 is followed when placement of Native American children into foster care is indicated. All efforts will be performed with the understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Provides all aspects and elements of casework services to an assigned caseload. Conducts casework contacts with families, as needed but at least twice a month, face-to-face in their homes and community settings to focus on goals.
- Assists in the National Training & Development Curriculum (NTDC) classes.
- Responsible for case planning with children in foster care and their families to achieve a positive and safe permanency plan.
- Participates in the compliance and implementation of ICWA as well as new/current social service laws and regulations.
- Assists all foster parents in attaining training requirements specific to foster care certification.
- Must enter and maintain required child welfare information including but not limited to person and family information, periodic family assessment and service plans, plan amendments, and progress notes in CONNECTIONS.
- Makes detailed and completes case studies, recommending and defining short and long-term social needs and goals of children and families.
- Participates in DSS permanency planning, court hearings, and school related meetings for the child(ren).
- Maintains regular and consistent contact with all appropriate members of the 29-I (VFCA) license team, providing current information and responding to requests as needed.
- Responsible for facilitating visitations including providing safe and reliable transportation when needed.
- Must consistently remain vigilant and proactive in assessing safety and risk concerns at all times.
- Maintains necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's degree required, in a human service field or related field of study.
- Knowledge of ICWA, Adoption Safe Family Act, Federal and State regulations, as well as mandated reporting requirements.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.
- Intermediate computer skills and understanding of office applications including MS Office Suite.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements including a clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300k.

BENEFITS:

- Paid Time Off (PTO)
- Health & Dental Insurance
- Flexible Spending Account (FSA)
- Life Insurance
- Employee Assistance Program
- 403 (b) Retirement Plan

For consideration send resume to: humanresources@nacswny.org

Employment Opportunity



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 960 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 • Phone: 315-322-8754 • Fax: TBD

Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Foster Care Homefinder
Salary/Range: \$21.00-\$23.00

Type: Full-time/ hourly/ non-exempt
Office: Erie & Niagara Counties – travel required

SUMMARY:

The Foster Care Homefinder will recruit, train, and retain families who have been identified as having an interest in becoming foster parents. The Homefinder is primarily responsible for the recruitment, training, certification/approval, and on-going development of foster parents in the Foster Care program. Must be flexible to evening and weekend program schedules. All efforts will be performed with the understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Works with NACS Marketing & Development Specialist and Foster Care Coordinator to develop and implement foster parent recruitment plan.
- Provides information and conducts initial assessment of prospective foster parents via phone or face-to-face inquiries.
- Coordinates and conducts monthly general information meetings to provide information on the organization, program, children served, and steps to becoming a foster parent.
- Coordinates and co-facilitates National Training & Development Curriculum (NTDC) trainings a minimum of three times yearly. Coordination will include invitations, reminders, and agenda letters to applicants, assisting in the assignments of NTDC sections to participating trainers and preparing materials for upcoming trainings.
- Works in collaboration with the caseworker in supporting foster parent's capacity to meet the needs of child/children in their home.
- Completes home study assessments for all prospective homes within four months of their application and acceptance to the program; completes home study addendum on an as needed basis.
- Maintains all resources on the CONNECTIONS and BINTI database to include opening new foster homes, reauthorization of foster homes, and closing of foster homes.
- Schedules and organizes foster family retention events.
- Participates in recruitment and outreach events to recruit potential foster parents.
- Acts as an organization liaison to the Coalition of Adoption and Foster Family Agencies (CAFFA).
- Maintain necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's degree required, in a human service field or related field of study.
- Knowledge of ICWA, Adoption Safe Family Act, Federal and State regulations, as well as mandated reporting requirements.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.
- Intermediate computer skills and understanding of office applications including MS Office Suite.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements including a clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300k.

BENEFITS:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Paid Time Off (PTO) | • Health & Dental Insurance | • Flexible Spending Account (FSA) |
| • Life Insurance | • Employee Assistance Program | • 403 (b) Retirement Plan |

For consideration send resume to: humanresources@nacswny.org

Employment Opportunity



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 100 College Ave. Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14607 • Phone: 585-514-3984 • Fax: TBD
 960 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 • Phone: 315-322-8754 • Fax: TBD

Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Erie County Clubhouse Youth Leader- 3 openings

Type: Part-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

Hours: 20 hours per week. Non-traditional (must be available for day, evening, and weekend hours)

Salary/Range: \$17.00- \$18.50 / hour

Office: 1005 Grant Street, Buffalo, NY 14207

SUMMARY:

The Clubhouse Youth Leaders assist the Clubhouse Manager in providing a safe, supportive, culturally appropriate, alcohol and drug free environment for all members. The Clubhouse welcomes self-identified Native American youth and young adults ages 12-17 years old. Clubhouse programming includes recreation & pro-social, education, evidence-based / best practices, skill building, wellness, and cultural activities. Leaders will provide transportation, supervision, and leadership. Recruitment through outreach, attending and participating in weekly staff meetings will also be required. Leaders must be available for non-traditional hours (evenings and weekends). The Clubhouse is open 25 hours per week. All efforts will be performed with the understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Supervise, provide leadership, and be a positive role model for youth.
- Deliver workshops and activities in a confident and organized manner.
- Ensure youth programming utilizes a percentage of evidence-based prevention models.
- Provide safe transportation and/or supervision of youth to and from clubhouse activities.
- Recruit youth through local outreach efforts.
- Adhere to data collection and performance measurement requirements determined by SAMHSA and OASAS.
- Maintain necessary documentation and ensure the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.
- Ensure Clubhouse maintenance, cleanliness, and safety is maintained.
- Other duties as assigned.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's or Associates degree in human services or related field of study preferred.
- Experience working with community and group settings. Work experience may replace some of the education requirements at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- Knowledge and understanding of substance use, and experience with at-risk youth.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Must have a clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300k.

BENEFITS:

- Paid Time Off (PTO)
- Employee Assistance Program
- Holiday Pay (if scheduled)

For consideration send resume to: humanresources@nacswny.org

Employment Opportunity



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960 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 • Phone: 315-322-8754 • Fax: TBD

Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Niagara County Youth Clubhouse Site Supervisor

Type: Full-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

Salary/Range: \$20.00- \$21.00 / hour

Office: 1522 Main St, Niagara Falls, NY 14305

SUMMARY:

Under the guidance of the Health & Wellness Coordinator, the Youth Clubhouse Supervisor is responsible for assisting and leading in the performance of day-to-day duties in delivering and providing a safe, supportive, culturally appropriate, alcohol and drug free environment for all Native American youth (ages 12-17 years old) clubhouse members. This position will lead in the oversight of activities, cultural programming, and supervise youth leaders. Incumbent must be available for non-traditional hours (evenings and weekends). The Clubhouses are open 25 hours per week. All efforts will be performed with the understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Implement, plan, and lead program activities, field trips, and workshops in accordance with contractual obligations both virtually and in-person.
- Have knowledge and understanding of substance use and ensure youth programming utilizes a percentage of research and evidence-based and best practices prevention models.
- Serve as a facilitator and member of the Youth Advisory Council.
- Coordinates scheduling of the Clubhouse Youth Leaders.
- Organize, supervise, and provide safe transportation for youth clubhouse members.
- Ensures Clubhouse maintenance, cleanliness, and safety is maintained.
- Recruit participants for the clubhouse program through outreach events and materials.
- Maintain necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping, including the utilization of database systems.
- Ensures the program remains compliant with all contractual obligations and requirements.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's degree from accredited institution with supervisory experience or relevant role.
- Experience working with at-risk youth, community and group settings. Work experience may replace some of the education requirements at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- Knowledge and understanding of substance use.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.
- Computer skills: ability to use Microsoft Office Suite.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements including a clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300k.

BENEFITS:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Paid Time Off (PTO) | • Health & Dental Insurance |
| • Life Insurance | • Employee Assistance Program |
| • Flexible Spending Account (FSA) | • 403 (b) Retirement Plan |

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960 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 • Phone: 315-322-8754 • Fax: TBD

Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Niagara County Clubhouse Youth Leader- 2 openings

Type: Part-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

Hours: 20 hours per week. Non-traditional (must be available for day, evening, and weekend hours)

Salary/Range: \$17.00 - \$18.50/ hour

Office: 1522 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14305

SUMMARY:

The Clubhouse Youth Leaders assist the Clubhouse Manager in providing a safe, supportive, culturally appropriate, alcohol and drug free environment for all members. The Clubhouse welcomes self-identified Native American youth and young adults ages 12-17 years old. Clubhouse programming includes recreation & pro-social, education, evidence-based/ best practices, skill building, wellness, and cultural activities. Leaders will provide transportation, supervision, and leadership. Recruitment through outreach, attending and participating in weekly staff meetings will also be required. Leaders must be available for non-traditional hours (evenings and weekends). The Clubhouse is open 25 hours per week. All efforts will be performed with the understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Supervise, provide leadership, and be a positive role model for youth.
- Deliver workshops and activities in a confident and organized manner.
- Ensure youth programming utilizes a percentage of evidence-based prevention models.
- Provide safe transportation and/or supervision of youth to and from clubhouse activities.
- Recruit youth through local outreach efforts.
- Adhere to data collection and performance measurement requirements determined by SAMHSA and OASAS.
- Maintain necessary documentation and ensure the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.
- Ensure Clubhouse maintenance, cleanliness, and safety is maintained.
- Other duties as assigned.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's or Associates degree in human services or related field of study preferred.
- Experience working with community and group settings. Work experience may replace some of the education requirements at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- Knowledge and understanding of substance use, and experience working with at-risk youth.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Must have a clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300k.

BENEFITS:

- Paid Time Off (PTO)
- Employee Assistance Program
- Holiday Pay (if scheduled)

For consideration send resume to: humanresources@nacswny.org

Employment Opportunity



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 100 College Ave. Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14607 • Phone: 585-514-3984 • Fax: TBD
 960 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 • Phone: 315-322-8754 • Fax: TBD

Equal Opportunity Employer

Positions: Community Service Worker (CSW) wraparound services Level I - Clinical

Type: Casual/ hourly/ non-exempt

Salary/range: \$50-\$75/ hour

Office: Erie & Niagara Counties – travel required

SUMMARY:

The Level I CSW will provide wraparound services that are comprehensive, individualized support systems designed to address the unique needs of individuals and families, in the context of mental health, behavioral health, or developmental disabilities. This role involves providing targeted, time-limited services to families to help them meet their goals, participating in Child & Family Team (CFT) meetings, and helping link families with sustainable supports. The CSW will partner with the Care Coordinators. The CSW must have their master's degree and be licensed to provide specific wraparound services. All efforts will be performed with the understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Goal directed, trauma informed, culturally sensitive, and evidence-based practice of face-to-face, and possible therapeutic intervention which focuses on the mental health/behavior needs of the client and/or family members.
- Vendors must document the type of evidence-based intervention used in all progress notes.
- When clinical needs indicate ongoing community-based support following care coordination, the service provider is responsible for facilitating a smooth transition. This includes educating families about available clinical support options, assisting with engagement and referral processes to appropriate community-based providers, and offering additional support as needed to ensure continuity of care through CFT.
- Must successfully complete training requirements and other mandatory training programs as required for the role.
- Implement, plan, and lead, appropriate services in accordance with the vendor codes and descriptions.
- Maintain on-going communication with families to provide advocacy and support ensuring the needs are met and fostering strong relationships.
- Progress notes must be clear and specific, document progress toward goal completion aligned with the Plan of Care.
- Services may include pre-and-post evaluation, which must be shared with the family and Care Coordinator.
- Establish and sustain ongoing contact with Care Coordinators and Vendor Supervisors, ensuring alignment of services and resolution of client needs.
- Facilitate and implement activities aimed at promoting the development and enhancement of essential skills for clients.
- Provide safe and timely transportation for clients to and from services and activities, supporting their participation in required programs, as needed.
- Assess and consider cultural, environmental, and safety factors that impact the client and those within their immediate sphere, ensuring support and care.
- Supervise and engage the client in the necessary programs and activities as directed by the vendor description.
- Must consistently remain vigilant and proactive in always assessing safety and risk concerns.
- Maintains necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.

Employment Opportunity

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EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Master's degree in human services or related field.
- Experience working with at-risk youth and parents/caregivers of at-risk youth.
- Certification licenses LCSW, LCAT, LMFT, LMSW, LMHC.
- Bilingual is a plus.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.
- Intermediate computer skills and understanding of office applications including MS Office Suite.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements including a clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300k.

BENEFITS:

- Paid Time Off (PTO)
- Employee Assistance Program

For consideration send resume to: humanresources@nacswny.org

Employment Opportunity



www.nacswny.org

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

MICHAEL N. MARTIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Equal Opportunity Employer

Positions: Community Service Worker (Wraparound) Level II & III – Non-Clinical

Type: Casual/ hourly/ non-exempt

Salary/range: \$20-\$45/ hour

Office: Erie & Niagara Counties – travel required

SUMMARY:

The Level II & III CSW will provide wraparound services that are non-clinical. This role involves providing targeted, time-limited services to families to help them meet their goals, participating in Child & Family Team (CFT) meetings, and helping link families with sustainable supports. The CSW will partner with the Care Coordinators. Services may include but not limited to Academic Coaching, Family Peer or Youth Peer Advocate, Adult/ Home Skill Builder and Youth Skill Builder. All efforts will be performed with the understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Must successfully complete training requirements and other mandatory training programs as required for the role.
- Implement, plan, and lead, appropriate services in accordance with the vendor codes and descriptions.
- Maintain on-going communication with families to provide advocacy and support ensuring the needs are met and fostering strong relationships.
- Progress notes must be clear and specific, document progress toward goal completion aligned with the Plan of Care.
- Establish and sustain ongoing contact with Care Coordinators and Vendor Supervisors, ensuring alignment of services and resolution of client needs.
- Facilitate and implement activities aimed at promoting the development and enhancement of essential skills for clients.
- Provide safe and timely transportation for clients to and from services and activities, supporting their participation in required programs, as needed.
- Assess and consider cultural, environmental, and safety factors that impact the client and those within their immediate sphere, ensuring support and care.
- Supervise and engage the client in the necessary programs and activities as directed by the vendor description.
- Must consistently remain vigilant and proactive in always assessing safety and risk concerns.
- Maintains necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Level II: Bachelor's degree, associates degree or higher based on New York State Education Department licensure. Experience working with at-risk youth.
- Level III: High school/GED. Experience working with at-risk youth and includes being a parent of a child with social, emotional, behavioral, mental health, medical, addiction or developmental needs or self-identified as a person who has experience with the developmental challenges.
- Bilingual is a plus.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.
- Intermediate computer skills and understanding of office applications including MS Office Suite.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements including a clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300k.

BENEFITS:

- Paid Time Off (PTO)
- Employee Assistance Program

For consideration send resume to: humanresources@nacswny.org

Nya:wëh, Thanks for reading!

Please share this newsletter with family, friends, and coworkers. If you know of anyone who would like to receive the month NACS News by email, please have them send their first name, last name, and current email address to: gghosen@nacswny.org

You can also look for our newsletter on our [website](#).

FUNDED BY: Erie County Department of Social Services; New York State Office of Children & Family Services; New York State Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services; Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo; National Urban Indian Family Coalition; Niagara County Department of Social Services, Niagara County Office of the Aging; United Way of Niagara, US Department of Labor; Administration for Native Americans (ANA); Indigenous Justice Circle; Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation; Erie County Department of Mental Health; NYS Research Foundation for Mental Health; NYS Medicaid Program 29-I; Western New York Foundation; New York State Department of Health/AIDS Institute, as well as businesses, foundations and caring individuals.

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