



NACS NEWS

Happy New Year!

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Native American
Community Services

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International Quality of Life Month

This month is dedicated to promoting and improving overall well-being, encouraging individuals to reflect on their lives and set goals for enhancing their physical, mental, and emotional health. It serves as a reminder to focus on achieving the highest possible quality of life across various dimensions, including social and emotional aspects.

International Quality of Life Month is a time that focuses on how a person can improve the quality of the life they are currently living. But, you may ask, how is that possible? Well, there is always something that you can add to your life to make it better. This can include a daily walk, a workout plan, reading a few pages of a book every day, or simply giving up on bad habits such as excessive drinking or smoking. Yes, this is the time you commit to improving your life, and the lives of those around you. The aim is to achieve happiness in any way that you can!

History of International Quality of Life Month

The concept of enhancing one's quality of life has existed for decades. However, the perception of the "quality of life" differs from person to person and from region to region. In terms of clinical practice and research, Quality of Life (QoL) revolves around being provided optimum health care. Hence, to achieve a high QoL, governments started focusing on providing a public health care system that is free of cost and helps in curing health issues that may negatively impact the way an individual lives their life. For instance, a person with asthma may not be able to live their life without the availability of an inhaler — there-

fore, lowering their quality of life.

It is due to the formation of this concept that medical fields began to focus on not just the quantity of one's life, but also the quality. The World Health Organization (WHO) on the other hand, measures the "quality of life" in the context of one's culture, their standard of living, and the value system of a nation. This is where concerns such as freedom of speech and expression come in. Moreover, people of a nation with an autocratic leadership style are presumed to have a lower quality of life as compared to those living in a democratic state.

The quality of life of people is also affected by the poverty rate of a nation, inflation, and the availability of necessities. However, on a personal level, one's quality of life is also greatly interconnected with finances, fitness, education provided, the relationships one has with others, as well as how one feels spiritually.

International Quality of Life Month timeline

1966: The Medical Way - Quality of Life (QoL) is mentioned in the medical field by J. R. Elkington.

1977: The Key Factor - QoL becomes a keyword in the Medical Subject Headings of the U.S. National Library of Medicine.

1980s: Treat Yourself - QoL impacts decisions related to treatments.

1990s: Endgame - QoL is used to justify euthanasia in certain patients.

International Quality of Life

Month FAQs

1. What defines good quality of life? - Quality of life is defined by an individual's level of comfort in life.
2. Why do we need quality of life? - Quality of life is important to help achieve happiness and satisfaction.
3. What is the final goal of quality life? - The end goal is to be able to be provided with exemplary healthcare.

How to Observe International Quality of Life Month

1. Improve your quality of life

To celebrate the month, look up ways you can enhance your quality of life. This could include a new skincare regime, a new diet, or a new activity.

2. Help others improve their quality of life

Not everyone is leading a good quality of life that they are meant to lead. This includes the need for improvement in certain areas of life such as nutrition, mental health, and so on. So this month, try to guide people on how they can live life better.

3. Create awareness

Speak about the people who have a poor quality of life due to lack of finances and figure out ways in which they can be helped. Boast about the importance of having a good quality of life on your social media pages and make everyone aware of this special holiday.

5 Fun Facts About Happiness

1. Positivity and the common cold

Happy people with positive emotions are less likely to develop the common cold.

2. The easiest way to be happy

Performing good deeds is one of the fastest ways to get some hap-

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piness into our lives.

3. A journal-published study

According to a published study, “being outdoors makes people happier.”

4. Boosting quality of life

Quality of life is enhanced in societies that provide more freedom and independence.

5. Room lighting and feelings

Research has revealed that bright lights in a room decrease sadness and hopelessness.

Why International Quality of Life Month is Important

A. It defines the concept of ‘quality of life’

January is important because it talks about why an improvement in the quality of life is essential and what is needed to further enhance your life. This month gives people a chance to fully take in the concept and implement ways to improve their lives and attain happiness.

B. It urges people to do better

The month urges people to do better in areas that affect their quality of life negatively. During the month, a charity for those in need is also encouraged.

C. Problem areas are highlighted

International Quality of Life Month also gives the government a chance to further highlight problem areas that cause hindrance in the lives of people. With this information, they will

be able to enforce strategic methods to help citizens improve their quality of life.

(From [National Today](#))

Engaging in various activities can significantly enhance quality of life this month.

Here are some effective options:

- ♥ **Meditation:** Practicing meditation for even 10 minutes can reduce stress and improve focus.
- ♥ **Physical Activity:** Engage in activities like running, walking, or lifting weights to boost physical health.
- ♥ **Nature Time:** Spend time outdoors to enhance mood and well-being.
- ♥ **Journaling:** Writing about feelings can help process emotions and improve mental clarity.
- ♥ **Community Involvement:** Participate in volunteering or social clubs to foster connections and reduce loneliness. ^[1,2,3]

(1 [BetterHelp](#), 2 [GoodRx](#), 3 [Heartwise](#))

International Quality of Life Month is celebrated globally through various activities aimed at enhancing personal well-being.

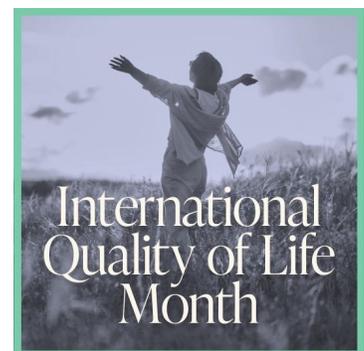
This observance, which takes place in January, encourages in-

dividuals to reflect on their lifestyles and make positive changes. Here are some common ways it is celebrated:

- ♥ **Self-Reflection:** Many people take this time to assess their physical, mental, and emotional health, setting goals for improvement.
- ♥ **Community Initiatives:** Organizations often host workshops, seminars, and events focused on health and wellness, promoting healthy habits.
- ♥ **Social Engagement:** Activities may include community service or group activities that foster social connections and support.
- ♥ **Health Challenges:** Individuals might participate in fitness challenges or wellness programs to motivate lifestyle changes.

Overall, the month serves as a reminder to prioritize well-being and support one another in leading fulfilling lives.^[1]

(1 [National Today](#))



2026! What's in Store for US?

2026 will be a landmark year globally, with major sporting spectacles, pivotal elections, technological breakthroughs, and space exploration milestones.

Major Sporting Events

- **FIFA World Cup (June 11 – July 19, 2026):** Hosted jointly by the

United States, Canada, and Mexico.^[1,2,3]

- **Winter Olympics (Feb 6 – 22, 2026):** Held in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, featuring winter sports at iconic venues.^[2]
- **Winter Paralympics (March 2026):** Also in Italy, showcasing adaptive winter sports.^[1]

- **Commonwealth Games (July 2026):** Scheduled for Glasgow, Scotland.^[2]

Asian Games (Sept 2026): Taking place in Aichi and Nagoya, Japan.^[2]

(1 [Topend Sports](#), 2 [Sports Tourist](#), 3 [Enet Pulse](#))

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Political & Global Events

- **Key Elections:** Countries including **Uganda, Portugal, Nepal, Colombia, Vietnam, Hungary, Benin, and Peru** will hold national elections.^[4]
- **U.S. Midterm Elections:** High-stakes contests for Congress and governorships could reshape American politics.^[5,6]
- **New START Treaty Expiration (Feb 5, 2026):** A critical nuclear arms control agreement between the U.S. and Russia is set to expire.^[4]
- **Geopolitical Flashpoints:** Ongoing conflicts (Ukraine, Middle East) and shifting alliances will dominate global headlines.^[7,8]

(4 [Wikipedia](#), 5 [Newsweek](#), 6 [Politico](#), 7 [Chatham House](#), 8 [The Economist](#))

Technology & Innovation

- **Tech Conferences:** CES in Las Vegas, Web Summit Lisbon, London Tech Week, and dozens of AI, cybersecurity, and cloud computing events will define the next decade of innovation.^[9,10,11]

Breakthroughs Expected: Advances in AI ethics, robotics, 6G connectivity, and green tech are anticipated.^[11,12]

(9 [Eventify](#), 10 [Tech Republic](#), 11 [Emit.digital](#), 12 [vFairs](#))

Space Exploration & Astronomy

- **NASA Artemis II Mission:** Scheduled to send astronauts on a **lunar flyby around the Moon**.^[13]
- **Commercial Space Station:** Vast plans to launch the **first-ever private space station** in 2026.^[13]
- **China's Chang'e 7 Mission:** Exploring the lunar south pole with orbiter, lander, rover, and flying probe.^[13]
- **Xuntian Space Telescope (China):** A large telescope co-orbiting with the Tiangong space station.^[13]
- **Celestial Events:** Multiple eclipses, meteor showers, and planetary alignments will be visible worldwide.^[14,15,16]

(13 [Wikipedia](#), 14 [Star Walk](#), 15 [Sea](#)

[and Sky](#), 16 [In-The-Sky.org](#))

Humanitarian & Global Challenges

- The **International Rescue Committee (IRC)** warns of worsening humanitarian crises in 20 countries, with **tens of millions facing hunger, displacement, and violence**.^[17]
- Climate change impacts—extreme weather, resource scarcity, and migration—will remain pressing issues.^[18,19]

(17 [International Rescue Committee](#), 18 [The Economist](#), 19 [Sytechbd.com](#))

Summary: In 2026, expect **historic sports tournaments, pivotal elections, groundbreaking tech and space missions, and major humanitarian challenges**. It's a year where global attention will be split between celebration (World Cup, Olympics) and crisis management (conflicts, climate, humanitarian needs).

(Sources: [Council on Foreign Relations](#), [Wikipedia](#), [Science Mission Directorate](#))

National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

From [Hope For Justice](#)

January is also known as Human Trafficking Awareness Month. It is a key time for us all as individuals to educate ourselves about human trafficking and crucially to learn to spot the signs of trafficking. It is also a time for us to take these messages to our workplaces, our churches, our schools, our representatives and everywhere else.

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, January 2026, culminates in the annual observation of National Freedom Day on February 1, 2026.

What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking is a crime where one person exploits another for labor, services, or commercial sex, using force, fraud, or coercion (or where the person induced is under 18 years of age, in the case of a commercial sex act under U.S. law).

The crime also includes recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining a human being for these purposes and in these ways. Human trafficking is included under the umbrella term 'modern-day slavery',

where victims cannot leave a situation of exploitation and are controlled by threats, punishment, violence, coercion or deception.

Human Trafficking Facts

- \$236 billion made each year from human trafficking, that's nearly \$7,500 every second^[1]
- Women and girls make up 54% of all victims worldwide, and are 78% of victims of forced commercial sexual exploitation^[2]
- Many U.S. businesses have human trafficking in their supply

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- chains without even knowing it^[3]
- Victims are told that police are corrupt, and that seeking help leads to being deported^[4]
- In 2021, the National Human Trafficking Hotline received 10,360 reports of suspected human trafficking cases, involving 16,710 victims^[5]
- Traffickers make threats against victims' families, using fear and shame as weapons^[6]
- 1 in 6 endangered runaways reported are likely to be sex trafficking victims.^[7]
- Human trafficking and people smuggling are different things^[8]

Types of exploitation

Sexual exploitation

Vulnerable people, overwhelmingly women and girls, are tricked or forced into the sex trade. It often begins with a promise of good work in hospitality or modeling, or a 'boyfriend' is responsible.

Forced labor

This is when a person has no choice or control over their work, with the money they earn taken by someone else, who often also controls where they live and even who they can speak with.

Domestic servitude

A less common type of human trafficking, when a person is forced to cook, clean or do childcare for little or no pay, often living in the home with the 'employer' and not allowed to live their own life.

Criminal exploitation

Victims are forced to grow or transport drugs, made to shoplift or pickpocket, are forced to beg or panhandle on the streets, or used for fraud. The threat of being reported becomes another method of control.

Forced marriage

In some jurisdictions outside the

U.S., forced marriage is categorized as a type of modern-day slavery. Globally, [22 million people are thought to have been forced into a marriage without consent](#), nearly all women and girls, often to an older man in another country.

Source: Hope for Justice case analysis

How many people are in human trafficking?

The number of people who are in human trafficking or living in modern-day slavery is estimated at **49.6 million**, including the **22 million** in forced marriages. The remaining 27.6 million is made up of:^[9]

- **19.9 million** people in forced labor in private or state-run companies, or criminal exploitation
- **1.4 million** people experiencing domestic servitude in private homes
- **6.3 million** people in forced sexual exploitation (including **1.7 million children**)

Estimates suggest the number of people living in conditions of modern slavery in the United States is up to **1,091,000**. No-one knows exactly how many people are trafficked in or to the U.S. each year, because this is a hidden crime, but in 2021, the National Human Trafficking Hotline received 10,360 reports of suspected human trafficking cases, involving 16,710 victims. This is widely acknowledged to be the tip of the iceberg.^[10]

What is the difference between modern slavery and human trafficking? Are modern slavery and human trafficking the same thing?

Modern slavery is an internationally recognized umbrella term covering all forms of slavery, servitude, human trafficking and related exploitation, including forced labor, debt bondage, forced child labor, forced marriage, and commercial sexual exploitation. In some countries, including the UK, the term has a specific meaning in criminal law, while in other countries it is used in a more general sense or not used at all. In certain countries, particularly the U.S and parts of Africa, the term 'slavery' has a strong emotional and historical connection to the racist enslavement of African people and many people choose to avoid using this word outside of that specific context.

Under international conventions, human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Many countries have their own specific definitions under domestic criminal law that fall outside of this definition. For example, in the United States, when a person younger than 18 is encouraged to perform a commercial sex act, that is a trafficking crime, regardless of any other factors usually necessary for something to be categorized as trafficking. In general usage, human trafficking is often used interchangeably with the term modern slavery (especially in the UK) – but in law the two concepts remain distinct.

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How do traffickers keep their victims under control?

Human traffickers use various forms of force, fraud, and coercion to control and exploit victims. This includes the imposing of debt, fraudulent employment opportunities, false promises of love or a better life, psychological coercion, isolation, addiction, and violence or threats of violence.

Trafficking is a power and control dynamic. Victims become trapped and fear leaving for many reasons, including psychological trauma, lack of documentation, shame, emotional attachment and dependency, distrust of systems and law enforcement, or physical threats to themselves or their families.

Source: *Hope for Justice case analysis*

Who is driving the demand for sex trafficking and labor trafficking?

Sex trafficking is a market-driven criminal industry based on supply and demand. People who purchase commercial sex increase the demand for commercial sex and likewise provide a profit incentive for traffickers, who seek to maximize profits by exploiting trafficking victims.

Labor trafficking is far more common than people realize. Human trafficking victims make an alarmingly high number of consumer goods and food products, imported to the United States and produced domestically. More often than we realize, elements of forced labor may be present within the supply chain of products we buy or the services we pay for. These consumers can include companies that subcontract certain types of services, end-consumers who buy cheap goods produced by traffick-

ing victims, or individuals who use the services of trafficking victims (Polaris, 2021).

Source: *Hope for Justice case analysis*

Why don't victims run away?

The relationship between human traffickers and their victims is complex. It is rare for the control to be based on physical confinement like locked doors or shackles. Instead, victims are exploited through manipulation, fear, dependency (including drugs), threats or debt bondage.

This means that during the time they are actually in exploitation, few people think of themselves as being a 'victim'. They often describe feeling hopeless or having no options, or even feel a sense of obligation towards those who trafficked them. They do not understand their situation as being one that they could run away from or escape from.

For many, it is only once they get long-term help from an organization like Hope for Justice that they understand the extent of the exploitation and that a different life is possible, with the right support.

Anyone from any walk of life can be targeted and can end up as a victim of human trafficking. But people experiencing any of the following things can be at particular risk:

- Chaotic home environment or recent family breakdown
- Runaway youth
- Homelessness
- Alcohol or drug addiction
- Mental illness
- Long-term unemployment
- Learning difficulties

- Debts or criminal convictions
- Fearful of deportation
- Physical injuries or disabilities

Source: *Hope for Justice case analysis*

Sources

1. [International Labour Organization, 2024](#)
2. *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery (International Labour Organization, Walk Free, and International Organization for Migration, 2022)*
3. *Hope for Justice case analysis*
4. *Hope for Justice case analysis*
5. [National Human Trafficking Hotline, Statistics](#)
6. *Hope for Justice case analysis*
7. *The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), 2021*
8. *Human trafficking and migrant smuggling (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2021)*
9. *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery (International Labour Organization / Walk Free / IOM, September 2022)*
10. *Global Slavery Index, 2018 and Dept. of State 2020*

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day - January 11, 2026

From [National Today](#)

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on January 11 raises awareness of the persistent issue of human trafficking. Though the entire month of January has already been recognized as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, this day is specifically dedicated to awareness and prevention of the illegal practice. This holiday is also separate from the World Day Against Traf-

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ficking Persons, as established by the United Nations. Since the Senate established this day of observance in 2007, it has drawn massive public support from individual donations to government-organized events. The horrific injustice of human trafficking can affect people of any race and background, and on this day we are all called to fight human trafficking wherever it exists.

History of National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

Human trafficking, according to Unitas, is the exploitation of another person for labor, domestic servitude, or commercial sexual activity by force, fraud, or coercion. It is also the act of enslaving or exploiting unwilling other people. Unfortunately, slavery in some form has existed for hundreds of years – and persistently exists today, though many are unaware of this fact.

Most are familiar with the slave trade of the 1400s and beyond. Instituted by Europeans, the slave trade captured and held in bondage millions of Africans from across the continent, eventually selling them for labor or sexual exploitation. This practice flourished in countries like Spain, the growing United States, Holland, France, Sweden, and Denmark for centuries.

It was not until the late 1700s and 1800s that governments began to declare the Transatlantic slave trade illegal, with Great Britain setting the example in 1807 and the United States following in 1820 – the slave trade became a crime punishable by death, but many years passed before more widespread freedom was achieved. The Emancipation Proclamation of

1863 largely put an end to slavery, and the Thirteenth Amendment of 1866 abolished it.

It was after the recognition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade as immoral that governments began to discuss “white slavery,” the term used at the time for sexual human trafficking. 1904 saw the passage of the International Agreement for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic, written into law by European monarchs, and 12 countries signed the International Convention for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic. The League of Nations soon changed the name from “white slavery” to “traffic in women and children.”

The late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries saw gains for the movement against human trafficking. In 2000, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act addressed modern-day slavery, becoming the first federal law to do so. The American charity group Free The Slaves, part of Anti-Slavery International, was also formed. In 2007, the United States Senate ratified the resolution establishing January 11th as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. In 2010, President Obama dedicated the entire month of January to awareness and prevention of human trafficking. Today, there are over 50 established organizations that globally combat this illegal practice, and more awareness has been raised than ever before.

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day timeline

1200-1600—*Slavery’s Dangerous Roots*

Though many people were trafficked as a normal way of life in 1200, it wasn’t until 1400 that

the European slave trade began to exist.

1807—*Great Britain Ends the Transatlantic Slave Trade*

After Britain made the Transatlantic Slave Trade in 1807, The United States followed suit in both 1820 and 1865.

1910—*International Convention for the Suppression of White Slave Trade Signed*

The white slave trade, or human trafficking for sexual purposes, was legally ended by 13 countries in 1910 with the signing of this document; however, human trafficking still very much exists today.

2000—*Free The Slaves Established*

This American charity organization, which was launched in 2000, highlights the effects of human trafficking and has been influential in the movement to end the practice.

2007—*The Senate Resolution is Passed*

In 2007, the Senate formally named January 11th as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. This was followed by a proclamation by President Obama on January 4, 2010, naming January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day FAQs

Where is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day observed?

The United States.

What are some organizations dedicated to ending human trafficking that I can support?

According to Charity Navigator, the top five charities dedicated to ending human trafficking are Love146, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, Polaris, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, and Agape International Missions. Do your research to determine which one is most impactful for

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you!

Where can resources for those interested in learning more about human trafficking be found?

More resources on human trafficking can be found at the Department of Defense's [website](#), at [End Slavery Now](#), and at [Unitas](#), among many others.

How to Observe National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

1. Donate to Anti-Slavery Organizations

Any contribution helps, and what anti-slavery groups can do with your money will undoubtedly be meaningful. Some organizations consider donating to include Agape International Missions, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, and Polaris.

2. Volunteer to End Human Trafficking

Any anti-slavery organization in your community, a club on your campus, or professional establishment nearby would be grateful for your help. Endslaverynow.org offers an Antislavery Directory to help you find organizations that you can donate your time to if purse strings are tight.

3. Foster Education on Human Trafficking

There are many misconceptions about human trafficking today - so get educated and help others do the same. Books and documentaries can illuminate many aspects of modern slavery, including "Understanding Global Slavery" by Kevin Bales and "A Crime So Monstrous: Face-to-Face with Modern-Day Slavery" by Benjamin Skinner. We also suggest attending a community training, starting a library of anti-trafficking resources, or hosting a screening or book club

of informational material.

5 Important Facts About National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

1. There are many forms of exploitation

Approximately 80% of human trafficking today involves sexual exploitation, while 19% involves labor exploitation.

2. There is a staggering number of enslaved people today

Right now, there are approximately 20 to 40 million slaves in the world.

3. Human trafficking is extremely profitable

While \$15.5 billion generated in industrialized countries from slave trading is already horrifying, the industry reportedly generates a profit of \$32 billion yearly, worldwide.

4. Trafficking disproportionately affects women

Though men can and are trafficked and exploited for labor, it is far more common for women to be trafficked, as they are far more often exploited for sexual reasons.

5. Finding trafficking red flags can save lives

Some signs that a teen might be involved in human trafficking include but aren't limited to: not coming home at night, new tattoos (of cherries, roses, dollar signs, or crowns), excessive crying, depression, exhaustion, secrecy, having older significant others, having many unknown adults on social media, STIs/STDs, or no longer engaging in regular social behaviors.

Why National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is Important

A. Knowing the Signs Can Save Lives

Being able to suspect or iden-

tify a victim or perpetrator of human trafficking can save lives. The industry victimizes not only the millions of people directly involved, but their families, friends, and loved ones. There are many resources to help you spot and stop human trafficking - for a good list of potential red flags, check out the Unitas website on spotting human trafficking.

B. It is a Growing Global Problem

It's hard to wrap the mind around the idea that over 30 million people are likely enslaved as you read this - but even harder to consider that the number is growing. This lucrative illegal industry ruthlessly recruits and kidnaps more at-risk individuals and victimizes them for personal and financial gain, so the sooner awareness can be spread the sooner we can combat the issue.

C. It Can Affect Anyone

Many think of slavery as a problem of the distant past or of distant countries, but it exists across all continents and ages. Though some groups, like women and individuals from poorer areas, are more at risk, the reality is that human trafficking can affect anyone - we must all work together to eliminate the risks we all face.

Who are the buyers of human trafficking victims?

What Research Shows About Buyers of Trafficked People

Decades of anti-trafficking research paints a consistent picture. Buyers are not a single type of person — but there are patterns.

1. Most buyers are adult men

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Across global studies, the majority of buyers in sex trafficking are:

- Male
- Over 25
- Often employed
- Often living in or near urban areas

This is consistent with the fact that commercial sexual exploitation is overwhelmingly driven by male demand.

2. Buyers come from all socioeconomic backgrounds

Contrary to stereotypes, buyers are not limited to:

- “Criminal types”
- People with low income
- People with mental illness

Research shows buyers include:

- Professionals
- Students
- Married men
- Men with no criminal history

Demand spans all income levels.

3. Buyers often do not see themselves as part of trafficking

Many buyers:

- Believe they are purchasing consensual sex
- Do not ask about coercion
- Ignore signs of exploitation

This disconnect is part of what allows trafficking to thrive.

4. Online platforms have expanded the buyer pool

Results show that platforms like **Facebook** and **Instagram** have been used for trafficking.^[1]

This means buyers:

- Can access victims more easily
- Can remain anonymous
- Face fewer perceived risks

This has broadened the demo-

graphic range of buyers.

5. In labor trafficking, buyers are often businesses

For labor trafficking, the “buyers” are:

- Companies
- Contractors
- Recruiters
- Supply-chain intermediaries

They benefit from extremely cheap or unpaid labor, as described in the trafficking overview from New York State.^[2]

(1 [Human Trafficking Search, 2 Office of Children & Family Services](#))

How People Can Protect Themselves From Human Trafficking

Human trafficking can affect anyone, but awareness and preparation dramatically reduce risk. Sources emphasize **education, safety planning, and recognizing warning signs.**

Below is a structured, evidence-based guide.

1. Stay Informed About How Trafficking Works

Traffickers often use:

- Lies
- False job offers
- Manipulation
- Online grooming

The International Organization for Migration stresses that **information is power** and that understanding how traffickers operate is one of the strongest forms of prevention.^[1]

2. Be Cautious Online

Traffickers frequently use social media and messaging apps to:

- Recruit
- Build trust
- Isolate victims

Safety planning resources recommend:

- Limiting what you share publicly
- Being cautious with strangers online
- Verifying job or travel offers independently

3. Verify Job, Travel, or Relationship Offers

Many victims are lured with promises of:

- Work abroad
- Modeling opportunities
- Romantic relationships
- “Easy money”

Before accepting:

- Research the company
- Confirm contracts in writing
- Share your plans with someone you trust
- Keep your documents with you

These steps align with safety planning guidance for people considering suspicious jobs or relationships.^[2]

4. Create a Personal Safety Plan

The National Human Trafficking Hotline emphasizes safety planning as a key prevention tool. A good plan includes:

- Assessing risks
- Identifying safe contacts
- Planning what to do if you feel unsafe
- Knowing emergency numbers
- Having a backup communication method

Safety plans help both people at risk and those assisting them.^[2]

5. Stay Connected With Trusted People

Isolation increases vulnerability. Tell someone:

- Where you’re going
- Who you’re meeting
- When you’ll be back

This is especially important when traveling or meeting someone new.

(Continued on page 11)

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6. Know the Warning Signs

The U.S. Department of State encourages everyone to learn the indicators of trafficking, such as:

- Someone controlling your documents
- Being pressured to work or travel
- Threats or manipulation
- Not being allowed to speak for yourself
- Promises that seem too good to be true^[3]

Recognizing these signs early can prevent exploitation.

7. Report Suspicious Situations

If you believe someone may be at risk, the State Department recommends contacting:

- The National Human Traffick-

ing Hotline

- Local law enforcement in emergencies^[3]

Reporting can save lives.

8. Participate in Community Awareness

The DEA and HHS emphasize that prevention is a community effort. You can:

- Share accurate information
- Attend awareness events
- Support local organizations
- Educate friends and family

Community awareness strengthens collective safety.^[4]

In Conclusion:

Stay alert, stay connected, stay safe.

Human traffickers often rely on

deception, isolation, and vulnerability. Protect yourself by being cautious with online interactions, verifying job or travel offers, keeping trusted people informed of your plans, and recognizing when a situation feels wrong. Awareness is one of the strongest tools we have to prevent exploitation.

(1 iaciom.int, 2 [National Human Trafficking Hotline](http://NationalHumanTraffickingHotline), 3 [U.S. Dept. of State](http://U.S.Dept.ofState), 4 DEA.gov)



Poverty Awareness Month

From [National Today](http://NationalToday)

Poverty Awareness Month is observed in January every year. This important endeavor is observed in America all month long. Did you know that the U.S. ranks second highest in poverty rates among its peer countries? Poverty Awareness Month is about taking an opportunity to learn more about this social ill, raise awareness among others, and understand how everyone can help.

History of Poverty Awareness Month

We're assuming that poverty has existed in some way, shape, or form since the dawn of time. Multiple records and studies document the plight of the poverty-stricken populace across ages. Poverty was common, the idea that it was a social ill was not.

Over time, multiple governments and institutions recognized that people needed help, and measures

were put in place across the world. These were as yet individual undertakings. There was no united effort or definition as to what poverty meant. Poverty came into global focus after the Second World War and measures have been taken on a world stage ever since.

Today, poverty is a global problem, exists in pretty much every country, and is measured slightly differently depending on the nation (even as global bodies like the U.N. and the World Bank have created common definitions).

The official criterion for assessing poverty in the U. S. was established in the 1960s and has stayed largely unchanged since then. Mollie Orshansky, an economist who worked as a statistician for the Social Security Administration, was the one who

devised this metric. The Department of Agriculture had devised a low-cost food plan for less fortunate households at the time. Orshansky created a detailed matrix for families of all types and sizes using the above data as the basis for her own poverty index.

People have suggested revisions to Orshansky's measurements, pointing out that old approaches do not apply to today's families (or economy), but no changes have been officially approved.

Poverty Awareness Month timeline

1950s: Highest Poverty Rate

The U.S. records a poverty rate of 22%, the highest it has ever been.

1965: Medicare Is Here

The U.S. begins a special national health insurance program under the Social Security Administration; it is partly responsible for success-

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fully (and dramatically) lowering poverty among the 65+ age group.

2019: Lowest Poverty Rate

The U.S. now records the lowest poverty rate ever — 10.5%

2020 — 2021: Global Poverty Numbers Rise

While poverty has been declining globally, records indicate 150 million more people are living in poverty worldwide; this is the first such global increase in 20 years.

Poverty Awareness Month FAQs

1. What causes poverty?

Poverty has several causes, including a lack of access to basic essentials such as water, food, shelter, education, and healthcare. Poverty is also caused by inequities such as gender or ethnic discrimination, bad governance, conflict, exploitation, and domestic violence.

2. Why is it important to raise awareness about poverty?

Awareness — of any cause and not just poverty — helps people connect with the issue at hand. They are more inclined to participate in efforts to end such issues, and while their efforts alone might not be enough for complete eradication, awareness is an important first step.

3. What is called poverty?

Poverty, according to the World Bank, is not having a job and fearing for the future, and living one day at a time. It has also been called the inability to meet the basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter.

How to Observe Poverty Awareness Month

1. Brush up on your knowledge of poverty

Poverty is not only about financial limitations but also includes a host of other factors. Learn why this is a global problem and

how various countries measure poverty among their population.

2. See how you can help

Learn how organizations, local governments, and even non-profits are trying to reduce poverty in your community. Lend a helping hand in any way you can — whether it is by donations or volunteer work.

3. Put your knowledge to good use

How do you raise awareness about poverty? Use your newfound insight into poverty to talk to people and be active in your local community. Simply sharing your resources (and thoughts) can spread information about poverty to a lot of people.

5 Fascinating Facts About Poverty

1. The cost of coffee

The average cost of one Frappuccino at popular coffee outlets — approximately \$3 — is more than the median income of people in the developing world.

2. A suggestion to reduce poverty

A 2012 Oxfam report mentioned that as per their calculations, if the world's 100 richest people would have pooled their collective earnings, they could eradicate extreme poverty four times over.

3. Why poverty awareness is so important

According to a survey, eight in 10 Americans had no idea that global poverty levels were declining gradually before 2020; they assumed it was the opposite.

4. One billion children live in poverty

That makes it almost half the

number of children in the world, since official records show there are approximately 2.2 billion children in the world.

5. Children should complete secondary education

At least according to UNESCO, who state that global poverty could be cut by 55% if all children completed their secondary education.

Why Poverty Awareness Month is Important

A. It brings attention to poverty

Poverty Awareness Month demands that we all take a longer, harder look at the disparities in our society and change the situation any way we can.

B. It influences lasting change

People across sectors and backgrounds come together for a shared goal — awareness of poverty and its effects, which could result in people's lasting commitment towards poverty alleviation.

C. We change how poverty is viewed

As we begin to understand more about poverty and what causes it, we are slowly opening our minds and changing our attitudes towards people affected by poverty. We're slowly bringing about another social change.

Poverty in Native American Communities

Poverty in Native American communities has created deep, long-lasting challenges, including high unemployment, poor health outcomes, limited educational opportunities, and intergenerational cycles of disadvantage.

Key Impacts of Poverty in Native American Communities

- **High Poverty Rates** Native Americans experience the **high-**

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- est poverty rate of any major racial group in the U.S. (about 26%),** with unemployment rates on some reservations reaching as high as **85%**.^[1] Many reservations are among the poorest counties in the nation.
- **Economic Barriers**
 - * Limited access to **quality jobs and education** reduces economic mobility.^[2]
 - * Native households and businesses often struggle to access **credit and financing**, hindering wealth-building and entrepreneurship.^[2]
 - * Median household incomes on reservations are significantly lower than national averages (e.g., \$42,224 vs. \$52,719 in Mississippi, the poorest state).^[3]
 - **Food Insecurity & Housing Shortages** Many families face **food insecurity** and inadequate housing. Overcrowding and poor infrastructure are common, contributing to health and social stress.^[1]
 - **Health Disparities** Poverty exacerbates **health inequities**, including higher rates of chronic illnesses, mental health challenges, and reduced access to healthcare. The COVID-19 pandemic hit Native communities particularly hard due to underfunded healthcare systems.^[2]
 - **Intergenerational Poverty** Poverty is often **passed down through generations**, limiting upward mobility. Structural barriers, such as reservation policies and systemic discrimination, reinforce cycles of disadvantage.^[4]
 - **Education & Employment Gaps** While education is important, research shows that **job access** is a stronger driver of reducing poverty than education alone.

Employment could reduce poverty among Native populations by nearly 20%.^[5]

Broader Social Consequences

- **Community Well-being:** Poverty contributes to higher rates of substance abuse, violence, and mental health struggles.
- **Cultural Resilience:** Despite hardships, Native communities continue to preserve traditions, strengthen grassroots leadership, and build resilience.^[3]
- **Policy Challenges:** Federal policies historically restricted Native economic autonomy, and underfunded infrastructure continues to limit opportunities.

Summary

Poverty in Native American communities is not just about low income—it's a **systemic issue tied to historical displacement, structural inequality, and lack of access to resources**. It affects nearly every aspect of life: health, education, housing, and economic opportunity. Yet, alongside these challenges, Native communities demonstrate resilience and cultural strength, working toward solutions that honor tradition while seeking equity.

(1 [The Red Road](#), 2 [U.S. Joint Economic Committee](#), 3 [Indian Youth](#), 4 [National Academies](#), 5 [Institute For Policy Research](#))

Current policy efforts and solutions

Several policy efforts are underway to reduce poverty in Native American communities, but challenges remain in ensuring funding reaches tribes and pro-

grams are effective.

Federal Policy Efforts

- **Indian Health Service (IHS):** The federal government funds healthcare for Native Americans, but the system has been chronically underfunded and plagued by bureaucratic shortcomings. This contributes to poor health outcomes and shorter life expectancy compared to the U.S. average.^[1]
- **Congressional Funding:** In 2024, Congress approved **\$32.6 billion** for tribal communities, covering clean water, education, broadband, transportation, law enforcement, and healthcare. However, many tribes face barriers in accessing these funds due to complex application processes and administrative hurdles.^[2]
- **Joint Economic Committee Findings:** Native households and businesses struggle to access credit and financing, limiting entrepreneurship and wealth-building. Federal policy discussions emphasize improving access to jobs and financial services.^[3]

Tribal & Community Programs

- **Administration for Native Americans (ANA):** Established during the War on Poverty, ANA invests in community-driven projects that strengthen Native families and economies. Programs focus on language preservation, cultural revitalization, and economic development.^[4]
- **Grassroots Initiatives:** Many tribes are creating **local economic development projects**, such as renewable energy ventures, tourism, and small business incubators, to reduce reli-

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 ance on federal funding.

Key Challenges

- **Funding Gaps:** Even when billions are allocated, tribes often report that money does not reach them effectively due to bureaucratic barriers.^[2]
- **Structural Inequities:** Reservation policies and systemic discrimination continue to limit economic mobility.
- **Health & Education:** Underfunded healthcare and limited access to quality education perpetuate cycles of poverty.

Summary

Policy efforts to address poverty in Native American communities include **federal funding programs, healthcare support through IHS, and community-driven initiatives like ANA projects.** However, **bureaucratic barriers, underfunding, and structural inequities** often prevent these programs from fully reaching or benefiting Native communities. The most promising solutions combine **direct tribal control of resources, grassroots economic development, and improved access to healthcare and jobs.**^[3]

(1 [Mercatus Center](#), 2 [U.S. Gov't Accountability Office](#), 3. [U.S. Joint Economic Committee](#), 4 [acf.gov](#))

Success stories where tribal-led initiatives have effectively reduced poverty

Several tribal-led initiatives have successfully reduced poverty in Native American communities by focusing on economic development, infrastructure, and cultural resilience. These examples show how local leadership and community-driven strategies can overcome systemic barriers.

Successful Tribal Initiatives

- **Infrastructure & Economic Equity Programs** The U.S. Department of Commerce has partnered with tribes to invest in **critical infrastructure projects**—such as broadband expansion, clean water systems, and workforce development. These efforts aim to create sustainable economic opportunities and reduce poverty by connecting communities to modern markets.^[1]
- **Building Tribal Economies Toolkit (NCAI)** The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) developed a **Tribal Economies Toolkit** to help tribes design long-term strategies for economic growth. This toolkit encourages tribes to focus on **integrated, resilient economies** that support citizens across generations, emphasizing entrepreneurship, local governance, and cultural preservation.^[2]
- **Community-Driven Health & Poverty Reduction** Research highlights that reducing poverty directly improves Native health outcomes. For example, tribal programs that combine **job creation with healthcare access** have shown measurable improvements in life expectancy and reduced chronic illness rates.^[3]
- **Grassroots Economic Development** Many tribes have launched **renewable energy projects, tourism ventures, and small business incubators.** These initiatives not only generate income but also strengthen community autonomy by reducing reliance on federal funding.^[1]

Key Lessons from Success Stories

- **Local Control Matters:** Programs are most effective when tribes have **direct con-**

trol over resources and decision-making, rather than relying on federal intermediaries.

- **Integrated Approaches Work Best:** Combining **economic development, healthcare, and education** creates stronger outcomes than focusing on one area alone.
- **Cultural Strength is an Asset:** Initiatives that incorporate **language preservation, cultural practices, and community traditions** build resilience and foster long-term stability.

Summary

Tribal-led initiatives - from infrastructure investments to grassroots economic projects - demonstrate that **poverty reduction is most successful when Native communities lead the way.** These programs show that empowering tribes with resources, autonomy, and culturally grounded strategies can break cycles of poverty and build sustainable prosperity.

(1 [U.S. Dept. of Commerce](#), 2 [NCAI](#), 3 [Mercatus Center](#))

Overall Outlook for 2026

Poverty in America is likely to remain stable or improve slightly in 2026, supported by:

- Continued economic growth
- Moderating inflation
- Rising real incomes
- Expanded eligibility for assistance programs

But progress may be **slower** than in 2024 due to:

- A cooling labor market
- Slower wage growth
- Economic uncertainty

In short:

2026 is expected to be a year of modest improvement or stability in poverty levels—not a dramatic shift in either direction.

NACS Newcomer Directs Short Film Exploring Language, Power, and Entitlement

Submitted by Marc Isaacs, Marketing & Development Specialist

The Nativist, a new short film directed by Marc Isaacs, delves into themes of power, language, and entitlement through a tightly focused and unsettling narrative. A member of Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, Isaacs joined NACS in November 2025 as the organization's Marketing & Development Specialist, leveraging his extensive experience creating compelling written and visual content for media companies, creative agencies, and nonprofit organizations.

Produced by Isaacs, Andrew Carlberg, Sheldon Roberts, and Edward Watt—who also wrote the script—The Nativist was inspired by Watt's real-life experience translating for a detainee in New York's Capital Region. That encounter sparked a fictional story

centered on YouTube influencer Xavier Gleason, played by Zander Roberts, who secretly crosses a secure national border into a forbidden territory for his popular web series known as Border Breakers. Once detained, Gleason finds himself surrounded by people who speak a language he does not understand, forcing him into a position of vulnerability he never anticipated.

The creative team made a deliberate decision to use the Mohawk language in the film. Shot primarily in the Mohawk Valley, the production collaborated with Mohawk language specialist Cecilia King, an Akwesasne Mohawk with experience supporting film and television pro-

jects. Her involvement ensured linguistic accuracy and cultural respect throughout the process.

Authenticity extended to casting as well. Three of the film's four cast members come from Akwesasne, including Wayne Charles Baker and his daughter, Hunter Storm Baker. Their participation was made possible by Mohawk casting director Shelby Mitchell-Adams, further grounding the film in community representation.

Following private screenings in Buffalo, Utica, and Akwesasne later this year, The Nativist is set to make its official premiere at a summer film festival in Los Angeles.

Pictured below are some scenes from *The Nativist*.



NACS Launches First Digital Fundraising Campaign on GiveNative.org

This past Giving Tuesday, December 2, 2025, Native American Community Services connected with supporters in a new way by using GiveNative.org, a platform hosted by Native Ways Federation, for the very first time. The response from our community was inspiring. Our inaugural campaign raised \$1,550, and each gift demonstrates the strength of our shared mission and the impact of giving together.

In addition to the funds raised, NACS was thrilled to be selected as a Lucky Rez Dog Prize winner. Native Ways awarded four prizes of \$1,000 to nonprofits through a random drawing—two for small organizations and two for large ones—and NACS was honored to be recognized among the winners.

GiveNative.org allows donors to give securely online while helping Native nonprofits expand their reach. This initial campaign gave new and existing supporters an easy way to contribute to NACS' programs that promote community wellbeing, cultural preservation, economic empowerment, and family support for Native and non-Native families across Western and Central New York.

Look for more NACS campaigns on GiveNative.org throughout 2026!



A Message from the Upstate New York Poison Center

The Upstate New York Poison Center (UNYPC) serves as a vital health and safety resource for communities across upstate New York. Each year, the Poison Center responds to more than 50,000 calls, providing free, confidential, and expert guidance to individuals, families, healthcare providers, and first responders.

Calls to the Poison Center cover a wide range of exposures and poison concerns, from medications and household products to chemicals, plants, and environmental toxins. The most common reason people contact UNYPC is about acetaminophen (Tylenol®). While widely used and effective for pain and fever, acetaminophen can cause serious harm if taken incorrectly, in too high a dose, or combined with other products that also contain acetaminophen. This highlights the importance of reading labels carefully and using medications only as directed.

With cold & cold season upon us, an important step in preventing medication errors, especially with

liquid medicines, is to always use the dosing spoon, cup, or syringe that comes with the medication. Kitchen teaspoons and tablespoons are not accurate and can easily lead to over or under dosing. And be sure to store all medicine (over the counter and prescription) up and out of site and reach of young children.

UNYPC's specially trained nurses, pharmacists, physicians and toxicology experts are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, helping callers determine whether care can be safely managed at home or if medical attention is needed. This timely guidance not only supports patient safety but also helps reduce unnecessary emergency department visits.

Whether answering questions from worried parents, assisting adults with medication errors, or supporting healthcare professionals with complex cases, the Upstate New York Poison Center remains committed to protect-

ing public health and preventing poisonings through education, outreach, and expert consultation.

For poison emergencies or questions, call us at 1-800-222-1222. Scan the QR Code below to save our number in your cell phone, just in case. For more information and resources, visit us at:

www.upstate.edu/poison \

and follow us on social media:

[@UpstatePoison](https://www.instagram.com/UpstatePoison).

Mary Beth Dreyer, MSEd
Health Education Program Manager
Upstate New York Poison Center
1 800 222 1222 (save it in your cell)
www.upstate.edu/poison

Scan the QR code for Poison Center contact information for your phone.



Opinion: The Lie We Keep Telling About Wounded Knee

By Levi Rickert, [Native News Online](http://NativeNewsOnline.com), December 29, 2025

Today (12/29/25) marks the 135th anniversary of the Massacre of Wounded Knee, which occurred during the wintry week between Christmas and New Year's in 1890.

Nine days before the massacre that left hundreds of Sioux men, women and children dead, an obscure weekly newspaper in South Dakota published an editorial following the death of Hunkpapa Lakota leader Sitting Bull. In the opinion piece, L. Frank Baum, publisher of the Saturday Pioneer, wrote:

"The Whites, by law of conquest, by justice of civilization, are masters of the American continent, and the best safety of the frontier settlements will be secured by the total annihilation of the few remaining Indians. Why not annihilation? Their glory has fled."

Early on the morning of Dec. 29, 1890, at Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota, Sioux people who had been captured the previous afternoon by members of the U.S. 7th Cavalry Regiment were surrendering their weapons. A

shot was fired. The cavalry then opened fire on unarmed Sioux elders, women and children. While an exact account will never be known, historians believe between 250 and 300 Sioux were killed that day.

Snow fell heavily that December week. The Sioux ancestors who were killed were left on the frozen plains of the reservation until a burial party arrived days later to place them in a mass grave.

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After the killings, Baum again took to his newspaper's editorial page. This time, he wrote:

“The Pioneer has before declared that our only safety depends upon the total extirmination [sic] of the Indians. Having wronged them for centuries we had better, in order to protect our civilization, follow it up by one more wrong and wipe these untamed and untamable creatures from the face of the earth. In this lies future safety for our settlers and the soldiers who are under incompetent commands. Otherwise, we may expect future years to be as full of trouble with the redskins as those have been in the past.”

Ten years later, Baum published a children's book titled *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, which was later adapted into one of the most famous films of all time. As a child, my siblings and I would make popcorn and watch the movie during its annual television broadcasts. As an adult, after learning of Baum's virulent racism and calls for the extermination of Native people, I stopped watching it. Baum's family later apologized for his racist editorials.

Baum did not single-handedly cause the genocide of Native Americans, but his words contributed to it. His editorials helped normalize violence and extermination as acceptable policy. History matters. If you know your history, you know your place in this world.

Unfortunately, U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth doesn't appear to understand history.

On September 25, 2025, Hegseth [announced](#) that he would not rescind the Medals of Honor awarded to approximately 20 members of the U.S. 7th Cavalry for their ac-

tions at the 1890 Wounded Knee massacre. He wasn't preserving history. He was protecting a lie.

That lie — that what happened at Wounded Knee was a battle deserving of the nation's highest military recognition — has been told for over 130 years. But Native Americans know the truth. It wasn't a battle. It was a massacre of women, children and elders. And it remains one of the most painful, unresolved wounds in American history.

The soldiers of the 7th Cavalry were not heroes that day.

In defending his decision, Hegseth has framed the debate around what he calls “woke” politics and vowed to put an end to what he called “historical revisionism.” But this is not revisionism. This is accountability. This is truth.

In 1990, on the 100th anniversary of the massacre, Congress passed a resolution expressing “deep regret” to the descendants of those killed at Wounded Knee. Tribal leaders, historians and descendants of survivors have spent decades calling for the revocation of the medals — not as an erasure of history, but as a correction of it.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) released a [statement](#) following Hegseth's announcement that said “such despicable violence should not have been lauded in the first place.”

“Honoring those involved in the Wounded Knee Massacre with the United States' highest military award is incompatible with the values the Medal of Honor is

meant to represent,” NCAI Executive Director Larry Wright Jr. said. “Celebrating war crimes is not patriotic. This decision undermines truth-telling, reconciliation, and the healing that Indian Country and the United States still need.”

Earlier this month, Congress passed the Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act that was signed into law that [protects 40 acres](#) of the Wounded Knee massacre site.

The law places the land in restricted-fee status, meaning it cannot be sold, taxed, gifted or leased without approval from Congress and the Oglala Sioux and Cheyenne River Sioux tribes, which [jointly purchased the land](#) three years ago.

Ironically, U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), who sponsored the Senate version of the legislation, has never supported the Remove the Stain Act, legislation that calls for revoking the medals given to the 7th Cavalry members who massacred innocent Sioux people 135 years ago. Even though the Remove the Stain Act has been introduced in the Senate numerous times, it has never made it to the Senate floor for a vote. Sen. Rounds needs to support this legislation.

As we have learned many times in recent years — from boarding school acknowledgments to MMIP awareness campaigns — remembering a tragedy is not the same as reckoning with it.

Thayék gde nwendëmen - We are all related.



Wounded Knee Memorial.
(Nancy Eve Cohen/
NEPM)



UPSTATE
NEW YORK
POISON CENTER

NEW YEAR, NEW TRENDS: AN UPDATE FROM THE UPSTATE NEW YORK POISON CENTER

January 22nd, 2026 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Presented by:

William Eggleston, PharmD, DABAT
UNYPC Assistant Clinical Director

and

Mary Beth Dreyer, MSED
UNYPC Health Education Program Manager

January 22, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Questions: DreyerM@upstate.edu

Participants will:

- Identify recent trends in substance use (i.e., nitrous oxide/galaxy gas, gas station heroin, mushroom & cannabis edibles, Kratom, and more).
- Discuss the challenges in the detection and regulation of these substances.
- Utilize data and materials from the Upstate New York Poison Center to support community prevention efforts.

Please register: <https://bit.ly/4pw1X73>



**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

Arriana Smith
ROOTS Project Specialist
asmith@nacswny.org

Colleen Casali
ROOTS Project Coordinator
cacasali@nacswny.org

Dakota Jonathan
ROOTS Project Specialist
djonathan@nacswny.org

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



PARENTING *Circle*

This Native American Family Research program is aimed at enhancing family dynamics to reduce your child's risky behaviors and to learn about family health preparedness.

STUDY REQUIREMENTS

- 10 weekly classes
- Participation in a parenting and health research study
- Families will be randomly selected to participate in Parenting in 2 Worlds or Healthy Families in 2 Worlds

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

- ✓ Self-Identify as Native American
- ✓ Live in urban area of Erie & Niagara County
- ✓ Are a primary caregiver of Native American youth 12-17 years old

HIGHLIGHTS

- Childcare services provided for enrolled participants
- Healthy food provided
- **Your Family could be eligible to receive up to \$300 in gift cards**

✉ pjacobs@nacswny.org
jrose@nacswny.org

Participation is voluntary

☎ 716-339-1831 (Peter)
 716-574-3041 (Justine)

ASU IRB IRB # STUDY00016808 | Approval Period 3/17/2023 – 2/20/2026



DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS
CANCER HEALTH



WE ARE SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR THE 2026 HAUDENOSAUNEE SUMMER COLLEGE PAID INTERNSHIP



**Applicant must be a rising Junior or Senior,
enrolled in an accredited college or university**

DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2026

Housing and stipend provided.

Travel to and from Buffalo, NY is not included.

FOR QUESTIONS AND MORE INFO, CONTACT:

Email: indigenouiscancerhealth@roswellpark.org

Phone: 716-845-5814

Scan QR Code to Apply





VIRTUAL COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

HAUDENOSAUNEE GRIEF AND LOSS

Leroy "Jock" Hill

Cayuga Bear Clan



Monday
January 12, 2026



6:30PM-
8:30PM

Register Here:



FUNDED BY THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH / AIDS INSTITUTE



Indigenous Inter-agencies

MIDWINTER NEW YEAR'S GATHERING

LET'S COME TOGETHER AND CELEBRATE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Saturday, January 17th 2026

Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre
796 Buffalo Road,
Fort Erie ON L2A 5H2

About Our Event!

Please join us as we come together in partnership to celebrate community, strengthen relationships, and unite the many services offered by Indigenous organizations and collaborating agencies. Your presence helps us continue building a strong and connected community.

2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Event Highlights!

Midwinter Traditional Teachings with Jock Hill 2:00-3:30 pm ◀

Learn the Traditional Haudenosaunee Teachings of Midwinter Ceremonial Celebration

Break 3:30-4:00 pm ◀

Presentation by Aboriginal Head Start Children & Staff

Community Potluck Dinner 4:00 - 5:00 pm ◀

BRING YOUR FEAST BUNDLE

All community members encouraged to share and contribute to PotLuck Dinner

Haudenosaunee Social Grand River Singers 5:00- 7:00 pm ◀



INDIGENOUS CHILD SERVICE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Put All Children First



Ohsto:Seri Urban Aboriginal Homes Inc.
10 Dufferin Street, Fort Erie, Ontario L2A 2T5
Phone 905-871-5333 Fax 905-871-8204



Hadiya'dagénhahs First Nations Métis, and Inuit Student Centre



HAUDENOSAUNEE SOCIAL

Community Event | Singing | Dancing | Traditional Foods

Mckinley High School

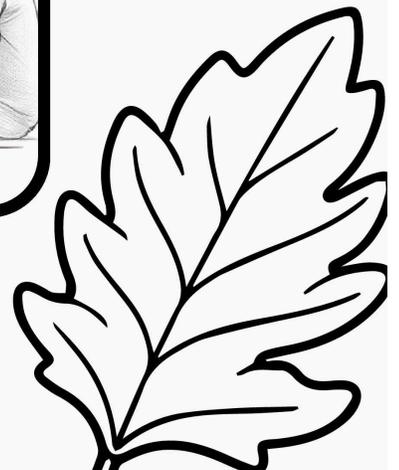
1500 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo, NY 14207

January 23, 2026

5:30 PM - 8:30 PM



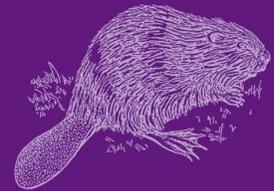
Questions or Concerns Contact:
ccarse@buffaloschools.org





Virtual Community Conversation

*The Creation Story as told by
Adohwehjina Tracey Zachariah
Onondaga Beaver Clan*



Monday January 26, 2026
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
on Zoom only

Register Here:



For More Information Contact:
Madison Tighe
mtighe@nacswny.org / 716-349-8782

FUNDED BY NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH / AIDS INSTITUTE

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: Program Secretary
Type: Full-time/ hourly/ non-exempt
Salary/Range: \$17.00-\$18.00 / hour
Office: 1005 Grant Street, Buffalo, NY 14207

SUMMARY:

The Program Secretary is responsible for greeting and guiding all NACS' visitors to the appropriate staff/component, understanding all NACS' services and responding to general questions. Incumbent will provide clerical assistance in support of NACS' staff, programs, and other NACS' business. 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:

- Greet and guide all visitors in a friendly and professional manner.
- Liaison between building personnel and NACS' staff and inform them of events, mail, packages, and building issues.
- Maintain a clean and well-maintained reception area with relevant and up-to-date information.
- Answer phone calls in a friendly and professional manner and provide basic information to callers, directing them to the appropriate staff.
- Refer non-routine or sensitive requests to the appropriate staff.
- Facilitate effective communication between various components of the organization.
- Manage office machines and ensure an adequate stock of office supplies.
- Process incoming and outgoing mail, maintaining confidentiality of sensitive information.
- Monitor staff sign-in/out and keep accurate records.
- Coordinate room requests and calendar schedules for staff and community room use.
- Assist in the planning and execution of meetings, including room setup and recording meeting minutes.
- Assist in the usage of the language and cultural resources library and enforce circulation protocols.
- Order office supplies, food, equipment, and any other needs for programs.
- Maintain necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary reports and recordkeeping, including the utilization of database systems.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Associate degree in an appropriate field of study or 2 years of related experience in a similar position.
- Experience working with community and group settings. Work experience may replace some of the education requirements at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- Knowledge of local Native American communities.
- Computer skills and understanding of office applications including MS Office Suite.
- Interpersonal skills to work cooperatively and effectively with individuals and groups
- Excellent organizational skills with strong attention to detail. Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- 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)
- Life Insurance
- Flexible Spending Account (FSA)
- Health & Dental Insurance
- Employee Assistance Program
- 403 (b) Retirement Plan

For consideration send resume to: humanresources@nacswny.org



www.nacswny.org

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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 clients.
- 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)
- Life Insurance
- Flexible Spending Account (FSA)
- Health & Dental Insurance
- Employee Assistance Program
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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

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Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Erie 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: 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)

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Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Niagara County Youth Clubhouse Site Manager

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 Director, the Youth Clubhouse Manager 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 and young adults ages 12-17 years old. 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.
- Ensure 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)
- Life Insurance
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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)

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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

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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

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Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Data & Evaluation Coordinator

Type: Full-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

Salary Range: \$24.00- \$29.00 / hour

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

SUMMARY:

NACS seeks an experienced and mission-driven Data & Evaluation Coordinator (EDC) to provide cross-program support for organizational data management and quality improvement efforts, and in particular support its Healthy Generations Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program. This position plays a critical role in ensuring compliance with contractual obligations for program data collection, reporting, evaluation, and performance management. The DEC will lead the technical aspects of the Community Needs and Readiness Assessment (CNRA), including design, implementation, data analysis, and reporting. Additionally, this position provides evaluation and quality improvement support across NACS' programs, contributing to data system integrity, performance measurement, and continuous quality (CQI) efforts. Must be willing to travel across all NACS' service areas (Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Lockport, Rochester and Syracuse). 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:

- Serve as a key technical partner in the CNRA process and MIECHV implementation plan development, including instrument design, community engagement, data collection, analysis, and reporting in alignment with Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Tribal MIECHV requirements.
- Effectively engage with staff, community members, and stakeholders.
- Lead and be the primary contact for NACS' data tracking system development and implementation.
- Design and execute data collection strategies and tools to support performance measurement and evaluation activities.
- Train staff and other participants on data collection tools, systems, and protocols.
- Collaborate with program teams and organization leadership to identify, track, and report on measurable outcomes and key performance indicators.
- Ensure data quality and integrity for meeting required program reporting requirements and contribute to continuous program improvement.
- Provide quality assurance/quality improvement (QA/QI) and performance management technical assistance to NACS' leadership and programs.
- Analyze and interpret program data to inform decision-making, strategic planning and grant reporting.
- Develop dashboards, summaries, and evaluation reports tailored to various audiences (internal leadership, funders, and community partners).
- Contribute to organization-wide theory of change activities, including logic models, process mapping, and workflow analysis.
- Assist in the data and evaluation aspects for new program development and support the grant writing process.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's degree in Public Health, Social Sciences, Statistics, Data Science, or a related field.
- At least 3 years of professional experience in program evaluation, data analysis, or performance measurement.
- Experience with a federal data reporting is a plus.
- Demonstrated experience designing and implementing community-based needs assessments or similar participatory evaluation processes.

Employment Opportunity

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- Strong knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methods, survey tools, and data visualization platforms (e.g., Excel, Power BI, Tableau).
- Proficiency with data analysis software.
- Ability to communicate findings clearly and respectfully to both technical and non-technical audiences, including Native Communities.
- Commitment to cultural humility and working within a Native American-serving organization.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- 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.

PREFERRED:

- Experience working with Tribal MIECHV or similar maternal and child health home visiting programs
- Knowledge of Indigenous research methodologies or community-based participatory research (CBPR).
- Familiarity with federal data reporting systems or evaluation frameworks in a non-profit or government funded program setting.
- Experience partnering with Native American populations in research and evaluation with an understanding of data sovereignty.

BENEFITS:

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

For consideration send resume to: humanresources@nacswny.org

Employment Opportunity

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

MICHAEL N. MARTIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



www.nacswny.org

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:** Community Outreach Specialist for Urban Parenting Study (P2W)**Type:** Part-time/ hourly/ non-exempt – 20 hours per week**Salary/Range:** \$18.80-\$21.80 / hour**Office:** 1005 Grant Street, Buffalo NY, 14207**SUMMARY:**

This position offers an opportunity to make a meaningful impact within community while contributing to a significant research initiative. Under the guidance of the Parenting in Two Worlds Project Coordinator, the Community Outreach Specialist will play a vital role in a research project focused on engaging Urban Native Families. This position requires a proactive individual who can effectively communicate, coordinate, and collaborate with various stakeholders to ensure the success of the project. 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:

- Recruit and retain project participants, including traveling within the urban area to attend community resource events.
- Develop and implement engaging presentations tailored to community needs.
- Collaborate with Urban Native American organizations, schools, and community members to enhance program effectiveness, increase awareness, and boost participation.
- Assist in screening to determine the eligibility of potential participants.
- Assist in data collection and survey administration.
- Coordinate and provide support during workshop evenings, including setting up and cleaning food areas, transportation and childcare, and facility entry logistics.
- Participate in external and internal meetings for the project and organization.
- Implement best research practices to ensure the integrity and success of the project.
- Ensures maintenance, cleanliness, and safety is maintained during the project.
- Ensures the project remains compliant with all contractual obligations and requirements.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's degree in human services or related field of study.
- Experience in community outreach, particularly within Urban Native communities, is preferred. Work experience may replace some of the education requirements at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- Ability to travel within the urban area for events and meetings.
- Proficient in data handling and maintaining confidentiality.
- Ability to work collaboratively with diverse groups and individuals.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.
- 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)

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: Healthy Generations Home Visitor

Type: Full-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

Salary Range: \$19.00-\$21.00 / hour

Office: Niagara Falls/ Buffalo (1) Rochester/Syracuse (1)

SUMMARY:

The Healthy Generations Home Visitor will be responsible for supporting the development and delivery of family-centered, evidence-based services to expectant mothers and families with young children within NACS service areas. During the first year of program, the focus will be on completing the Community Needs and Readiness Assessment (CNRA), strengthening community partnerships, conducting outreach and interviews, developing an Implementation Plan and preparing for direct service delivery to begin in February 2027. The Healthy Generations project 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:

- Participates in the Community Needs and Readiness Assessment (CNRA) for maternal, infant, and early childhood health home visiting.
- Conducts community outreach, and engagement, to gather input from families, community partners, and stakeholders.
- Participates in planning meetings, training, and implementation activities to prepare for service launch.
- Provides home visits, assessments, and case management services to families enrolled in the Healthy Generations program.
- Delivers effective parenting practices using program-approved, evidence-based models.
- Completes all necessary paperwork related to the provision of Home Visitor Services within two business days of the completed home visit/contact.
- Consults with the Deputy Director of Services, Manager of Family Services, and Healthy Generations Coordinator on a regular basis and for all decisions involving mandated Child Protected Services reporting.
- Refers families/children to community resources and/or other programs at NACS or other organizations.
- Maintains a positive relationship with support networks and community-based organizations for provision of referrals and other support for clients.
- Ensures the program remains compliant with all contractual obligations and requirements.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's degree in a human services or related field of study. Work experience may replace some of the education requirements at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- Lived experience as a parent, caregiver, or in supporting families and children is preferred.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, conflict resolution and communication skills.
- Interpersonal skills to work cooperatively and effectively with individuals, groups, and diverse populations.
- Intermediate computer skills: ability to use Microsoft Office Suite.
- Knowledge of local Native communities and culturally responsive or trauma-informed practices is strongly preferred.
- 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.

Employment Opportunity

BENEFITS:

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

For consideration send resume to: humanresources@nacswny.org

Wishing You A Prosperous New Year!

From NACS Board of Directors & Staff

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, Tribal Home Visiting Program, Administration for Children and Families, Health and Human Services as well as businesses, foundations and caring individuals.

I'd like to help NACS continue it's Tradition of Caring...

PLEASE ACCEPT MY CONTRIBUTION OF: \$5 \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 OTHER:

I'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER MY TIME. I CAN...

PLEASE ADD ME TO YOUR MAILING LIST!

NAME PHONE NUMBER EMAIL ADDRESS

STREET ADDRESS CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN TO:
NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES OF ERIE & NIAGARA COUNTIES, INC.
1005 GRANT STREET, BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14207