



NACS News

*A Tradition
of Caring*

September 2022
Volume 26, Issue 9

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

- 1005 Grant Street, Buffalo, New York, 14207, (716) 874-4460, Fax (716) 874-1874
- 1522 Main Street, Niagara Falls, New York, 14305, (716) 299-0914, Fax (716) 299-0903
- 76 West Avenue, Lockport, New York, 14094, (716) 302-3035, Fax (716) 302-3037

Mental Wellness and Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

submitted by Brittnie Zurbrick, Health & Wellness Program

September is National Suicide Prevention month and all month mental health advocates, prevention organizations, survivors, allies and community members will unite to promote suicide prevention awareness. World Suicide Prevention Day is September 10th and a time to remember those effected by suicide, raise awareness and share resources to focus efforts to direct treatment to those who need it most. The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is using **#BeThe1To** as their message to spread awareness this Suicide Prevention Month. **#BeThe1To** promote healing, help and give hope is the message.

#BeThe1To 1) Ask. Research shows that people who are struggling with thoughts of suicide feel relief when someone asks and checks up on them. Findings show talking about suicide may help to reduce the rates rather than increasing suicidal ideation.

#BeThe1To 2) Be there. After speaking to someone without judgement, individuals are more likely to feel less depressed, less overwhelmed, less suicidal, and more hopeful.

#BeThe1To 3) Keep them

safe. When lethal means are less available or less deadly, suicide rates by that method decline and overall rates decline.

#BeThe1To 4) Help them stay connected. Studies indicate that helping someone at risk create a network of resources and individuals for support and safety can help them take positive action and reduce feelings of hopelessness.

#BeThe1To: 5) Follow up. Studies have also shown that brief, low-cost intervention and supportive, ongoing contact may be an important part of suicide prevention, especially for individuals after they have been discharged from hospitals or care services.

The website

<https://www.bethe1to.com/>

has resources, events and more.

These are great tips for helping others but what if we don't feel mentally healthy enough to **#BeThe1To**....? You can't pour from an empty cup and sometimes you need to be the one to fill up your cup first. Check in with yourself to determine how much do your symptoms interfere with your daily life? Mild symptoms

lasting less than 2 weeks include: feeling a little down – but still able to do housework, jobs, school, and other responsibilities. Some trouble sleeping is another common mild symptom along with feeling down but still being able to take care of self and take care of others. These mild symptoms can usually be mitigated with a few self-care activities. Try exercise (nothing crazy just get up and move!), engaging in social contact (this can also be virtual!) getting enough sleep regularly, eating healthier (when fueling your body, remember first, food is food!) talking to a trusted friend or family member, and finally practicing mindfulness, meditation, relaxation.

Symptoms more severe and lasting longer than 2 weeks? Difficulty sleeping, appetite changes resulting in unwanted weight change, struggling to get out of bed in the morning due to mood, difficulty concentrating, loss of interest in things you usually enjoy, unable to perform daily functions and responsibilities and thoughts of death and self-harm, you should seek help from a professional and determine the best fit for help, medications

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MOVING/CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

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

gghosen@nacswny.org

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and therapy could make a huge change.

Mental Wellness can be a great prevention tool when it comes to mental health and suicide. Mental Wellness is not the opposite of Mental Illness. Mental Wellness is multi-dimensional, holistic and personal. Mental Wellness is an active process that helps us to build resilience, grow and flourish. Mental, emotional social and psychological factors all play a role in our mental wellness. How we think, process and understand information, how we feel, manage and express emotions, how we connect and our relationships with others, how we act, function and put the pieces together.

Here are six steps to building emotional wellness.

- 1) **Build resilience.** Develop healthy habits, take time for yourself each day, look at problems from other angles, practice gratitude, explore your belief about the meaning and purpose of life, and tap into social connections and community.
- 2) **Reduce stress.** Get enough sleep, exercise regularly, build a social support network, set priorities, show compassion for yourself, schedule regular time for relaxation and mindfulness activities, seek help if needed.
- 3) **Get quality sleep.** Go to bed at the same time each night in a

dark, quiet environment. Limit electronics before bed and don't get your 30 mins of exercise in too close to bedtime. Relax before bedtime and don't use alcohol or stimulants (such as nicotine or caffeine). Avoid naps after midafternoon and get some natural sunlight. Seek professional help if sleep problems persist.

- 4) **Strengthen social connections.** Build strong relationships with your kids and get active and share healthy habits with family and friends. Join groups focused on your favorite hobbies (reading, hiking etc.). Take a class to learn something new, volunteer, or travel.
- 5) **Cope with loss.** Take care of yourself, talk to friends and support, find a grief support group, don't make any major changes right away, talk to your doctor and be patient.
- 6) **Be mindful.** Take some deep breaths, take a walk, practice mindful eating, be aware of your body, and find mindfulness resources:

NY Project Hope-
www.nyprojecthope.org

Call or Text the National Suicide Crisis Line: 988

716-834-3131 Crisis Services (local)

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

submitted by George T. Ghosen, Editor

Suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background. In fact, suicide is often the result of an untreated mental health condition. Suicidal thoughts, although common, should not be considered normal and often indicate more serious issues.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month —a time to raise
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awareness of this stigmatized, and often taboo, topic. Use this month to shift public perception, spread hope and share vital information to people affected by suicide. Our goal is ensuring that individuals, friends and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and to seek help.

Crisis Resources

- If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, [call](#) or [text 988](#) immediately.
- [Know the Warning Signs and Risk Factors of Suicide](#)
- [Be Prepared for a Crisis](#)
- [Read our guide "Navigating a Mental Health Crisis"](#)
- [What You Need to Know About Youth Suicide](#)
- If you need more information, referrals or support? Contact the [NAMI HelpLine](#).

Share Key Fast Facts

These are only a few of the reasons why it's important to take part in promoting Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Please use these facts to encourage discussions with your community through social media or other forms of outreach.

Individual Impact:

- 79% of all people who die by suicide are male.
- Although more women than men attempt suicide, men are nearly 4x more likely to die by suicide.
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among people aged 10–34 and the 12th leading cause of death overall in the U.S.
- The overall suicide rate in the U.S. has increased by 35% since 1999.
- 46% of people who die by suicide had a diagnosed mental health condition.
- While nearly half of individuals who die by suicide have a diagnosed mental health condition, research shows that 90% may have experienced symptoms of a mental health condition.

Community Impact:

- Annual prevalence of serious thoughts of suicide, by U.S. demographic group:
 - 4.9% of all adults
 - 11.3% of young adults aged 18-25
 - 18.8% of high school students
 - 45% of lesbian, gay and bisexual high school students
- The highest rates of suicide in the U.S. are among American Indian/Alaska Native and non-Hispanic white communities.
- Lesbian, gay and bisexual youth are 4x more likely to attempt suicide than straight youth.
- Transgender adults are nearly 9x more likely to attempt suicide than the general population.
- Suicide is the leading cause of death for people held in local jails.

Data from CDC, NIMH and other select sources.

Native American Suicide Prevention

Suicide rates among Native American people are the highest of any racial/ethnic group in the United States. The risk of suicide is particularly high among youth and young adults. In 2019, suicide was the second leading cause of death for Native American people between the ages of 10 and 34.

Several complex and interrelated factors contribute to suicide risk and other health disparities in Native American communities. These include mental health disorders, substance use, historical trauma and loss, and other contexts of inequity. Factors that can protect Native American youth and young adults against suicide include a sense of belonging to one's culture, a strong tribal/spiritual bond, the

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opportunity to discuss problems with family or friends, feeling connected to family, and positive emotional health.

An article posted by the *Huffington Post* relayed the disturbing fact that 40 percent of Native Americans who die by suicide are between the ages of 15 and 24. And among young adults ages 18 to 24, Native Americans have higher rates of suicide than any other ethnicity, and higher than the general population.

The article also discussed the reality that “these relatively small communities are also at much higher risk than the national average for other health issues.” These include alcohol abuse and alcohol-related deaths, as well as a higher occurrence of diabetes and tuberculosis. As a group, they also have the highest rate of intimate partner violence in the U.S., and Native American children are at twice the risk for abuse and neglect. All of these factors, including the possibility of poverty and unemployment, help foster an overwhelming sense of loss and despair among Native American youth.

The causes of suicide are complex and include a range of factors, not all of which are always apparent. Mental illness plays a role in almost 90 percent of suicides, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and such conditions are often treatable. In the case of the Native American community, mental health resources are in short supply and don't always reach them.

The Indian Health Services department, which delivers care to 2.2 million Native Americans, continues to be underfunded. Its budget technically increased 56 percent from 2006 to 2015, but in constant 2001 dollars that's an increase of only 33 percent, the department reports. IHS' per-person spending is only about \$3,000, as compared to roughly \$8,000 spent on healthcare per person by the general population.

Several recent studies have sought to identify risk factors and protective factors relating to suicide among Native American youth. Stressful life events and depression were found to be the strongest predictors of suicide ideation among tribal youth in one study. Other risk factors include parents or other caregivers with substance use problems and the individual's substance use history, particularly alcohol and marijuana.

Having a friend or family member die (by suicide or other cause) increases the suicide risk for Native American youth. The injustice and historical trauma suffered by American Indians and Alaska Natives (removal/resettlement, destruction of cultures and economies) also contributes to the high suicide rate in this population.

Among the protective and resiliency factors identified for Native American youth are participation in cultural activities and positive relationships with adults. For girls, positive relationships with adults at home, at school and in the community were associated with lower likelihood of suicide attempts in one study; for boys it only held true for positive relationships at home.

A review of more than a dozen studies of Native American youth identified several categories of protective factors positively associated with emotional health (depression and suicide attempt) and with other health and social outcomes. These factors include current and/or future aspirations, personal wellness, positive self-image, positive relationships with family members and with others in school or the community, and cultural connectedness.

Project Trust

Native American youth represent the resiliency and continued survival of many nations and tribes. They symbolize the hope, dreams, and cultural continuity for future generations to come. It is with

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this understanding that **Project Trust** members embarked on an effort to examine those things that have influenced both positive and negative challenges to providing behavioral health care for Native American adolescents. A key concept in facilitating this examination was approaching the “experts” – our community- and asking them why they thought the aftermath of colonialism, including historical trauma and current institutional inequalities, has resulted in numerous health disparities for Native American youth.

[Project TRUST Partnership](#)

More to read:

1. [Resources Specific to American Indian/Alaskan Native \(Native American\) Communities](#)
2. [WeRNative](#)
3. [American Psychiatry Association-Suicide Prevention](#)

Resources:

[National Institute of Mental Health](#)
[Indian Health Service](#)
[Native Hope](#)
[HuffPost](#)



Native News - First Native Woman in Space, Nicole Mann

Native News Online, August 27, 2022

As early as October 3, 2022, NASA astronaut Nicole Mann will make history as she embarks on a mission to the International Space Station with three other crew members. She will be the first Native American to travel into space! Astronaut Mann is from the Wailacki of the Round Valley Indian Tribes. She will be the mission commander and responsible for the flight from launch to re-entry. She will also serve as an Expedition 68 flight engineer on the station. You can read the interview she conducted with [Native News Online](#) [here](#).

We wish her all the best for a safe and historical mission.

Welcome to Our New Employee - La Tanya Pitts

My name is La Tanya Pitts. When you see me, please feel free to call me Tanya. I was born and raised in Buffalo, NY. I received my Bachelor of Science with a concentration in Community and Human Services degree from SUNY Empire State College in 2012 after years of proving myself in the child welfare field. I have over 20 years of professional work experience in Child Welfare in the capacities of Case Planner/Worker, Supervisor, Executive Director, Family Support Specialist and Clinical Supervisor. I have worked my way up in this field by being a “doer,” by taking action and assisting in areas of need with vigor and efficiency. I believe wholeheartedly in facilitating change by being nonjudgmental, treating people with respect, being honest and meeting people where they are at.

I am a wife of 25 years, a proud mother of three children, a devout Bill’s Fan ((GO Bills))! I enjoy the solace of water and the sky. I enjoy cooking, shopping and traveling!

Welcome and best wishes for Tanya!

World Sexual Health Day

Submitted by Melissa Zielinski, Stages of Life Empowerment Program

September 4th is World Sexual Health Day, and since one of NACS' components is the Stages of Life Empowerment Program, it is important to give some information on how to protect your sexual health.

If you are sexually active, it is important to make sure you are getting tested for STIs at least once a year or in between every new sexual partner. You can get tested at most sexual health clinics, such as Planned Parenthood & Evergreen, and many walk-in clinics, emergency clinics, and doctors' offices as well.

It is also important to use barrier methods every time you have any type of sexual intercourse in order to prevent STIs. These barrier methods include dental dams (for oral sex on a vulva or anus); external condoms (for vaginal, anal, or oral sex with a penis); and internal condoms (inside the vagina or anus). Barrier methods offer very effective STI prevention when used correctly and consistently every time you have sex.

Some other ways to reduce

STI transmission are; avoiding multiple or overlapping partners, never sharing needles or works for any reason, never sharing sex toys and cleaning in-between each use, abstaining from drugs and alcohol, talking to your partner(s) about sexual and drug-use history, using PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) if you think you are at an increased risk for HIV, getting vaccinated for HPV (Human Papilloma Virus), knowing your own STI status, and any other practices that will make you feel safer in regards to your own sexual health!

It is also important to note that most STIs are curable, and all STIs are treatable! If you test positive for an STI, it is important to get treated as soon as possible so you avoid passing it on to others, and so you can eliminate any symptoms you may be experiencing. If you think you may have exposed someone else to an STI, it is very important to tell that person(s) so they can get the proper treatment and avoid passing it on as well.

Note: the most common

symptom of an STI is no symptom! That's why it's so important to get tested frequently. If you do happen to experience symptoms, they may look like: burning when urinating; lower abdominal pain; pain, rashes, or itching near the genitals; pimples, bumps, blisters, sores, or warts near the mouth or genitals; unusual discharge from the penis or vagina; frequent urination; and others. If you experience any of these symptoms, your best bet is to go to your doctor to get tested.

There is a lot of stigma surrounding STIs, but the truth is, most sexually active people will get an STI at some point in their life. In fact, over one in two Americans will have contracted an STI by age 25. A study in 2018 concluded that over one in five people in the United States have an STI at any given time. STIs are common, and nothing to be ashamed of, but it's still important to be safe just in case.

Use some of this information to take care of your sexual health, and have a safe World Sexual Health Day!

¹<https://www.cdc.gov/std/statistics/prevalence-2020-at-a-glance.htm>

²<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0125-sexually-transmitted-infection.html>



Get the Facts:*Your Guide to Understanding the Launch of 988 in Western New York*



Nationwide Access, Local Support: The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is a national hotline supported by a network of crisis centers across the country. [Crisis Services](#) serves as the network center for all 988 calls made within the eight WNY counties, including Erie, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, Orleans, Genesee, Niagara and Wyoming.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is now the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: However, the National Suicide Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will always remain available to people in emotional distress or suicidal crisis. Even after the launch of 988, the number will remain operational.

The Lifeline Works: The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is funded by SAMHSA and has been administered by Vibrant Emotional Health since it began in 2005. Since the Lifeline began in 2005, it has served as an invaluable resource, helping thousands of people overcome suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress every day. With the transition to 988, these life-saving services will be even easier to reach.

Confidential, Free and 24/7: Anyone, anywhere who is experiencing a mental health, substance abuse or suicidal crisis can dial 988 and connect with trained crisis counselors.

988 Is Not 911: While 911 is an emergency service that triages and dispatches immediately, 988 provides immediate support by a trained crisis counselor and connections to various levels of intervention services based on the caller's needs. All interactions with 988 are voluntary and anonymous.

Any Phone, Any Where: 988 access is available through every land line, cell phone, and voice-over internet device in the United States. If you call from a WNY area code, you will reach a skilled Crisis Services hotline counselor.

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Here for You & Those You Care About: Anyone can use 988 if they are having thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crises, or any other kind of emotional distress. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

Apoyo En Su Idioma: 988 services are available in over 150 languages, including Spanish, and interpretation services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing users.

Call, Text or Chat: If you prefer not to call, you can text 988 instead. You can also chat with a counselor by visiting www.988lifeline.org.

Should I Call 988 or Crisis Services' 24-Hour Hotline? The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline offers support for anyone experiencing a suicidal, mental health or substance abuse crisis in WNY. We still encourage **Erie County** providers and community members to contact Crisis Services' 24-Hour Hotline (716-834-3131) directly. This ensures immediate local access to our hotline counselors and connection to our organization's various crisis response services including suicide prevention and emergency mental health crisis response, as well as support for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and elder abuse. Whichever line you call, our trained counselors are available to provide individualized assistance around-the-clock.

24-Hour Hotline Information for Other WNY Counties:

Niagara County Crisis Services: 716-285-3515
Chautauqua County Mental Health Hotline: 1-800-724-0461
Genesee County: 585-344-1421 (Daytime) • 585-283-5200 (Afterhours)
Wyoming and Orleans Counties Crisis Line: 585-283-5200
Allegany County Crisis Hotline: 1-888-448-3367
Cattaraugus OGH 24-Hour Crisis Hotline: 1-800-339-5209

Additional Resources to Explore:

[SAMHSA's 988 Partner Toolkit](#)
[NYS Office of Mental Health's 988 Information Page](#)
[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline's Website](#)
[NYS 988 Updates and Education Newsletter](#)

988 IS A NATIONAL SERVICE PROVIDED LOCALLY BY:



100 River Road Drive | Suite 300 | Buffalo, NY 14207
24-Hour Crisis Hotline: 716-834-3131
Administrative Line: 716-834-2310
www.crisisservices.org



**NYS OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT,
OVERSIGHT AND EXECUTION OF 988 FOR NEW YORK STATE**

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



A Tradition of Caring

Services we provide:

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

Funding Available to Eligible Native Americans for:

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

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

Buffalo Office
716-574-9731

Rochester Office
585-514-3984

Syracuse Office
315-322-8754

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

Counties we serve:

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

Funded by the US Department of Labor

Workforce Development Services

Submitted by Colleen Casali – Economic Empowerment Services Director

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

Services provided to eligible participants:

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

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

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

If you live in one of these counties:

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

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

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

Native American Community Services

FOOD PANTRY

1005 Grant St
Buffalo NY, 14207

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



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

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

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

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

Job Postings



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

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

Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Family Preservation Caseworker

Type: Hourly / Non-Exempt

Salary/ Range: \$19.23 / hour

Offices: Erie & Niagara Counties (multiple open positions)

Summary :

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

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

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

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS

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

ForConsideration: Send Resume to:

humanresources@nacswny.org



**Native American Community Services
of Erie and Niagara Counties
Job Posting**



JOB TITLE	Workforce Development Specialist	COMPONENT	Economic Empowerment
LOCATION	Buffalo Office	WORK STATUS	Part-Time/Non-Exempt
REPORTS TO	Economic Empowerment Director	DATE WRITTEN	April 1, 2022

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

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

1. Conducts initial intake and comprehensive testing to determine client eligibility and needs.
2. Develops an Individual Employment Plan (IEP) with the client.
3. Develops and provides workshops to clients in such areas of academic, life skills, and technical areas.
4. Keeps abreast of current trends in the local job market.
5. Establishes an effective support network and provides referrals for clients.
6. Attends and participates in weekly component staff and other required meetings.
7. Maintains necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.
8. Develops an outreach action plan to successfully recruit and retain participants and employers into the program.
9. 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.
10. Develops and nurtures relationships with employers for on-the-job training agreements and work experience opportunities for clients.
11. Other duties as assigned.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES: NO DIRECT SUPERVISION



**Native American Community Services
of Erie and Niagara Counties
Job Posting**



KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED: Bachelor's degree in human service or related field of study preferred, with three (3) years' experience in workforce development including supervision and program management, or a combination of education and work experience. Knowledge of local area service providers. Effective program solving, organization, time management, and communication skills. Knowledge of local Native American communities. Ability to work flexible hours including evenings and/or weekends. Computer skills and working knowledge of Microsoft Office required. Ability to become certified in Red Cross CPR and First Aid. Must maintain a clean and valid driver's license.

All NACS staff will adhere to agency policies and procedures as well as become familiar with and abide by the Social Work Code of Ethics as it applies to their position at NACS.

I have read and understand the job description as explained to me. I acknowledge this is not a contract, as the agency is an at-will entity. I agree to perform the duties and tasks as assigned this position for the duration of my tenure at NACS.

EMPLOYEE NAME: _____	SUPERVISOR NAME: _____
EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE: _____	SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE: _____



Native American Community Services
of Erie and Niagara Counties

Job Posting



JOB TITLE	Workforce Development Specialist	COMPONENT	Economic Empowerment
LOCATION	Buffalo Office	WORK STATUS	Full Time/Non-Exempt
REPORTS TO	Economic Empowerment Director	DATE WRITTEN	April 1, 2022

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

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

1. Conducts initial intake and comprehensive testing to determine client eligibility and needs.
2. Develops an Individual Employment Plan (IEP) with the client.
3. Develops and provides workshops to clients in such areas of academic, life skills, and technical areas.
4. Keeps abreast of current trends in the local job market.
5. Establishes an effective support network and provides referrals for clients.
6. Attends and participates in weekly component staff and other required meetings.
7. Maintains necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.
8. Develops an outreach action plan to successfully recruit and retain participants and employers into the program.
9. 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.
10. Develops and nurtures relationships with employers for on-the-job training agreements and work experience opportunities for clients.
11. Other duties as assigned.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES: NO DIRECT SUPERVISION



**Native American Community Services
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EMPLOYEE NAME: _____	SUPERVISOR NAME: _____
EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE: _____	SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE: _____

Job Posting



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

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

Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Workforce Development Specialist

Type: Hourly / Non-Exempt

Salary / Range: \$19.00 / hour

Office: Rochester (Extensive Travel Required)

Summary :

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

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS

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

For Consideration: Send Application & Resume to:

humanresources@nacswny.org

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

Please share this newsletter with family, friends and co-workers. If you know of anyone who would like to receive NACS News monthly by email, please have them send their first and last name and current email address to:

gghosen@nacswny.org

You can also look for our newsletter on our website:
http://www.nacswny.org/news_and_events.html

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

<p>Please accept my contribution of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$5 <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p>I'd like to volunteer my time. I can...</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Please detach and return to:</p> <p>Native American Community Services of Erie & Niagara Counties, Inc. 1005 Grant Street, Buffalo, New York 14207</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Name</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Address</p> <p>_____</p> <p>City / State / Zip Code</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Phone</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Please add me to your mailing list!</p>
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FUNDED BY: Erie County Department of Social Services; Erie County Youth Bureau; New York State Office of Children & Family Services; New York State Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services; NYS DOH/Family Health; NYS OASAS; Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo; Niagara County Department of Social Services, Niagara County Office of the Aging; US Department of Labor; Administration for Native Americans (ANA); Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation; The Tower Foundation, The Oishei Foundation as well as businesses, foundations and caring individuals.