



NAACS

NEWS

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**Native American
Community Services**

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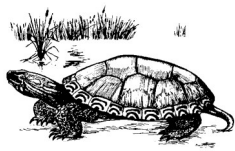
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National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

From *National Today*, June 2026

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month unfolds throughout July, shining a vital light on the unique mental health experiences within BIPOC communities. Join Mental Health America in advocating for equitable access to care and dismantling systemic barriers. Engage, educate, and support initiatives that foster mental wellness for everyone.

History of National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

Bebe Moore Campbell was the driving force behind National Minority Health Awareness Month. She was an author, advocate, co-founder of the National Alliance of Mental Illness, Urban Los Angeles who actively campaigned for mental health education and improving mental healthcare facilities in impoverished communities. In 2005, Campbell and her friend, Linda Wharton-Boyd decided it was time to end stigma and make mental health facilities accessible for everyone. Wharton-Boyd suggested dedicating a month to the effort. The two friends worked together to develop the concept of National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month and what it would entail. The Department of Mental Health stepped in and Anthony Williams held a news conference to encourage residents to get mental health checkups.

The importance of the month was quickly realized and people started to join the cause wholeheartedly. The two of them held book signings, spoke in churches, and created a National Minority Mental Health Taskforce of healthcare workers, patients, friends, and allies. However, the efforts came to a standstill when Campbell was di-

agnosed with cancer. She passed away soon after but Wharton-Boyd and other advocates for National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month reignited their cause. It was decided that Campbell's efforts would not go in vain. The group researched and obtained the support of Representatives Albert Wynn and Diane Watson who signed legislation to create an official National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in 2006.

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month timeline

- ◆ **1100 B.C. - First Record**
Mental health illness is first recorded in Ancient China.
- ◆ **1856 - Birth of Freud**
The father of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud is born in the Czech Republic.
- ◆ **Early 20th Century - Psychoanalysis**
Psychoanalysis is developed to understand mental disorders.
- ◆ **World War II - The DSM**
The first Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) comes into existence.

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month FAQs

1. **When is National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month?**
National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month runs throughout July 2026. This annual observance dedicates the entire month to highlighting the mental health challenges and disparities faced by minority communities.
2. **How many minorities are**

affected by mental health conditions?

According to Mental Health America, nearly 18% of the U.S. population identifies as a racial or ethnic minority, and about 16% of this group reported having a mental illness in the past year. However, access to care and culturally competent treatment remains a significant challenge.

3. What organizations support minority mental health?

Many organizations are dedicated to supporting minority mental health, including Mental Health America, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and the Boris Lawrence Henson Foundation. These groups offer resources, advocacy, and direct services.

4. Why is July designated for this awareness?

July was designated as National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in 2008 in honor of Bebe Moore Campbell, a mental health advocate who worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the unique struggles of minority communities. Her efforts led to this crucial recognition.

How to Observe National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

1. **Help someone in need**
If you feel someone needs mental health care and attention, encourage them to seek help from professionals. You can send resources their way.
2. **Donate and volunteer**
Mental healthcare facilities in minority communities are always in need of funds and volunteers. You can donate money

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or even volunteer your time to help out.

3. Be kind

Empathy and kindness go a long way in helping those with mental illnesses. Lend an ear to a friend and let them know that you care about their well-being.

5 Facts About The Brain That Will Blow Your Mind

1. Brain surgeries aren't very new

In fact, the first recorded brain surgery happened during the Stone Age.

2. Brains shrink in size

As we get older, our brains tend to get smaller with age. This usually happens after

middle age.

3. The brain needs a lot of energy

Our brains consume almost 20% of the body's total oxygen and blood supply.

4. Brains are quite heavy

The human brain, on average, weighs three pounds.

5. The brain is divided into three parts

The three major parts of the brain are the cerebrum, cerebellum, and brain stem.

Why National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month is Important

A. It saves lives

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

saves hundreds of vulnerable lives every year with timely help and a supportive network of allies.

B. Makes the world a better place

This initiative was started with the genuine hope of making the world a better and more inclusive place for everyone, especially those who have been historically neglected.

C. It destigmatizes mental health issues

There's a lot of prejudice and stigma surrounding mental health issues. This month aims to fight misinformation so that those who are struggling don't feel left out.

UV Safety Month

From [Skin and Cancer Institute](#)

Sun safety is important all year, but this month, we're strengthening our commitment to keep you safe from UV radiation. July is **UV Safety Awareness Month**, a time we encourage everyone to take steps to protect themselves from the dangers of ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

Summertime is all about enjoying the sunny weather, but it's crucial to minimize your ultraviolet radiation exposure while you're at it.

What is UV radiation?

Ultraviolet radiation is a type of electromagnetic radiation that is invisible to the naked eye. It is made up of high-energy waves that can damage DNA and cause sunburns. It comes from the sun and can also come from artificial sources like tanning beds.

UV radiation is divided into two main categories: UVA (aging) and UVB (burning). UVA rays are the

longest and can penetrate deep into the skin, causing premature aging and wrinkles. UVB rays are shorter and cause sunburns. Both types of UV radiation can be harmful to your skin.

What are the risks associated with UV radiation?

Exposure to UV radiation can cause sunburn, premature aging, and skin cancer. Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States. In fact, according to the American Cancer Society, more than 3.5 million cases of skin cancer are diagnosed each year in the US. Plus, skin cancer rates are on the rise.

Did you know that just a few minutes of sun exposure each day can add up over time and put you at risk for serious health problems? That's why it's essential to protect yourself from UV radiation exposure to minimize your risk of one of the three

types of skin cancer.

Types of Skin Cancer

There are three main types of skin cancer: basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and melanoma.

1. **Basal cell carcinoma**-is the most common type of skin cancer, accounting for about 80 percent of all cases. It is typically slow-growing and can be treated effectively with surgery or radiation.

2. **Squamous cell carcinoma**-makes up about 20 percent of all skin cancer cases and tends to occur on sun-exposed areas of the body such as the face, neck, and hands.

3. **Melanoma**-is the most serious type of skin cancer, accounting for about four percent of all cases. It can be very aggressive and spread quickly to other body parts if not caught early.

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Tips for minimizing sun exposure

You can do a few things to minimize your sun exposure and reduce your risk of skin damage.

R Try to stay in the shade as much as possible. If you are in the sun, wear protective clothing such as a long-sleeved shirt and pants.

R You should also apply sunscreen with a high SPF rating to exposed skin.

R Avoid being in the sun during peak hours, typically between 10 am and 4 pm.

By taking these precautions, you can help to protect your skin from the harmful effects of UV radiation.

What sunscreen provides the best protection against UV rays?

When it comes to sunscreen, there are a few things you should look for in order to ensure that you're getting the best possible protection. Choose a sunscreen with an **SPF of 30 or higher**. Make sure that the sunscreen is broad-spectrum, which will protect against both UVA and UVB rays. And, choose a water-resistant sunscreen if you'll be spending time in the water.

Common myths about UV radiation that you need to stop believing

There are several myths about UV radiation that circulate each year. Here are a few of the most common UV myths – and why you should stop believing them.

Myth 1: I don't need to worry about UV radiation when it's cloudy.

The truth is that UV rays are just as harmful on cloudy days as on sunny days. Up to 80% of UV rays can penetrate through clouds. So, even if you're only going to be outside for a short period of time on a cloudy day, it's important to take precautions against UV exposure.

Myth 2: I don't need to worry

about UV radiation if I have dark skin.

While it's true that people with darker skin have a higher natural SPF than those with lighter skin, this does not mean that they are immune to the effects of UV radiation. Darker skin can still suffer from sunburn, premature aging, and even skin cancer. So, it's essential for everyone – regardless of skin color – to take steps to protect themselves from UV radiation exposure.

Myth 3: I don't need to worry about UV radiation when wearing sunscreen.

While sunscreen is a vital part of any sun safety plan, it's not the only thing you need to do to protect yourself from UV radiation. You should also take steps to avoid excessive sun exposure and wear protective clothing when you are in the sun.

What are the consequences of not protecting yourself from UV radiation?

If you don't take steps to protect yourself from UV radiation, you put yourself at risk for a number of serious health consequences. These include sunburn, premature aging, eye damage, and skin cancer.

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States, and UV radiation is the leading cause of skin cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, approximately 99,000 new melanoma cases are diagnosed in the United States each year, leading to about 7,000 deaths.

But, skin cancer is one of the most preventable types of cancer. So, make sure to take steps to protect yourself during UV safety awareness month and all

year long.

How can you tell if you've gotten too much sun exposure?

There are a few signs that you may have gotten too much sun exposure. These include red or sunburned skin, pain or tenderness in the sun-exposed area, skin that is warm to the touch, and swelling. If you experience any of these symptoms, get out of the sun and seek shade immediately.

What can you do about too much UV radiation exposure?

If you have gotten too much sun exposure, you can do a few things to help relieve your symptoms. These include taking a cool bath or shower, using a cool compress, and taking over-the-counter pain medication. If your symptoms are severe, you may need to seek medical attention.

Do regular skin self-checks

It's essential to do regular self-checks for skin cancer, especially if you're fair-skinned or have a history of sun exposure. Here's how to do a skin self-check:

- ◇ Start by examining your entire body in a well-lit room, using a mirror to help you see all areas. Look for any new or changing moles or growths on the skin. Check for any spots that are red, scaly, or bleeding.
- ◇ Pay special attention to areas that are exposed to the sun, such as the face, neck, chest, and arms. Also, check your back, legs, and feet. Use a hand mirror to help you see all areas of your body.
- ◇ If you find anything unusual, [make an appointment](#) with a dermatologist immediately. They can determine if it's skin cancer or something else. Early detection is key to the success-

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ful treatment of skin cancer.

See your dermatologist annually for a skin check.

Over time, UV exposure can lead to changes in the skin that may be precancerous or cancerous. A dermatologist can spot these changes early and recommend treatment

options, which could help prevent the development of skin cancer.

In addition to checking for signs of skin cancer, your dermatologist can also offer guidance on how to care for your skin and protect it from further damage. They can recommend specific

products and ingredients to suit your individual needs, and they can also provide tips on reducing exposure to UV radiation.

So don't wait – [book that appointment](#) today during UV Safety Awareness Month! Your skin will thank you for it.

Native Americans and America's 250th Birthday

America's 250th birthday in 2026 – the **Semiquincentennial** – is a huge national milestone, but it also lands on complicated ground when you bring **Native American history** into the picture. The short version: the United States will be celebrating 250 years since the Declaration of Independence, while many Native nations will be reflecting on **250 years of survival, resistance, and continuity** in the face of colonization.

The Core Tension: Celebration vs. Survival

The United States marks 250 years of independence, but Native nations have histories stretching **thousands of years** before 1776. For many Native communities, the founding of the U.S. is tied to:

- ◆ Land loss
- ◆ Broken treaties
- ◆ Forced removal
- ◆ Assimilation policies
- ◆ Cultural suppression

So while the U.S. frames 2026 as a celebration, many Native nations frame it as a moment to highlight **endurance, sovereignty, and ongoing struggles**.

How Native Nations Are Approaching the 250th

Here are the major themes emerging from Native organizations, scholars, and tribal governments:

- ◆ **Historical truth-telling** – Emphasizing accurate accounts of

colonization, treaty violations, and Native resistance.

- ◆ **Sovereignty and self-determination** – Using the national spotlight to push for recognition of treaty rights and tribal governance.
- ◆ **Cultural revitalization** – Showcasing language preservation, traditional arts, and Indigenous knowledge systems.
- ◆ **Education reform** – Advocating for Native history to be taught accurately in schools, especially during the Semiquincentennial year.
- ◆ **Visibility and representation** – Ensuring Native voices are included in official America250 programming.

What America250 (the official commission) is doing

The America250 Commission has stated that Native perspectives **must** be part of the commemoration. This includes:

- ◆ Partnerships with tribal nations
- ◆ Exhibits on Indigenous history
- ◆ Public events centering Native voices
- ◆ Grants for Native-led cultural projects

But Native leaders have also pushed the commission to go further – not just include Indigenous stories but **center** them.

Why This Moment Matters

America's 250th isn't just a birthday party. It's a national reflection point. For Native communities, it's a chance to:

- Reassert **sovereignty**
- Correct **historical narratives**
- Highlight **ongoing injustices** (land rights, missing and murdered Indigenous women, environmental issues)
- Celebrate **resilience and continuity**

For non-Native Americans, it's an opportunity to understand that the story of the U.S. is incomplete without Indigenous history – before, during, and after 1776.

Native perspectives on July 4th

Native perspectives on **July 4th** are diverse, but they share a common thread: the holiday carries a very different historical weight for Indigenous peoples than it does for the broader United States. The central reality is this: while July 4th celebrates U.S. independence, for many Native nations it also marks the beginning—or acceleration—of **land loss, cultural suppression, and violent expansion**.^[1,2]

The Core Issue: Independence for Whom?

The Declaration of Independence famously proclaims that “all men are created equal,” but it also la-

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bels Native peoples as “merciless Indian savages.”^[1,3] This line is not a footnote – it shaped early U.S. policy and justified westward expansion at the direct expense of Indigenous nations.

For many Native communities, July 4th symbolizes:

- ◆ **Dispossession of land** as settlers moved west after 1776
- ◆ **Population decline** due to warfare, disease, and forced removal
- ◆ **Erosion of cultural freedoms**, including bans on ceremonies in the late 1800s
- ◆ **Broken treaties** and loss of sovereignty

These historical realities make the holiday emotionally and politically complex.

Three Major Native Perspectives on July 4th

Native viewpoints are not monolithic. Sources consistently show three broad responses:^[4]

1. Refusal to Celebrate

Many Native people choose not to celebrate because:

- ◆ July 4th represents the rise of a nation built on **Indigenous displacement**.
- ◆ The U.S. government historically **banned Native ceremonies**, including dances and feasts, through the **Religious Crimes Code** (1880s–1930s).
- ◆ Celebrating the birth of the U.S. can feel like celebrating the institutions that harmed their communities.

2. Celebration as a Social Gathering

Some Native communities use July 4th simply as a **day off** or a **time for tribal gatherings** unrelated to patriotism. Examples include:

- ◆ Powwows
- ◆ Family reunions

- ◆ Ceremonies that historically had to be held in secret

In fact, many tribes hold major cultural events on July 4th precisely because they were once forbidden to do so.^[1]

3. Patriotic Celebration

Some Native Americans celebrate July 4th out of:

- ◆ **Patriotism**
- ◆ **Military service traditions** (Native people serve in the U.S. military at some of the highest rates of any group)
- ◆ A belief in the **ideals** of freedom and unity, even while acknowledging the past

This perspective recognizes both Native identity and U.S. citizenship.

Why July 4th Is Historically Painful

Several key historical facts shape Native reactions:

- ◆ The Declaration’s language fueled settler hostility and expansion.^[3]
- ◆ After independence, settlers flooded into Native lands, accelerating displacement.^[1]
- ◆ The U.S. government **criminalized Native ceremonies** for ~50 years, from the 1880s to the 1930s.^[2,5]
- ◆ Many tribes described the American Revolution as “**the greatest blow**” to their people.^[1]

These events make July 4th a reminder of survival rather than independence.

How Some Tribes Reclaimed the Day

Despite the painful history, many tribes have transformed July 4th into a day of:

- ◆ **Cultural revival**
- ◆ **Honoring Native veterans** (e.g., Navajo, Pawnee)
- ◆ **Community celebration**
- ◆ **Ceremonial continuity** that

was once outlawed
This reclaiming turns a symbol of oppression into a symbol of resilience.^[1]

Include Native history respectfully
Including **Native history respectfully** means shifting from a token “add-on” approach to one where Indigenous nations are treated as **sovereign peoples**, not historical footnotes. The goal is accuracy, dignity, and presence – not guilt, not romanticism, and not erasure.

The Core Principle: “Nothing about us without us”

Respectful inclusion starts with **Native leadership**, not just Native content. That means:

- ◆ Consulting tribal governments, cultural offices, or Native scholars
- ◆ Using tribally approved sources
- ◆ Prioritizing Indigenous voices over non-Native interpretations

This is the single most important shift.

Five Ways to Include Native History Respectfully

1. Center Tribal Sovereignty

Native nations are **governments**, not ethnic groups. Respectful inclusion means:

- ◆ Naming the specific nation (e.g., Haudenosaunee, Diné, Ojibwe)
- ◆ Acknowledging treaty rights
- ◆ Recognizing that tribes have their own laws, cultures, and histories

This avoids the “generic Native American” problem.

2. Use Accurate, Nation-Specific History

Each tribe has its own story. Avoid broad statements like “Native Americans believed...” Instead:

- ◆ Identify the nation

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- ◆ Use their own historical accounts when available
- ◆ Avoid stereotypes (e.g., “living in harmony with nature”)

Accuracy is respect.

3. Acknowledge Both Harm and Resilience

Respectful history includes:

- ◆ Land theft
- ◆ Forced removal
- ◆ Boarding schools
- ◆ Broken treaties

But it also includes:

- ◆ Survival
- ◆ Cultural revival
- ◆ Language revitalization
- ◆ Modern political and legal victories

Native history is not only tragedy – it’s continuity.

4. Avoid Past–Tense Framing

Native peoples are not “gone,” “vanished,” or “extinct.” Use present–tense language:

- ◆ “The Seneca Nation is...”
- ◆ “The Lakota continue...”
- ◆ “The Mohawk community maintains...”

This corrects centuries of erasure.

5. Include Native Voices Directly

Respectful inclusion means:

- ◆ Quoting Native authors
- ◆ Using tribally run museums and cultural centers
- ◆ Inviting Native speakers to events
- ◆ Supporting Native-led projects

Representation is not symbolic – it’s relational.

What NOT to Do (Common Mistakes)

- ◆ Don’t lump all tribes together
 - ◆ Don’t use outdated terms (“Indian,” “tribe” is OK when referring to a specific nation)
 - ◆ Don’t rely on Hollywood or textbook stereotypes
 - ◆ Don’t treat Native history as only pre–1900
 - ◆ Don’t use sacred items (headdresses, drums) as props
- Respect means boundaries.

(¹ [The Indigenous Foundation](#), ² [Smithsonian Magazine](#), ³ [The General Commission on Religion and Race](#), ⁴ [NativePartnerships.org](#), ⁵ [IndianReservation.info](#),

Visualizing the Story



July 2026 Awareness Observances

Submitted by Bonnie LaForme, IHAWP Facilitation Assistant

Date / Period	Observance	Focus Area
All Month	Disability Pride Month	Disability identity & inclusion
All Month	Independent Retailer Month	Economic inclusion & community
July 1	Canada Day	National identity
July 4	Independence Day (U.S.)	National history
July 11	World Population Day	Global equity & sustainability
July 14	International Non-Binary People’s Day	Gender identity & visibility
July 14	Bastille Day (France)	National history
July 16	Rath Yatra (Hindu)	Faith, culture & community
July 18	Nelson Mandela International Day	Leadership & social justice
July 23	Tisha B’Av	Remembrance & reflection
July 24	International Self-Care Day	Well-being & balance
July 24	Pioneer Day (LDS)	Faith, migration & heritage
July 25	National Hire a Veteran Day	Veterans & employment
July 26	Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)	Disability rights
July 26	Parents’ Day (U.S.)	Family & caregiving

World Hepatitis Day – July 28, 2026

World Hepatitis Day mobilizes global action every July 28 to raise awareness about viral hepatitis, a group of infectious diseases that attack the liver. This vital day promotes testing, prevention, and access to treatment for all five types of the disease. Join the movement by getting informed, sharing facts, and supporting eradication efforts worldwide.

287 million people are living with viral hepatitis – the world’s deadliest communicable disease. Most don’t even know.

- Viral hepatitis often shows no symptoms, so many won’t know they have it until it’s too late.
- Chronic hepatitis B and C are the world’s leading cause of liver cancer. More than 1.3 million people die because of hepatitis B or C each year – that’s the most of any communicable disease.

- Each year, there are nearly two million new cases.
- But hepatitis is preventable and treatable. We have fast and accurate tests, effective and affordable treatments, and a proven vaccine for hepatitis B. We already have everything we need to eliminate it.
- What’s holding us back? Low awareness, misinformation, myths and stigma are stopping people from accessing hepatitis services – and leading to a lack of action by decision makers.

Let’s break it down.

This World Hepatitis Day, let’s break down the barriers holding us back from a hepatitis-free world.

Our goals:

- Everyone has the knowledge and understanding they need to make informed

choices about hepatitis testing, treatment and vaccination.

- Decision makers become advocates, providing the resources needed to improve the lives of communities affected by hepatitis.
- End hepatitis stigma and ensure no one is left behind.
- Everyone agrees that hepatitis elimination is not only possible but achievable – if we all work together to make it happen.

Take action.

Use the World Hepatitis Day site to discover ways you can break it down for people, get the facts, and help eliminate hepatitis wherever you are.

Sign up to the World Hepatitis Day email list [HERE!](#)

(From [World Hepatitis Day](#))

Haudenosaunee History of Buffalo

The Haudenosaunee history of Buffalo is deep, powerful, and inseparable from the land itself. Buffalo sits on the **traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy** – especially the **Seneca Nation**, the “Keepers of the Western Door.” Their presence here is not just historical; it is continuous, political, and living.

Below is a clear, structured, nation-specific overview that respects sovereignty, accuracy, and Indigenous voice.

1. The Haudenosaunee Confederacy

The Haudenosaunee – often called the Iroquois Confederacy – is one of the **oldest participatory democracies in the world**, formed long before European arrival. It includes six nations:

- Mohawk
- Oneida
- Onondaga
- Cayuga
- Seneca
- Tuscarora

The Seneca Nation, located to the west, has ancestral ties to the entire Buffalo region.

2. Seneca Nation: Keepers of the Western Door

The Seneca were responsible for protecting the Confederacy’s western boundary. Buffalo sits within:

- **Hunting grounds**
- **Travel routes**
- **Village sites**
- **Trade networks**

The Buffalo River, Niagara River, and Lake Erie were central to Seneca life – for food, diplomacy, and transportation.

3. The Great Peace and the Great Law

The Haudenosaunee Confederacy was founded on the **Great Law of Peace**, a sophisticated constitution emphasizing:

- Consensus governance
- Balance between nations
- Clan-based leadership
- Peaceful conflict resolution

This political system influenced early American thinkers, including Benjamin Franklin – though the U.S. did not adopt its principles of gender balance or consensus.

4. Buffalo Before the U.S.: A Haudenosaunee Landscape

Before the city existed, the region was a mosaic of:

- Seneca villages
- Longhouses
- Corn, bean, and squash fields
- Fishing camps
- Maple sugar groves
- Burial sites

The land was not “empty wilderness” – it was a **managed, cultivated, and governed homeland**.

5. Treaties and Land Loss

Buffalo’s development is tied to a series of treaties that dispossessed the Seneca:

- **Treaty of Fort Stanwix (1784)**
- **Treaty of Canandaigua (1794)** – still honored annually
- **Treaty of Big Tree (1797)** – opened Western NY to settlers
- **Fraudulent land deals** by the Holland Land Company

These agreements drastically reduced Seneca territory but **did not extinguish sovereignty**.

6. The Buffalo Creek Reservation

From the late 1700s to mid-1800s, much of present-day Buffalo was part of the **Buffalo Creek Reservation**, a Seneca homeland.

Key facts:

- It covered large parts of modern Buffalo and West Seneca
- It was the site of Seneca councils, ceremonies, and

diplomacy

- The U.S. attempted to remove the Seneca to Kansas in the **1838 Treaty of Buffalo Creek**
- Seneca leaders resisted, and most Seneca people remained in New York

The reservation was illegally dissolved through pressure and fraud, paving the way for Buffalo’s expansion.

7. Survival and Continuity

Despite enormous pressure, the Seneca Nation remains a sovereign government with territories near Buffalo:

- **Cattaraugus Territory** (closest to Buffalo)
- **Allegany Territory**
- **Oil Springs Territory**

Haudenosaunee culture continues through:

- Longhouse ceremonies
- Clan systems
- Language revitalization
- Traditional governance
- Lacrosse
- Environmental stewardship

Buffalo’s Native community today includes Seneca citizens and other members of the Haudenosaunee and many other nations.

8. Haudenosaunee Influence on Buffalo Today

You can see Haudenosaunee presence in:

- Place names (Tonawanda, Cattaraugus, Cheektowaga)
- The annual **Canandaigua Treaty commemoration**
- Seneca casinos and businesses
- Cultural centers and museums
- Environmental activism
- Lacrosse culture

Buffalo is not just *near* Haudenosaunee territory – it *is* Haudenosaunee territory.

Key Haudenosaunee Museums & Cultural Landmarks in Western

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New York

These are the most relevant and authoritative Haudenosaunee-focused sites in the region.

1. Seneca Iroquois National Museum – Salamanca, NY

The premier museum dedicated to the Seneca Nation and broader Haudenosaunee culture.^[1]

- Located on the Allegany Territory
- Exhibits on clan systems, treaties, beadwork, lacrosse, and Seneca history
- Home to the Onöhsagwë:de' Cultural Center
- ~1.25 hours from Buffalo

2. Seneca Art & Culture Center at Ganondagan – Victor, NY^[2]

A major cultural site on the historic Seneca town of Ganondagan, destroyed in 1687.

- Full museum + longhouse reconstruction
- Focus on Seneca arts, agriculture, and diplomacy
- Hosts the annual Native American Dance & Music Festival
- ~1.5 hours from Buffalo

3. Skänoñh Great Law of Peace Center – Liverpool, NY^[3]

A museum dedicated to the Onondaga Nation and the Great Law of Peace, the Haudenosaunee constitution.

- Focus on Haudenosaunee governance, creation stories, and environmental stewardship
- Located on Onondaga Lake, a sacred site
- ~2.5 hours from Buffalo

4. Holland Land Office Museum – Batavia, NY

While not a Native-run museum, it is essential for understanding how Seneca land was dispossessed through the Holland Land Company.

- Exhibits on early settlement and land transactions
- Useful for understanding the

Buffalo Creek Reservation era

- ~45 minutes from Buffalo
- ### 5. Genesee Country Village & Museum – Mumfordsville, NY
- A living-history museum with some interpretation of Haudenosaunee and early settler interactions.
- Not Haudenosaunee-run, but offers contextual regional history
 - ~1 hour from Buffalo

Additional Sites Connected to Haudenosaunee History

These locations are historically significant even if not exclusively Native-focused.

6. Buffalo Creek Reservation Historic Area – Buffalo / West Seneca

While not a single museum, the entire area around:

- Seneca St.
- Indian Church Rd.
- Cazenovia Creek

...was once the heart of the Buffalo Creek Reservation, the last major Seneca homeland in what is now Buffalo.

You can still visit:

- Seneca Indian Park (West Seneca)
- Indian Church Road burial mound area

These are powerful, often overlooked sites.

7. Niagara Falls & Tuscarora Territory – Lewiston / Niagara County

The Tuscarora Nation, the sixth nation of the Confederacy, has territory just north of Niagara Falls.

- Tuscarora Nation House
- Local cultural events
- Historical markers related to the Tuscarora role in the War of 1812

The Buffalo History Museum

The Buffalo History Museum does

include Haudenosaunee history, but it plays a different role than Native-run cultural centers like Ganondagan or the Seneca Iroquois National Museum. It's one of the region's major repositories of artifacts, documents, and exhibits related to the Haudenosaunee, especially the Seneca Nation and the Buffalo Creek Reservation.

Below is a clear, structured overview of what the museum offers, how it fits into Haudenosaunee public history, and what to look for when you visit.

The Buffalo History Museum & Haudenosaunee History

The Buffalo History Museum is a local history museum with collections that include Haudenosaunee materials, especially those connected to:

- The Seneca Nation
- The Buffalo Creek Reservation
- Treaties and land transactions
- Early contact and settlement
- Regional archaeology

It is not a Native-run institution, but it holds important pieces of the region's Indigenous story.

What Haudenosaunee-Related Material You'll Find There

1. Seneca and Haudenosaunee Artifacts

The museum's collection includes:

- Traditional beadwork
- Wampum belts (interpretive displays, not full ceremonial belts)
- Tools, pottery, and clothing
- Archaeological materials from Western NY sites

These items help illustrate daily life, diplomacy, and cultural continuity.

2. Buffalo Creek Reservation History

This is where the museum is especially valuable.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

Expect materials related to:

- The **Treaty of Big Tree (1797)**
- The **Treaty of Buffalo Creek (1838)**
- Maps of the reservation boundaries
- Documents from the **Holland Land Company**
- Early settler accounts of Seneca communities

This is essential context for understanding how Buffalo was built on former Seneca land.

3. Regional Archaeology

The museum holds archaeological collections from:

- Seneca village sites
- Pre-contact Haudenosaunee settlements

Early agricultural areas

These collections help show that the region was a **cultivated, gov-**

erned homeland, not wilderness.

4. Rotating Exhibits

The museum periodically features:

- Haudenosaunee cultural exhibits
- Treaty-focused displays
- Exhibits on early Buffalo that include Native perspectives

These change year-to-year, so it's worth checking what's currently on view.

Site	Strength	Best For
Seneca Iroquois National Museum	Native-run, deep cultural authority	Understanding Seneca worldview & living culture
Ganondagan / Seneca Art & Culture Center	Historic Seneca town + longhouse	Immersive cultural experience
Skä•noñh Great Law of Peace Center	Focus on Haudenosaunee governance	Learning about the Great Law
Buffalo History Museum	Regional history + artifacts	Understanding Buffalo's Indigenous past

The Buffalo History Museum is strongest when you want to understand **how Buffalo's development intersected with Haudenosaunee history**, especially the Seneca.

(¹ [Onöhsagwë:de' Cultural Center](#), ² [Ganondagan](#), ³ [Skä•noñh - Great Law of Peace Center](#), ⁴ [Holland Land Office Museum](#), ⁵ [Genesee Country Village & Museum](#), ⁶ [The Buffalo History Museum](#))

Deb Haaland Wins New Mexico Democratic Primary For Governor

by [Shaun Griswold](#), [Native News Online](#), June 2, 2026

Native Vote 2026

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.—A Laguna Pueblo woman is the front runner to be New Mexico's next governor.

Shortly after polls closed Tuesday night, Deb Haaland was declared the winner over Bernalillo County district attorney Sam Bregman in the state's semi-open Democratic Party primary. As of 11:00 p.m., Haaland carried support from 72% of the Democratic primary voters to Bregman's 28%, according to unofficial results from the New Mexico Secretary of State.

"We're showing everyone that a better future in New Mexico is possible," she told supporters gathered in Albuquerque's historic Old Town Plaza. "New Mexicans want

a leader who will stand up for working people, and who is ready to take on Donald Trump. I proudly accept your nomination as a Democratic nominee."

Haaland spoke for 13 minutes, at times through a scratchy throat that required her to pause for water breaks. "Excuse me, I've been talking with voters all day," she said while grabbing a water bottle before hitting her campaign stump notes on affordability, health care and public safety.

She will face Republican Gregg Hull, a former mayor from suburban Rio Rancho that won his party's three-way primary with 47% of the vote, according to unofficial results from the New

Mexico Secretary of State.

Haaland will be the Democratic Party nominee in a state dominated at every level by Democrats, and is expected to be heavily favored in the general election. With that insight she said her campaign message does translate to Republicans and Independent voters.

"We want our kids to thrive. We want our kids to have a quality, public education. We want every New Mexican to have health care. Everybody wants to feel safe in their neighborhoods, and everybody wants to be able to afford to put a hot meal on their table every night and have a roof over their children's heads," she said. "Those

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

issues transcend whatever political spectrum we're trying to slice and dice people into."

Shortly after the race was called, Haaland campaign staff, major donors, surrogates, and their families walked from a building on the west side of Albuquerque's Old Town Plaza to the historic plaza core, where the Haaland campaign had set up a stage and reserved the entire plaza for its victory celebration.

"We are now witnessing history in the making," New Mexico state Rep. Derrick Lente (Sandia Pueblo) said to supporters immediately after Haaland was declared the

winner.

Denise Wilie (Dine) also joined the celebration of Haaland's victory. Wilie said she worked on get-out-the-vote efforts with the Native American Voters Alliance in McKinley County.

"It just is so exhilarating to even think about, a woman and a Pueblo woman," she said. "Indigenous all the way, is how I feel. I'm like, yes, let's get more of our voices."

Haaland was introduced by her two sisters and walked to the stage escorted by a mariachi band.

Speaking to reporters after the event Haaland reflected on voting for a Pueblo woman (herself) for governor.

"I got emotional, quite frankly, when I went to vote for myself because you do that when you're a candidate," she said. "We've never had a Native American governor in New Mexico. We're a multicultural state. I think representation matters, especially in a political era such as this one. So, I'm really proud and honored to carry on the legacy of my ancestors, who worked so incredibly hard to make sure that I had a place here today."

IHS Announces Supplemental Funding for Special Diabetes Program for Indians Following FY 2026 Reauthorization

by [Native News Online Staff](#), June 9, 2026

The Indian Health Service (IHS) has announced that the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) has been reauthorized by Congress at **\$200 million for fiscal year 2026**, marking a \$41 million increase over the previous fiscal year's funding level.

In a **May 21, 2026, Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader Letter**, IHS confirmed the funding increase and outlined plans to distribute administrative supplemental awards to the program's current 310 grant recipients.

According to the agency, the one-time administrative supplements

will be funded through unobligated SDPI funds and provided to existing grantees for calendar year 2026. Because SDPI operates on a calendar-year funding cycle, recipients are expected to receive the remainder of their annual funding on or before **June 30, 2026**.

In addition to announcing the supplemental awards, IHS said it plans to initiate **Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer** sessions to gather input on how the additional funding authorized through the FY 2026 reauthorization should be used. The agency said further details about the consultation and confer process

will be released at a later date.

The reauthorization, supplemental funding announcement, and planned consultation process underscore continued federal recognition of SDPI's success in improving diabetes prevention and treatment outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

The developments also reflect years of advocacy by the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee, which has worked to secure sustained funding and support for the program and its efforts to address disproportionately high rates of diabetes in Tribal communities.

NATIONAL PARENTS' DAY

National Parents' Day honors all parents on the fourth Sunday in July. No matter where our parents may be, this day serves to celebrate their important role in our lives.

[#NationalParentsDay](#)

In May we celebrated mothers, and in June we celebrated fathers. It follows that in July we can bring all our parents together and show them some appreciation all at once.



Clubhouse Corner

JUNE 2026

This month, we attended the NARP Social at McKinley where we enjoyed being with the community and seeing so many friendly faces! We continued collaborating with the RAAP Girl's Group, and a few youth finished up their Ribbon Skirts, and showed us their Smoke Dance skills. With the end of the school year approaching, we're starting to look ahead and plan for all sorts of summer fun!



Follow us on Instagram!



If interested or to get more information, please contact us:

NACS Clubhouse (Erie County)
Supervisor, Jes: 716-449-6405

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

99TH JAY TREATY BORDER CROSSING CELEBRATION OF RIGHTS

PRESENTED BY THE INDIAN DEFENSE LEAGUE OF AMERICA IN COMMEMORATION OF THE JAY TREATY OF 1794

MUST HAVE VALID ID TO CROSS BORDER AT RAINBOW BRIDGE

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026

THIS YEARS EVENT WILL BE LOCATED ON TUSCARORA

Go to upper Mtn Road, travel east to Susie's Lane Rd. Turn left at sign "7 Clan Group".



BEST DRESSED REGALIA

Male and Female 16 years +

MALE OR FEMALE AMBASSADOR

16-30 years old

Shelley Squire (519) 757-2565

SMOKE DANCE COMPETITION

Must be in regalia

Amber Squire

BABY SHOW

Ages 0-4 - Must be in regalia

Sherry Lickers

FOOD VENDORS MUST REGISTER

with Audrey Hill (519) 732-1462

INDIGENOUS CRAFT & FOOD VENDORS ONLY

**REGISTRATION BEGINS AT BRIDGE @ 10:30am
CANADIAN SIDE**

PARADE MARSHAL

Shelley Squire

TOBACCO BURNING CEREMONY

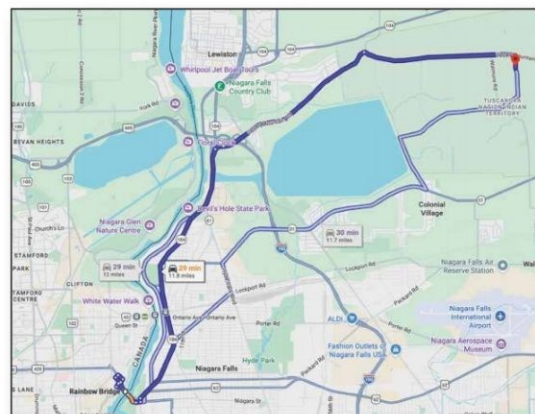
Katsenhaienton Lazare

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Joe Martin

GUEST SPEAKER

Karl Dockstater



25 minutes

**PARADE WILL LEAVE AT 11:30AM • PROGRAM STARTS AROUND 1:00PM
PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THE CELEBRATION • NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL
DONATIONS WARMLY WELCOMED • STATUS CARDS REQUIRED FOR ALL COMPETITIONS**



Native American Community Services

In Development: Healthy Generations

A Culturally-Based Home Visiting Program
for Native American Families

Through personalized home visits, families will receive:

- A program culturally grounded in family traditions and values, offering trauma-informed care that supports healthy beginnings.
- Prenatal and maternal support to promote healthy pregnancies
- Early childhood support for growth, learning, and development
- Health and wellness guidance for parents and children
- Connections to community resources that strengthen family well-being

Healthy Generations is a new, culturally-based home visiting program supporting families with children ages 0-5. Home visitors will work directly with families to provide guidance, resources, and support that honor culture and help families thrive at home, in the community, and for generations to come.



For more information, contact:

Sherrie Kechego
Healthy Generations Coordinator
716-574-3378
skechego@nacswny.org

~From Our Traditions, Healthy Generations Rise~

COST FREE SUMMER PROGRAMS 2026

BCAT BUFFALO CENTER FOR ARTS & TECHNOLOGY
368 Sycamore St
(716)259-1680
bufcat.org

JULY 6th - August 13th
Monday - Thursday
12pm - 5pm



Join us for a free, creativity-powered summer! Our 6-week program gives young people hands-on access to arts and technology in a fun, supportive environment. Participants will build real projects, learn new skills, and explore future creative pathways. Lunch and snacks are provided. Registration is first come first serve, space is limited to fill out the interest form today!

Level up your creativity this summer in...

- DIGITAL ARTS**
- MUSIC PRODUCTION**
- 3D PRINTING**
- FINE ARTS**



YOUTH & ARTS TECH

visit bufcat.org
or scan below
for more info
& registration



BCAT's programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



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

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

Participation is voluntary

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



**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
ccasali@nacswny.org

Dakota Jonathan
ROOTS Project Specialist
djonathan@nacswny.org

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

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: Foster Care Caseworker
Salary/range: \$21.00- \$23.00

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

SUMMARY:

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

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

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

BENEFITS:

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

For consideration send resume to: humanresources@nacswny.org

Employment Opportunity



www.nacswny.org

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

Equal Opportunity Employer

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

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

SUMMARY:

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

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

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

BENEFITS:

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

For consideration send resume to: humanresources@nacswny.org

Employment Opportunity



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

Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Niagara County Youth Clubhouse Site Supervisor

Type: Full-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

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

Office: 1522 Main St, Niagara Falls, NY 14305

SUMMARY:

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

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

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

BENEFITS:

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

For consideration send resume to: humanresources@nacswny.org

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

Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Prevention Specialist

Type: Full-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

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

Office: 1005 Grant Street, Buffalo, NY 14207 – travel required

SUMMARY:

Incumbent provides and presents evidence-based prevention curricula to youth and community as part of an overall strategy that addresses alcohol and substance-use and prevention and other at-risk topics. Key roles include outreach, recruitment, and engagement of participants. Must be comfortable speaking in front of an audience. 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:

- Plans, coordinates, and delivers prevention presentations comfortably and accurately to both youth and adults.
- Performs effectively within a classroom setting and through video conferencing platforms.
- Delivers comprehensive, evidence-based, medically accurate, age and stage appropriate education workshops/sessions.
- Delivers and collects pre/post surveys to participants for monthly reports.
- Connects participants with appropriate services and develops referral resources and linkages.
- Collaborates with local community resources and conducts regular outreach.
- Attends and participates in weekly component staff and other required meetings.
- Accurately collects and maintains necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping per regulatory requirements.
- Maintains confidentiality of sensitive information and handles it with utmost discretion

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's degree in health or human services or related field of study preferred, with two (2) years' experience with at risk youth.
- Work experience may replace some of the education requirements at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- Competency in issues regarding alcohol/substance abuse, family planning, and reproductive health.
- 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
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 960 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 • Phone: 315-322-8754 • Fax: TBD

Equal Opportunity Employer

Position: Workforce Development Specialist

Type: Full-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

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

Office: 100 College Ave. Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14607 – travel required

SUMMARY:

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

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conducts initial intake and comprehensive testing to determine client eligibility and needs.
- Develops an Individual Employment Plan (IEP) with 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
- 403 (b) Retirement Plan

For consideration send resume to: humanresources@nacswny.org

Nya:wëh, Thanks for reading!

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

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

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