



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**



May 20, 2013

Dear Tribal Housing Authority Leaders:

The Commissioner for the Administration for Native Americans, in the Administration for Children and Families (ANA/ACF), US Department of Health and Human Services and Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Native American Programs in the US Department of Housing and Urban Development are reaching out to you today in partnership to promote a very special initiative in recognition of Native Fatherhood.

Here at the Administration for Native Americans, there is a whole-hearted commitment to strengthening families and improving the well-being of children. We know that this important work cannot be done without including fathers, because of the important role they play in their child's life. Through supporting shared learning opportunities, ANA/ACF is committing to working with Native communities to develop strategies and solutions that meet the unique needs of our communities.

Similarly HUD has a goal to "use housing as a platform to improve the quality of life of our residents," and the HUD Fatherhood Day event is about connecting men to resources in the community that will improve the quality of life for the families, such as job training, health screening, and educational opportunities. Last year 304 Public Housing Agencies held Father's day events and HUD is very interested in expanding these efforts in Native communities.

ANA is working with the Native American Fatherhood and Families Association (NAFFA) on a national campaign to promote the importance of fatherhood in Native communities in a one year cooperative agreement. NAFFA held a seminar on Native Fatherhood in Nashville, TN and has scheduled a seminar on Healthy Relationships in Sacramento, CA May 23-24, and a final seminar focused on Grandparents Raising Grandparents, will occur in Minneapolis, MN June 6-7.

NAFFA in partnership with ANA will also conduct four webinars on tools and strategies to strengthen families. In addition to the seminars and webinars, NAFFA will coordinate a nationwide campaign to promote the importance of fatherhood in Native communities by celebrating **National Native American Responsible Fatherhood Day on June 15th.**

We would like to strongly encourage all Native communities throughout the United States, to organize events on this day to celebrate and promote Fatherhood. Too often our thoughts are focused on what is wrong in our community, and this is an



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opportunity to celebrate those that strengthen our communities with their wisdom, skills, generosity and time. We are encouraging interested organizations and Tribes to partner up to produce events or raise awareness in your community. Examples of partnerships include the Tribal Housing Authorities hosting a local Head Start or school staff to conduct a fun and interactive information session for fathers on how to be involved in their children's education or support early literacy. Or if you have an ACF Responsible Fatherhood grant, a Healthy Relationship grant, or a Fatherhood is Sacred Chapter in your community, we strongly encourage you to reach out to them to participate in events they may be planning.

Please visit the NAFFA's website ([www.nativeamericanfathers.org](http://www.nativeamericanfathers.org)) and the HUD fatherhood day website ([http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/ph/hope6/css/rfd](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/hope6/css/rfd)) for resources and to register your event.

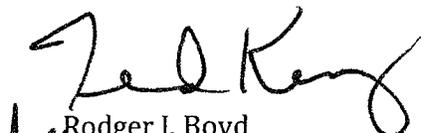
Your participation demonstrates your shared commitment to this effort as well, and we look forward to working with you as we move forward in strengthening the services we provide to our Native fathers and families.

Sincerely,



Lillian A. Sparks

Commissioner, Administration for Native Americans



Rodger J. Boyd

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Native American Programs