



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of the Assistant Secretary | 330 C Street, S.W., Suite 4034
Washington, D.C. 20201 | www.acf.hhs.gov

September 9, 2020

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) requests your input on its draft Missing and Murdered Native Americans (MMNA) Framework. ACF has heard from tribal leaders, Native American advocates and representatives, urban Indian organizations, and other stakeholders about the crisis of MMNA in their communities. ACF also engaged in dialogue with its Tribal Advisory Committee, tribal leaders participating in ACF's annual Tribal Consultation sessions, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Regional Tribal Consultation sessions.

In November 2019, the President signed Executive Order (EO) 13898, as a call to action on the severity of MMNA. The EO also established the first Presidential Task Force, called the Operation Lady Justice (OLJ) Task Force, to ensure high-level and visible leadership. In carrying out its directive, the OLJ Task Force is coordinating across federal departments and engaging tribal leaders. The draft Framework is an essential component of the comprehensive response to the victimization of Native Americans.

Law enforcement and justice are essential to the nation's response to violence and victimization. ACF also has an important role to play. Violence is a public health problem that results in emotional and physical wounds and requires health and human services interventions. Thus, in drafting the Framework, ACF established four pillars related to its responsibilities as follows: (1) culture, language, traditional practices; (2) economic mobility; (3) prevention of the conditions that contribute to MMNA; and (4) social determinants of health (i.e., lack of economic stability, stable living arrangements, food security, early childhood and family supports, and access to critical human services to reduce vulnerability and victimization). ACF will use a protective factors approach as it provides a strengths-based and collective pathway for all ACF program offices to collaborate with each other and with Native American communities. The intent is to join with Native communities, law enforcement, justice, and others to advance a multi-faceted approach to services, hope, and healing.

Please submit your input to ANACCommissioner@acf.hhs.gov by **October 9, 2020**, which is the end of the comment period. Feel free to call (877) 922-9262 should you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Lynn A. Johnson
Assistant Secretary
for Children and Families

Enclosure:
ACF DRAFT MMNA Framework