



COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES, 2018 PROGRAM FACT SHEET

Background

Human trafficking is a violent crime and public health issue involving the exploitation of a person for the purpose of forced labor or commercial sex. Among the diverse populations affected by human trafficking, indigenous peoples worldwide are at particular risk for both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. The HHS Administration for Native Americans (ANA) notes that American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander women and girls are at higher risk for experiencing sex trafficking.¹

The [Senior Policy Operating Group](#) under the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons established an Ad Hoc Working Group on American Indians and Alaska Natives in September 2017 to increase coordination among agencies responding to human trafficking in indigenous communities. The Working Group released a "[Resource Guide](#) on U.S. Government Entities Combating Human Trafficking in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities" for policymakers and tribes in October 2018.

Enhanced Training, Technical Assistance, Funding, and Public Engagement with Native Communities

- **Training & Technical Assistance Center Efforts & Native Youth Toolkit (Throughout 2018)**
OTIP provided seven in-person trainings and two webinars for Native communities through the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC). Topics included how human trafficking impacts Native communities, culturally-responsive resources, and promising practices for services and partnerships. OTIP and ANA also disseminated a [Native Youth Toolkit on Human Trafficking](#), informed by focus groups of tribal youth, federal grantees, and Native survivors of human trafficking.
- **Youth Awareness Webinar for Tribal Grantees (January 2018)**
OTIP and ANA presented a webinar to tribal grantees, "[Addressing Human Trafficking in Native Communities: A Youth Awareness Approach](#)," through ANA's Eastern Regional Training and Technical Assistance Center. More than 100 participants were trained on human trafficking in Indian Country, promising practices for outreach campaigns, and cultural considerations for youth engagement.
- **Training on the Tulalip Indian Reservation (February 2018)**
OTIP supported the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health Region 10 Office for an anti-trafficking training on the Tulalip Indian Reservation. Ninety-two participants represented more than 30 federally recognized tribes, including 12 tribes from Washington State.

¹ [Information Memorandum](#) on Recognizing and Responding to Human Trafficking among American Indian, Alaska Native, and Pacific Islander Communities, January 2018.

- Presentation on Empowering Native Youth (June 2018)**
 OTIP and ANA co-presented at the [Bring Her Home: Creating Tribal Responses to Commercial Sexual Exploitation](#) conference hosted by the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, on a panel titled "Empowering Native Youth to Combat Human Trafficking." Topics included the development of the Native Youth Toolkit, awareness-raising and direct outreach as a form of primary prevention, and models for tailoring materials to local needs.
- Presentation on Empowering Native Women (July 2018)**
 OTIP presented on a panel titled "Empowering Native Women to Address Human Trafficking" at the Women Empowering Women for Indigenous Nations (WEWIN) 2018 Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The panel defined human trafficking, discussed models for culturally competent responses for Indian Country, shared existing federal resources, and provided case examples for localized responses.
- Renewed Funding for Grantees Serving Indigenous Communities (September 2018)**
 OTIP renewed funding to the Alaska Native Justice Center in Anchorage, Alaska and HP Serve in Baton Rouge, Louisiana under the [Domestic Victims of Human Trafficking grant program](#) to provide trauma-informed services to survivors of trafficking and populations at risk to trafficking.
- Interagency and Partners Twitter Chat (November 2018)**
 OTIP and ANA participated in the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign's Twitter Chat on [Human Trafficking in Native Communities](#). The chat reached more than 3 million Twitter users, resulting in more than 13.7 million impressions.
- Health and Human Trafficking Symposium (November 2018)**
 HHS hosted the [Health and Human Trafficking Symposium](#), which included six expert panels on progress in the public health response to trafficking, emerging issues, and recommendations. Two expert panelists specifically presented on addressing human trafficking in Native communities. More than 120 people attended the Symposium in-person and 300 people streamed the event online.
- Interagency Listening Session (November 2018)**
 OTIP, ANA, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) co-hosted a listening session on combating human trafficking, including the impact of human trafficking in Native communities and intersection with substance use treatment, intergenerational trauma, and violence prevention. Nearly two dozen tribal leaders and Native and Native-serving practitioners attended this session.

Resources for Tribes and Organizations

The National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC) provides support to inform and enhance the public health response to human trafficking. NHTTAC builds the capacity of communities to identify and respond to the complex needs of all survivors of human trafficking and address the root causes that make individuals, families, and communities vulnerable to human trafficking.



**NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING
TRAINING AND TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE CENTER**

Call 1-844-648-8822

Email info@nhttac.org

Help for Survivors of Human Trafficking

Get help, report a tip, find services, and learn more about your options. The National Human Trafficking Hotline assists victims in crisis through safety planning, emotional support, and connection to local resources.

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