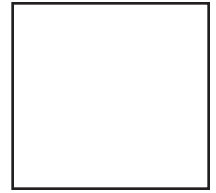


# National Indian Child Welfare Association

5100 SW Macadam Avenue, Suite 300  
Portland, Oregon 97239



## 29th Annual **PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN**

National American Indian Conference  
on Child Abuse and Neglect

## Call for Presentations



**NICWA**  
National Indian Child Welfare Association



29th Annual  
**PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN**  
National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect



# 29th Annual PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

A special invitation is being extended to you to participate as a workshop presenter during our 29th Annual "Protecting Our Children" National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.

## About the Conference Theme

### *Honoring Our Traditions: Sustaining Our Families*

A problem of disproportionality exists within the current child welfare system. American Indian and Alaska Native children are removed from their families at disturbingly high rates, and once they are, many are placed into foster care systems where their personal and tribal needs are drastically underserved. In many cases, children are removed from their homes and families without exploring options that could work toward healing the family unit. This disproportionality within the child welfare system has created the need for services that work toward positive outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native families. The goal for many tribes is to offer services that improve the lives of children and families by working toward continued family sustainability and strong connections between children in placement and their tribes.

Tribes across the country have been working to address this issue for many years. And now, by providing technical assistance through the Western and Pacific Implementation Center, the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) and tribes are continuing to develop their own programs. By designing in-home services, family group decision-making, strengthening families and maintaining the safety of children, skill development, and Positive Indian Parenting training, tribes and communities are making a difference in the lives of families.

It is the hope of NICWA and its partners that what has begun in these tribes will be a model for growth within Indian Country and contribute to positive systemic change that will enable us to continue protecting our children. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (P.L. 110-351) has opened the door to funding that will allow such programs to grow and become the standard for tribal services.

Please join us as we gather in beautiful Anchorage, Alaska, to learn from each other and promote positive outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native children and families. This year's conference will focus on addressing the need for services that support traditional kinship systems and family life so that American Indian and Alaska Native families can stay together and thrive.

Our conference will feature innovative workshops and presentations on strategically and tactically meeting the needs of American Indian and Alaska Native families so that what results are healthy outcomes that go to benefit our most precious resource—our children. We welcome you to join us in Anchorage, Alaska!

## Conference Goals

- To highlight successful strategies for building effective services
- To reveal the latest and most innovative practices of child welfare and children's mental health service delivery
- To highlight tactics and strategies for the financing and sustainability of services that impact children
- To showcase strategies for involving youth and families in developing services and policy that lead to systems change
- To create peer-to-peer networks that will assist each other in the work toward permanency for all American Indian and Alaska Native families

April 17–20, 2011

Anchorage, Alaska

## Who Should Respond

All individuals who are committed to serving Indian children and their families are encouraged to respond: child welfare workers, directors, and staff from tribal, state, federal, and private programs; tribal leaders; substance abuse staff; health professionals; mental health and psychiatric professionals; law enforcement professionals; court and legal professionals; tribal and public school administrators; teachers, counselors, educators, and staff; grassroots community organizers; Court of Indian Offenses judges and attorneys; BIA and IHS social service staff; private providers; parents, guardians, elders, and extended family members; and other interested people committed to protecting Indian children and families.

## How to Apply

Go to [www.nicwa.org/callforpresentations](http://www.nicwa.org/callforpresentations) to download the MS Word document, "Workshop Proposal." (If your computer is not MS Word compatible, there is also a PDF version available for download.) Use this form to submit your proposal for a 90-minute workshop, which may repeat once. **Chosen proposals will be highly interactive and relevant to the conference theme and goals.**



Presenters selected will receive a reduced registration rate of \$150.

Workshops are limited to four presenters. **Notification of outcomes will be made by December 17, 2010.** All presenters will be required to register for the conference at the discounted rate.

**Deadline:** November 30, 2010 (Proposals must be postmarked/faxed/e-mailed by this date.)

**E-mail:** Laurie Evans at [laurie@nicwa.org](mailto:laurie@nicwa.org). Complete each of the items listed in the "Workshop Proposal" document. **If you are going to fax or mail your proposal, we request that you also send the information by e-mail if you have the capability to do so.**

**Fax:** (503) 222-4007, Attn: Laurie Evans, Event Manager

**Mail to:** NICWA  
5100 SW Macadam Avenue, Suite 300  
Portland, OR 97239

**Questions?** Contact Event Manager Laurie Evans at (503) 222-4044, extension 124 or [laurie@nicwa.org](mailto:laurie@nicwa.org), or visit our website at [www.nicwa.org/conference](http://www.nicwa.org/conference).

**Late or incomplete proposals will not be considered.**

## Workshop Track Description

Advocacy, Collaboration, ICWA Compliance, and Data and Research comprise the different workshop tracks we have created to meet the needs of our broadening national audience. Additionally, NICWA understands the critical role that tribal leadership plays in empowering communities to improve outcomes for their children and families. While preparing your workshop description, please consider how your presentation will address the vital role of tribal leadership.

### Advocacy

Understanding the impact of national/state/local policy, strategies for influencing national/state/local policy, restorative justice approaches in child welfare, and the role of standard-setting organizations

### Collaboration

Promising practices in building alliances (e.g., urban-tribal, tribal-state, tribal-county, and interagency collaborations; engaging youth in care; elders; tribal leaders; and community members)

### ICWA Compliance

Promising practices for ICWA training, monitoring compliance, tribal CASA partnerships, innovative strategies for meeting placement preferences, and tracking active efforts

### Data and Research

Current child welfare research, promising practices in information technology, gathering and utilizing data for program improvement, data and funding issues, and sharing data across systems

Deadline: November 30, 2010

[www.nicwa.org/conference](http://www.nicwa.org/conference)

April 17–20, 2011

Anchorage, Alaska



## Hotel Reservations

The conference host hotel is the Hilton Anchorage in Anchorage, Alaska. A block of rooms has been reserved for our participants at \$99.00 per night, plus tax.

Rates are guaranteed until March 17, 2011. Reservations made after March 17 will be charged at the standard rate.

Hilton Anchorage  
500 West 3rd Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Reservations: (800) HILTONS  
Group Code: NICWA  
[www.1hilton.com](http://www.1hilton.com)

## Tentative Conference Schedule

### Sunday, April 17

3:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.  
Registration

4:30 p.m.  
Presenter Orientation

6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.  
Reception/Annual Membership Meeting

### Monday, April 18

7:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
Registration

8:30 a.m.–Noon  
Opening General Session/Keynote  
Speaker

Noon–1:30 p.m.  
Lunch (on your own)

1:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Workshops A and B

### Tuesday, April 19

7:30 a.m.–Noon  
Registration

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.  
2nd General Session

10:30 a.m.–Noon  
Workshop C

Noon–1:30 p.m.  
Lunch (on your own)

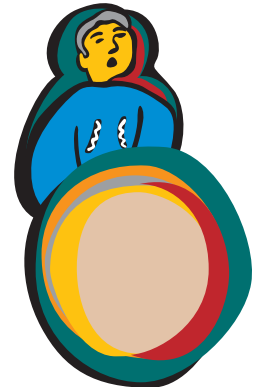
1:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.  
Workshops D and E

6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.  
Dinner Banquet and Entertainment

### Wednesday, April 20

8:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m.  
Workshop F

10:00 a.m.–Noon  
Closing General Session/Keynote  
Speaker



## Conference Image



### **About the Artist:**

Percy Avugiak is originally from Chefnak, a Yup'ik village located on the southwest coast of Alaska. When he was young, he enjoyed drawing and carving ivory, wood, and soapstone. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree focused on Native Arts and painting from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2006. He works in a variety of different styles including carving, painting, jewelry, and other original arts and crafts. Of his art, Avugiak says, "My work reflects my village life and experiences I've had throughout parts of Alaska and the artistic knowledge I have gained in college. Through my work, I hope to attract an audience to new forms of Native art, especially youth whose contemporary culture includes comic books, movies, and video games. Although the subject matter is new, my work will reflect a Native humor found among villages in rural Alaska for decades."

### **About the Conference Image:**

"Protecting Our Children" is an acrylic on canvas painting, measuring 24"x36". There are three children, and a mother inviting dancing, with drummers in the background. They are Inupiaq Eskimo dancers. The drums that are over the dancers are meant to look like halos. The colors are balanced throughout the painting. It is a traditional Alaskan Native abstract perspective.