



**CENTER FOR NATIVE  
AMERICAN YOUTH**  
AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE



**casey** family programs

## Vulnerable Children - Hope to the Invisible Ones: A Strategy for Engagement

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Philanthropy Southwest

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## Presentation Outline

- Introductions
- Native American Youth & Indian Country
- Engaging Native Youth
- Recommendations for increased resources, programs and policies to address Native youth and child welfare



# Casey Family Programs

casey family programs

- Supports and assists child welfare systems in their efforts to protect children and create strong families;
- ICWP offers technical assistance and resources for tribal child welfare systems and other services;
- Headquarters in Seattle, WA; Casey's Indian Child Welfare Program Office in Denver, CO.



## CNAY Background



CENTER FOR NATIVE  
AMERICAN YOUTH  
AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

- **Our Founder** - US Senator Byron Dorgan
  - Created Center with \$1 million from his excess campaign funds.
- **Mission...**
  - dedicated to improving the health, safety and overall well-being of Native American youth through communication, policy development and advocacy.
- **Launched** in 2011
- **Position** - Policy program at the Aspen Institute



## CNAY's Work

- **Youth Inspiration**
  - Champions for Change, Youth Roundtables, Stories of Inspiration.
- **Advocacy**
  - Develop meaningful relationships with tribal leaders, elevate voices.
- **Policy Change**
  - Policy/Resource Roundtables, Covering Allies, and Publish Resources.
- **Resource Platform**
  - Connect people and organizations with each other, and provide practical information and resources.



## Partnership: Casey Family Programs



- Promote child welfare in Indian Country as a national priority by engaging American Indian and Alaska Native youth to:
  - Identify Indian child welfare priorities for tribal and urban Indian communities,
  - Map resources and programs impacting Indian child welfare, and
  - Develop resource priorities.



Native Youth and Indian Country

## BACKGROUND

### Background on Indian Country

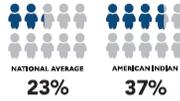
- Population: **5.2 million** (1.7% of US)
- **Trust responsibility:**
  - Health care, education, law enforcement, housing
- 78% of off reservation, 53% in urban centers
- **Poverty rate** on Indian reservations: **36%**
  - One-third of AI/AN children living in poverty.
- Average crime **nearly double** national average
- **Less than 3,000** law enforcement officers patrol 56 million acres
- **Homes** in Indian Country lack safe drinking water and proper waste removal systems **13%**.



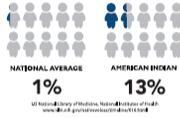
# Child Well-Being Data Infographic

## ECONOMICS & COMMUNITY

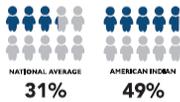
### CHILDREN IN POVERTY



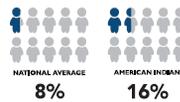
### HOMES WITHOUT SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITARY SEWAGE



### CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS LACK SECURE EMPLOYMENT

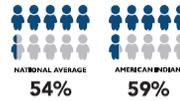


### TEENS NOT IN SCHOOL AND NOT WORKING

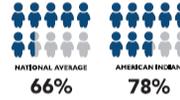


## EDUCATION

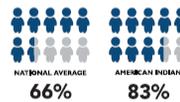
### CHILDREN NOT ATTENDING PRESCHOOL



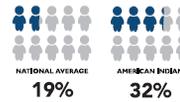
### FOURTH GRADERS NOT PROFICIENT IN READING



### EIGHTH GRADERS NOT PROFICIENT IN MATH



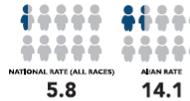
### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS NOT GRADUATING ON TIME



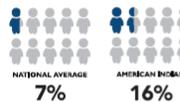
# Child Well-Being Data Infographic

## HEALTH

### RATE OF YOUTH SUICIDE (AGES 15 TO 24) PER 100,000



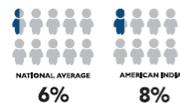
### CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE



### CHILD AND TEEN DEATHS PER 100,000

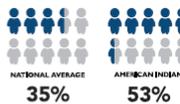


### TEENS WHO ABUSE ALCOHOL OR DRUGS



## CHILD WELFARE & FAMILY

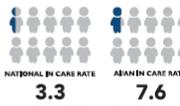
### CHILDREN IN SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES



### RATE OF CHILDREN (UNDER 18) IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE (PER 1,000)



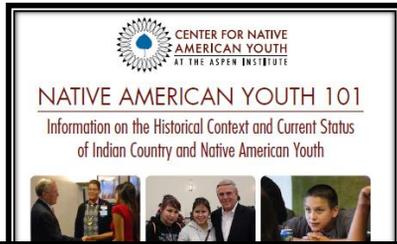
### RATE OF CHILDREN (UNDER 18) ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE (PER 1,000)



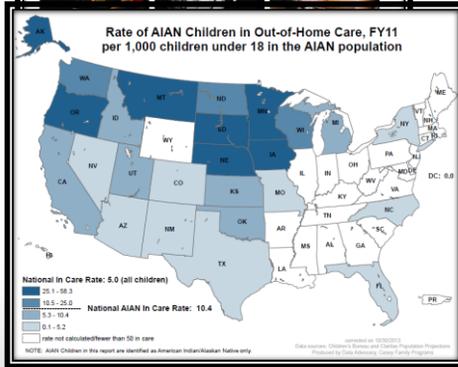
### TEEN BIRTHS PER 100,000



# Native Youth Needs



- **2.1 million youth** 24 years of age and under
- Programs and services disproportionately funded with **federal dollars**.



## “Most At-Risk”

- Highest rates of suicide
- Child welfare
- Lowest educational attainment
- Arrest and juvenile justice

Innovative Ways for Funders to Engage Native Youth

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

# Outreach and Youth Engagement

- To date, the Center has held **100 Native youth roundtables in 20 states** to better understand and elevate youth priorities.
- Develop meaningful relationships with communities, youth, and leaders on the ground.
- Connected with **3,700 youth** – over 2,700 as a part of our partnership with Casey Family Programs.



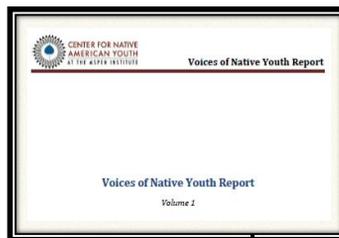
## Curriculum on the Ground

- Tribal Leader Meeting
- Community Tour
- Meet & Greets
  - Tribe Health Administration Programs
  - Tribal College
  - Tribal Education
  - Prevention programs
- Student assembly
- Youth Roundtables
- School Visit
- Program Roundtable



## Voices of Native Youth Report

- Volumes I, II, III
- Themes
  - Holistic Nature of Child Well-being
  - Bully & Suicide Prevention
  - Education
  - Connecting to Culture & Community
  - Extracurricular Activities
  - Racism, equity, & healing



## Youth Voices - Priorities

- **Culture and tradition**
  - Language preservation
- **Health**
  - Access to care
  - Suicide and mental health
- **Community Needs**
  - Housing
  - Public safety
  - Youth community center/shelter
- **Racism and prejudice**
  - Inequity in services
  - Mascots
- **Education**
  - Scholarships
- **Family**
  - Economic security
  - Foster care
- **Activities**
  - "Something to do!"



## Youth Engagement on Child Welfare

- Seminole Tribal Youth Council
- Native Youth Track Denver, CO
- National Congress of American Indians – Resilience for Native Youth & Youth Commission
- Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians; Placerville, CA
- Osage Nation - Hominy, Oklahoma
- Washington Internships for Native Students - Washington, DC
- Corporation for National Community Service: Urban American Indian Summit - Washington, DC
- Teach for America's Native American Initiative (teachers)
- Child Welfare with Champions for Change
- Pine Ridge Indian Reservation
- Rosebud Sioux Nation



## Youth ICW Priorities → Casey Family Programs

- What is child welfare to you?
  - Environment, culture, family, elders, health (food and nutrition), and safety...holistic perspective.
- What impacts the Indian child welfare system and well-being of children?
  - Substance abuse,
  - Safety – home and education environments,
  - Youth services and resources, and
  - Addressing negative stereotypes.
- Indian child welfare -- holistic viewpoints



## Youth ICW Priorities

- **Cultural Preservation**
  - Learning the language, traditional customs and foods
- **Youth Development and Identity**
  - Positive role models, positive outlets of expression, and meaningful engagement with family members and elders
- **Stereotypes**
  - Racism, negative stereotypes
- **Safety**
  - Concerns about general safety at home and in community
- **Substance Abuse**
  - Community issue, limited law enforcement in communities makes illegal substances easily accessible.
- **Safety**
  - Lack of sidewalks to the safety of elders, hitchhikers, animals and young people in the community.

“Dealing drugs becomes a ‘family business.’”

## National Policy and Resource Platform

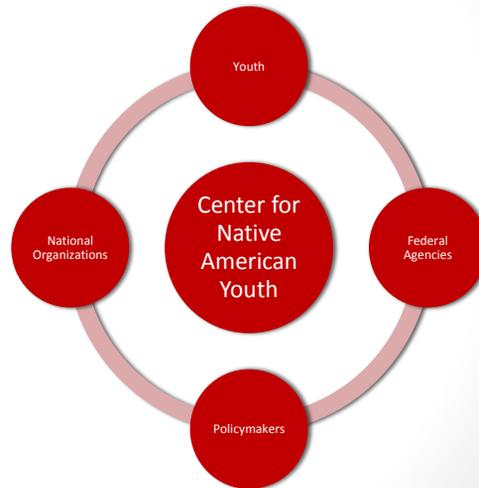


- Indian child welfare involves all of the constituency.
- Make priority across sectors.
- Collaboration:
  - Data
  - Advocacy
  - Technical Assistance

Organizational Partnerships

## ADVOCACY PLATFORM

## Policy & Resource Roundtables



## Policy/Resource Roundtable Participants

### Federal Partners – 30 Agencies

- *Corporation for National Community Service*
- *Department of Agriculture*
- *Department of Education*
- *Department of Energy*
- *Department of Health and Human Services (IHS, SAMHSA, CMS, ACF)*
- *Department of Housing and Urban Development*
- *Department of Interior (BIA, BIE)*
- *Department of Justice (OJP, OJJDP, OVC, OVW)*
- *Department of Labor (Youth Build)*
- *The White House*

### Tribal Organizations

- *Association on American Indian Affairs*
- *National Congress of American Indians*
- *National Council of Urban Indian Health*
- *National Indian Child Welfare Association*
- *National Indian Education Association*
- *National Indian Gaming Association*
- *National Indian Health Board*
- *National American Indian Housing Council*



# Engage New Stakeholders



# National Policy and Resource Platform

The New York Times  
**The Opinion Pages**  
 NYT Op-Ed: Broken Promises  
 by Senator Byron Dorgan  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/11/opinion/broken-promises.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/11/opinion/broken-promises.html?_r=0)



**Abandoned in Indian Country**  
[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)  
 The cuts that are part of the mandatory sequestration are bringing misery to the reservations, but Congress offers no response.



**Dorgan: Time to change name of Redskins**  
[www.usatoday.com](http://www.usatoday.com)  
 Failure to adjust with times ignores the progress we have made in so many areas.



# National Advocacy

- Public event on the Indian Child Welfare Act.
- Elevation of youth priorities and community voices.

“Without strong connections to culture...a hole that cannot be filled.”



Champions for Change

**CELEBRATE GOOD NEWS**

## Champions for Change



CENTER FOR NATIVE  
AMERICAN YOUTH  
AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

- Champions for Change, youth leadership initiative
- Recognize inspirational youth working in tribal/urban Indian communities and create opportunities for them to shine
- Promote hope



## Champions for Change

[www.CNAY.org](http://www.CNAY.org)



CFP-ICWP & CNAY Partnership

## REFLECTIONS ON ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

### Partnerships & Collaboration

- National Congress of American Indians
- National Council of Urban Indian Health
- National Indian Child Welfare Association
- National Indian Education Association
- National Indian Gaming Association
- National Indian Health Board
- Nike's N7 Programs
- Notah Begay III Foundation
- United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc.



## Impact of Engagement / Partnership

- Casey reflection / CNAY reflection
- Authentic youth voice
  - Youth engaged in events, Board meetings, conferences on Casey's behalf
- Access and broadened networks
- Connection to issues



## www.CNAY.org

- One-stop resource center:
  - Data and statistics
  - Best practices
  - Funding resources
  - Youth development programs
  - Scholarships
  - Internships
  - And more...



# THANK YOU!

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