



Creating a Trauma-Informed Approach to Working with Families in Indian Country



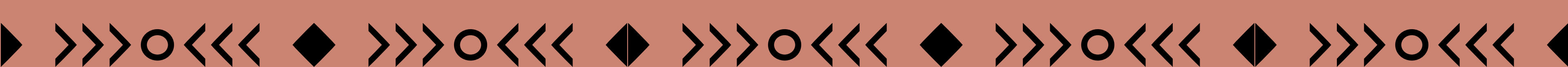
Michael Creapeau – Menominee Tribal Family Services
Tracy Lobermier – Shawano County Health & Human Services
Heather Haeflinger – U.S. Attorney's Office





DISCLAIMER

None of the opinions stated by the presenters represent official policies of the Menominee Tribal Family Services, Shawano County Health & Human Services, or U.S. Attorney's Office.



Goals

Have a basic understanding of how historical trauma, the boarding school era, and other events have impacted communities within Indian Country.

Use the newfound knowledge to create their own trauma-informed approach when working with families within Indian Country.

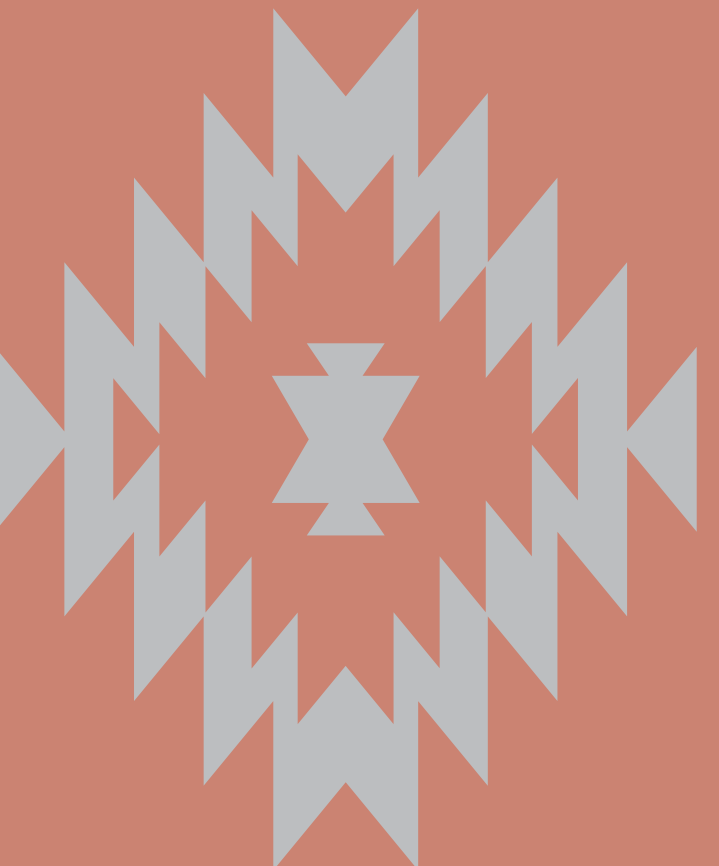
Come alongside youth and families with a different perspective.



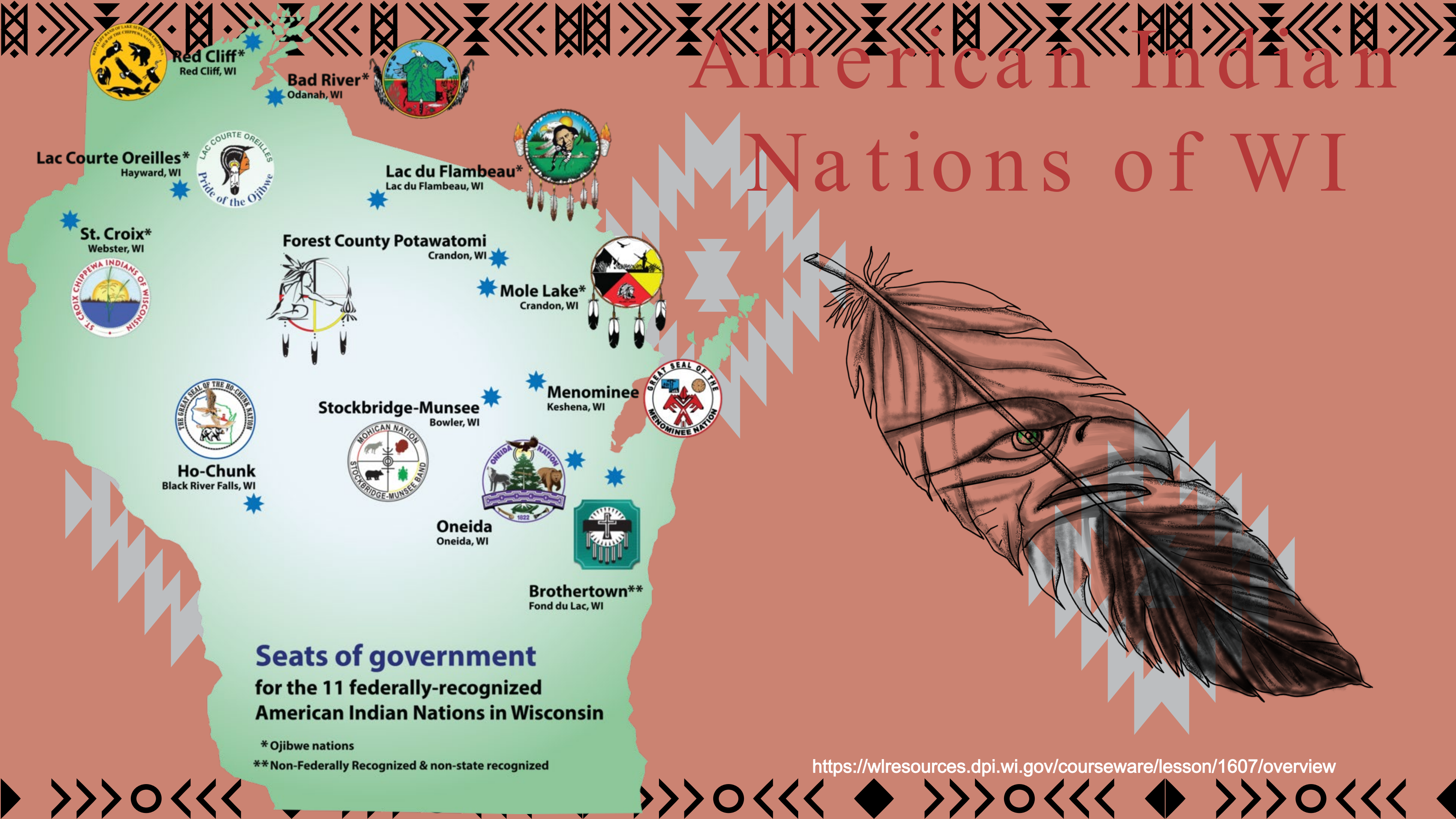
Test Your Knowledge



QR CODE will be provided for a quick pre-quiz



American Indian Nations of WI



Seats of government
for the 11 federally-recognized
American Indian Nations in Wisconsin

* Ojibwe nations

** Non-Federally Recognized & non-state recognized

<https://wlresources.dpi.wi.gov/courseware/lesson/1607/overview>

Termination Groundwork

Tribal termination required specific legislation, not just a general resolution.

The BIA compiled a list of tribes seen as economically self-sufficient.

The Menominee Tribe was highlighted due to its thriving lumber industry.

In 1954, Congress passed the Menominee Termination Act, ending federal recognition.

Initiation and Pressure

The 1954 Act began the process of terminating Menominee tribal status; it wasn't immediate.

The tribal council agreed to termination under coercion and reluctance.

The Menominee had recently won an \$8.5 million lawsuit for federal mismanagement of their forestry operations.

The financial settlement became tied to the termination process.

Representative Arthur Watkins pressured the tribe, implying they had to cooperate to receive the money.

Implementation and Fallout

1958 set as termination year under the 1954 Act for the Menominee Tribe.

Termination took effect April 30, 1961, leading to economic collapse.

Tribal assets transferred to Menominee Enterprises, Inc.; reservation renamed Menominee County.

Multiple one-year extensions granted due to incomplete preparation.

County lacked basic services due to a weak tax base.

Tribal members became ME shareholders, but profits rapidly declined.

Loss of Infrastructure and Services

- The reservation hospital closed due to the loss of federal funding.
- Schools, utilities, and other services were shut down or severely reduced.
- Menominee cash assets dropped from over \$10 million in 1954 to just \$300,000 by 1964.
- Federal termination caused financial strain and resource depletion.
- Another tribe faced similar poverty and disruption following termination in the 1950s.
- Congressional leaders ended tribal terminations by the early 1960s after witnessing the damage.
- The Menominee, already terminated, had to petition Congress for re-recognition.
- Loss of federal funding left Menominee County without the infrastructure to maintain basic services.
- Aid received was too limited to address critical community issues.

Legend Lake Project & Drums Formation

- MEI aimed to ease financial strain by selling tribal land for recreational housing.
- In 1967, MEI signed a contract with developers to create Legend Lake, but tribal members weren't fully informed.
- Stockholders believed they were supporting general economic development —not land sales to non -Indians.
- DRUMS (Determination of Rights and Unity for Menominee Stockholders):
 - Founded in 1970 by James White and Ada Deer to oppose the Legend Lake project.
 - Led protests and ran candidates for MEI's board.
 - Won two board seats in 1971 and majority control by the end of 1972.
 - Successfully stopped the Legend Lake development by 1972.



Efforts to Reverse Termination

- DRUMS sought to restore the Menominee's federal recognition.
- President Richard Nixon publicly opposed termination and supported American Indian interests.
- The tribe lobbied Congress, leading to the passage of a restoration bill.
- On December 22, 1973, Nixon signed the bill, officially reversing termination and beginning a new phase: restoration.

Long-Term Recovery & Challenges

- Formation of the Menominee Restoration Committee (MRC)
- The tribe elected MRC to oversee restoration efforts.
- Ada Deer was chosen as the head of the MRC.
- The committee was responsible for reorganizing tribal governance and assets.
- All Menominee born since the 1954 Termination Act had to be added to the tribal roll, which proved challenging.



Successful Restoration & Tribal Rebuilding

- Despite early turmoil, the Menominee united to restore their tribe.
- In 1975, Menominee County reverted to reservation status.
- In 1976, the Menominee ratified a new tribal constitution.
- In 1979, a new tribal government took office, completing the restoration process

Lasting Impact

- The termination experience left a long -term mark on the Menominee and all Native American tribes.
- Tribes remain determined to preserve their trust relationship with the U.S. government.
- There is strong resistance to any future termination attempts or policies that threaten sovereignty.



Intergenerational Trauma:

“Intergenerational trauma, the psychological and physiological impacts of trauma that are felt through multiple generations, is a substantial burden for many individuals and communities.”

“What is Intergenerational Trauma ?” (2024)



Historical Trauma:

“American Indians experienced massive losses of lives, land, and culture from European contact and colonization resulting in a long legacy of chronic trauma and unresolved grief across generations.

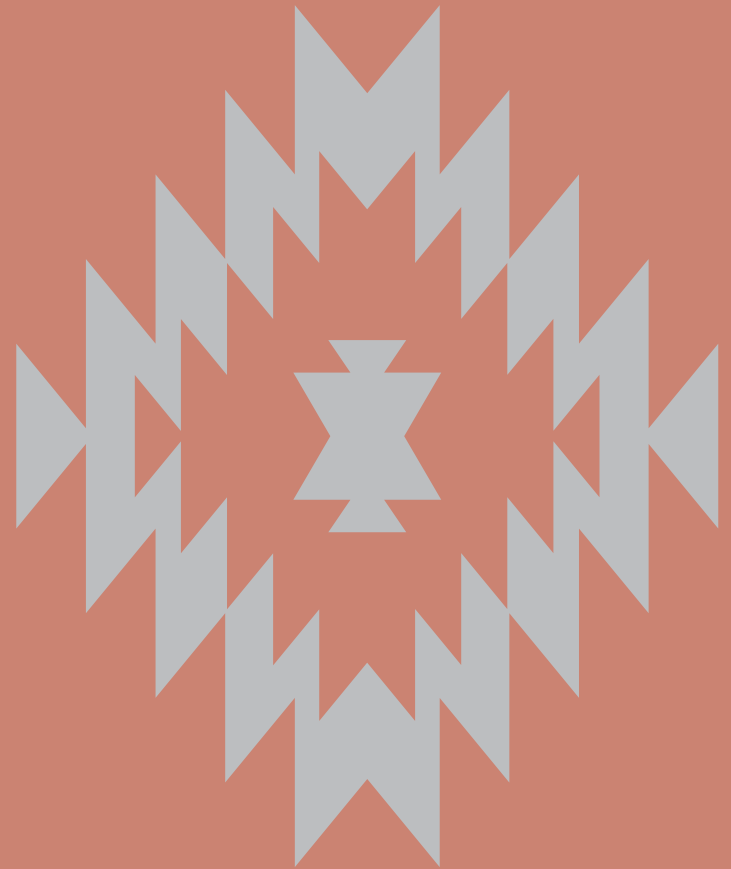
This phenomenon, labeled historical unresolved grief, contributes to the current social pathology of high rates of suicide, homicide, domestic violence, child abuse, alcoholism and other social problems among American Indians”

Brave Heart, M. Y. & DeBruyn, L. M. (1998)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UEpQQx4BBM>

3 minute video



Boarding School Era



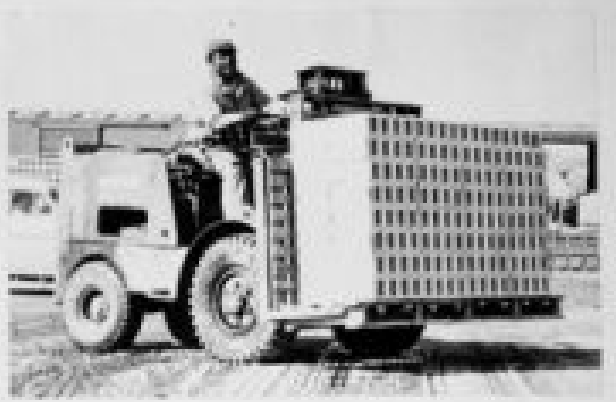


COME TO DENVER.

THE CHANCE OF YOUR LIFETIME !

Good Jobs

- Retail Trade
- Manufacturing
- Government-Federal, State, Local
- Wholesale Trade
- Construction of Buildings, Etc.



Happy Homes

- Beautiful Houses
- Many Churches
- Exciting Community Life
- Over Half of Homes Owned by Residents
- Convenient Stores-Shopping Centers

Training

- Vocational Training
 - Auto Mech., Beauty Shop, Drafting,
 - Nursing, Office Work, Watchmaking
- Adult Education
 - Evening High School, Arts and Crafts
 - Job Improvement, Home-making



Beautiful Colorado

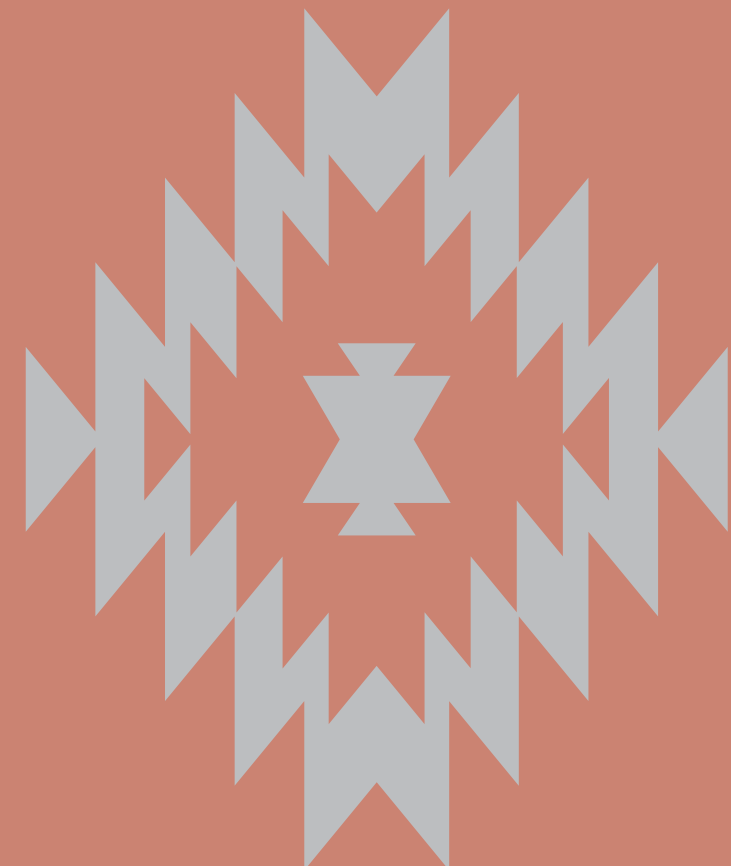
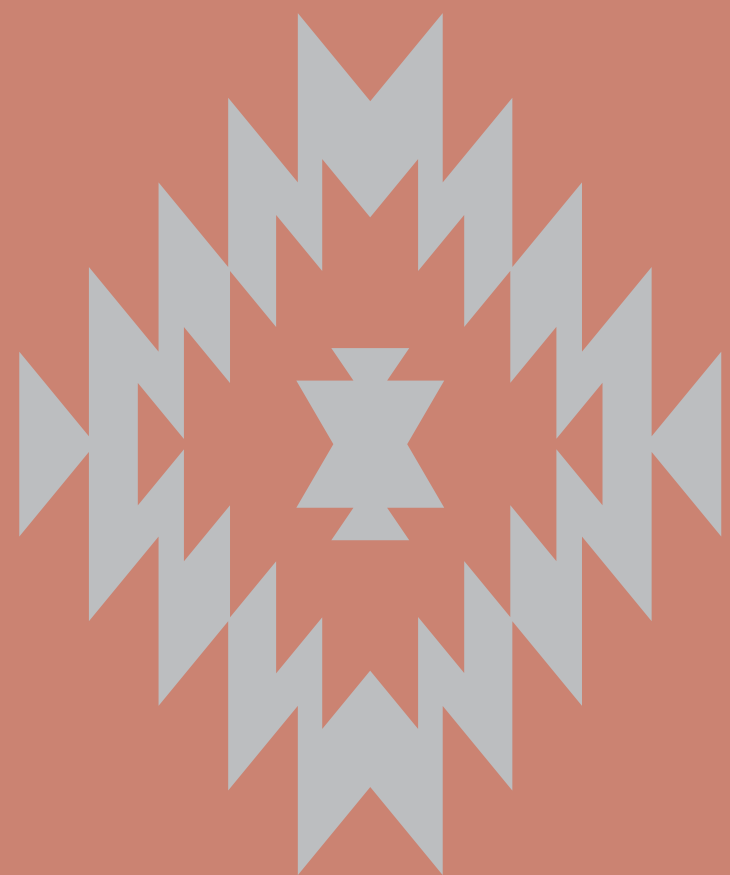
- "Tallest" State, 48 Mt. Peaks Over 14,000 Ft.
- 350 Days Sunshine, Mild Winters
- Zoos, Museums, Mountain Parks, Drives
- Picnic Areas, Lakes, Amusement Parks
- Big Game Hunting, Trout Fishing, Camping



Youth Voice on Boarding School Trauma

<https://globalnews.ca/video/7919640/indigenous-youth-reflect-on-intergenerational-trauma-from-residential-schools/>

2:13 Video



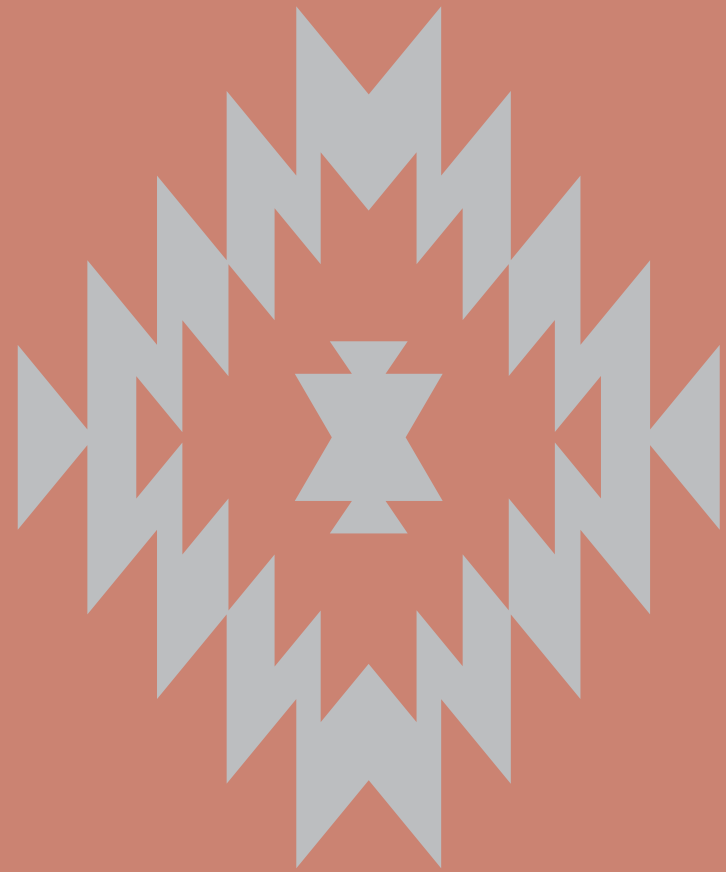
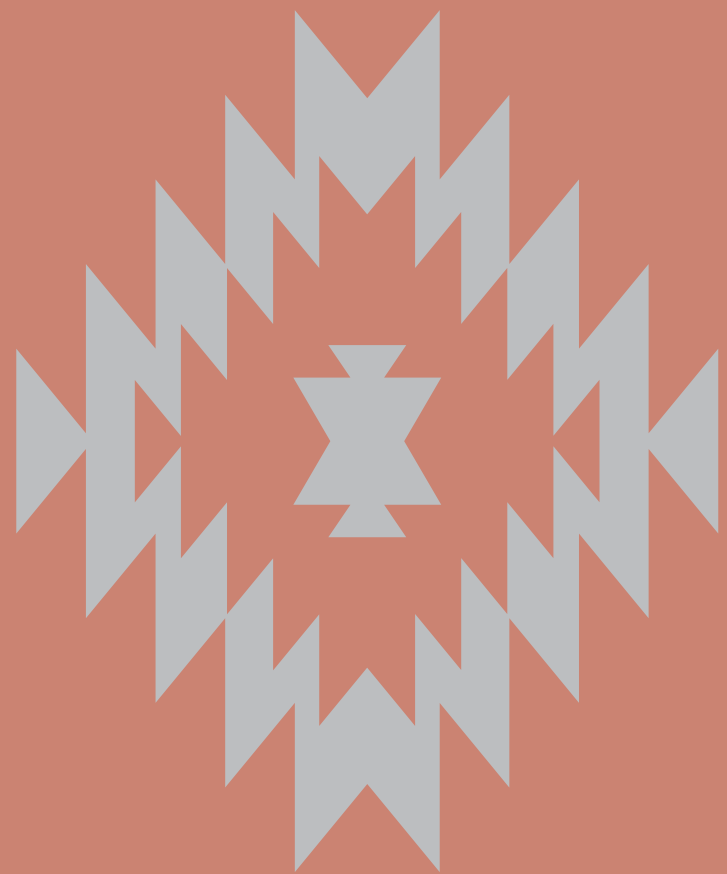
Parenting: Different Tactics/ Practice

- Don't hug or embrace
- Don't say I love you
- Hard time showing affection
- More tough love approach
- It takes a village
- Opposite reactions to emotion
- Rough around the edges



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lwq-AgJmI4>

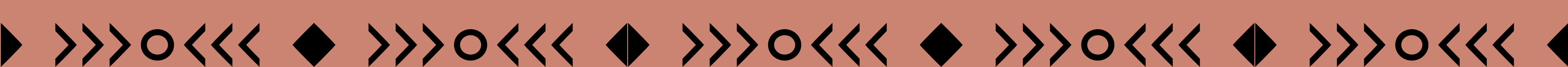
1:27 John Trudell Video





Historical Trauma: Effects on Youth today



- Feeling disconnected in the school or community
 - Showing up late or not at all to school
 - Laughing in serious times
 - Doesn't engage or speak much
 - Struggles with teaching styles
 - Living with family members - transient
 - Alcohol or drug use
 - Frequent Law Enforcement contact
 - Not excelling academically
 - Mistrust with YJ worker and other professionals
- 

2022 YJ Referred Youth by Race and Hispanic Ethnicity

	2022 YJ Referred Youth		General Youth Population	
Race	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
White	4,997	56.8%	968,568	81.8%
Black/African American	2,179	24.7%	136,614	11.5%
Native American/Alaskan Native	473	5.4%	25,092	2.1%
Asian	83	0.9%	54,279	4.6%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	14	0.2%	--	--
Race Unknown or Not Documented	1,059	12.0%	--	--

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (2024)

WI DATA HIGHLIGHTS DOJ

The DOJ consolidates data from federally determined points of contact where racial and ethnic disparities can occur

- Black and Native American youth are nearly 3 times more likely than White youth to be arrested, despite total arrests in 2022 remaining below pre-pandemic levels.
- While 30% of White youth referred to youth justice are recommended for petition, 56% of Black youth are recommended for petition.
- Black youth are more than 5 times as likely to be detained pre-trial and Native American youth are twice as likely, compared to White youth.
- Black, Native American, and Asian youth are more likely than White youth to be confined in a juvenile correctional facility. The total number of youth placed in secure correctional facilities has returned to pre-pandemic levels.
- Native American youth are 5 times as likely and Black youth are 8 times as likely to be waived into adult court, as compared to White youth.

Connection to Culture

- Help youth connect to tribal resources
- Native Drum Groups
- Talking Circles
- Traditional Learning
- Language classes
- Youth Work Programs
- Culture Camp
- Powwows
- Traditional Medicines
- Sweat lodges/
Ceremonies

Healing Practices

Mentorship

- Native Mentors
- Youth Centers/Programs
- Visiting Elders
- Volunteer in the
Community

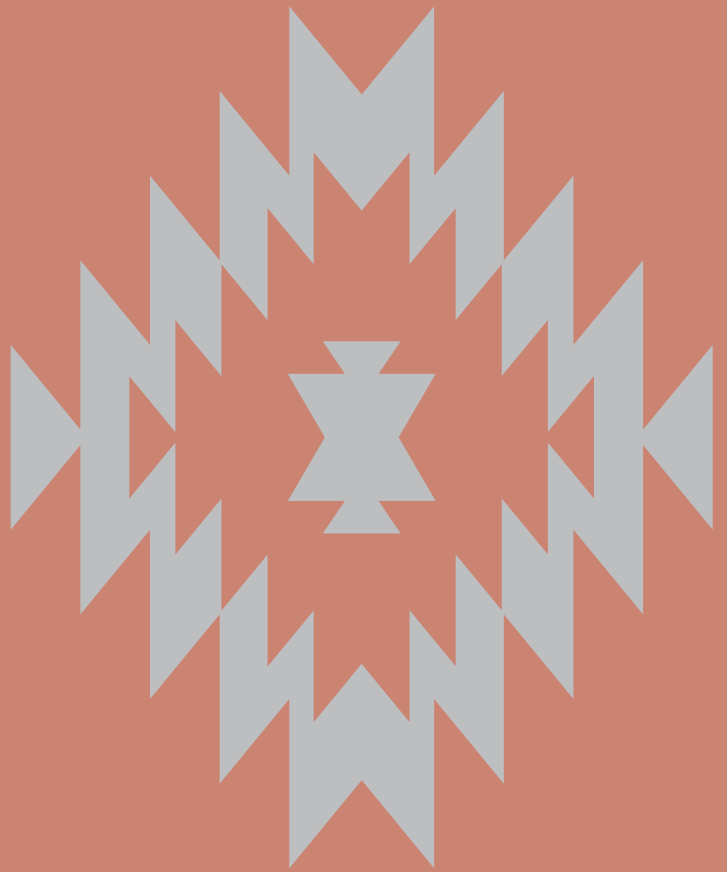
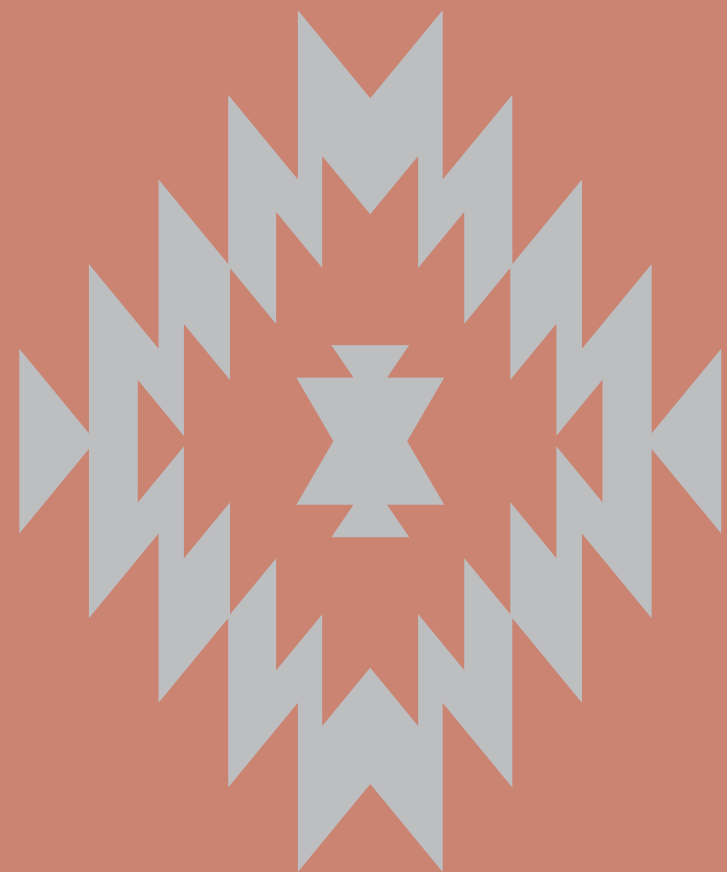
Learn their History

- Help them create a family tree
- Visit their Tribal Library Historical Centers
- Connect with elders
- Visit homelands



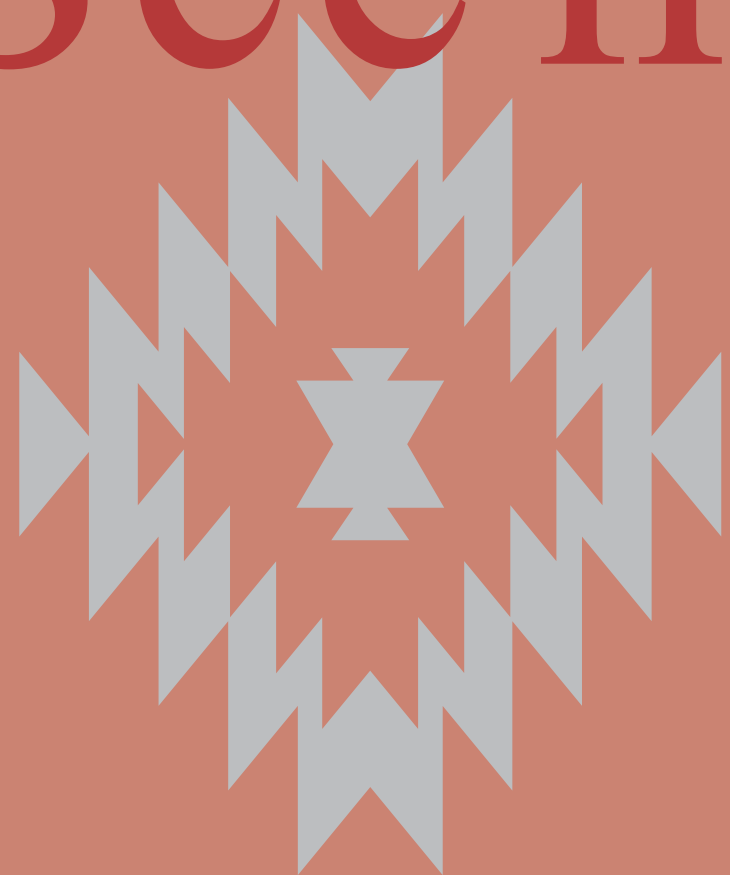
https://www.youtube.com/clip/UgkxQc7w_wcGGSgHluTxYPsL3S0jg1mztA8s

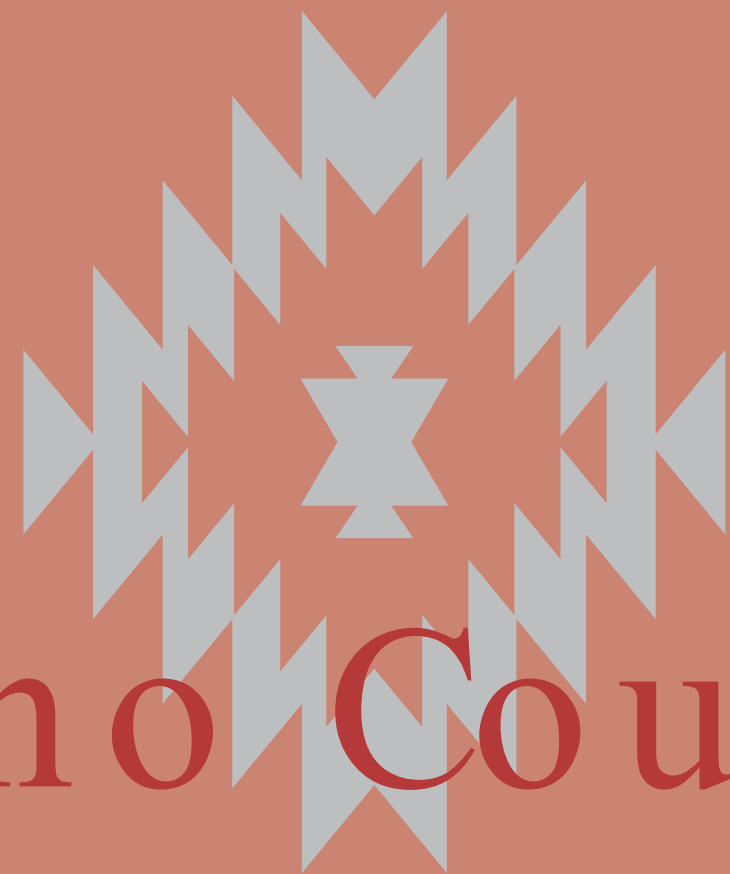
56 second Video on Native Youth Impact Today from Boarding School Era





Group Scenarios





Shawano County DHS

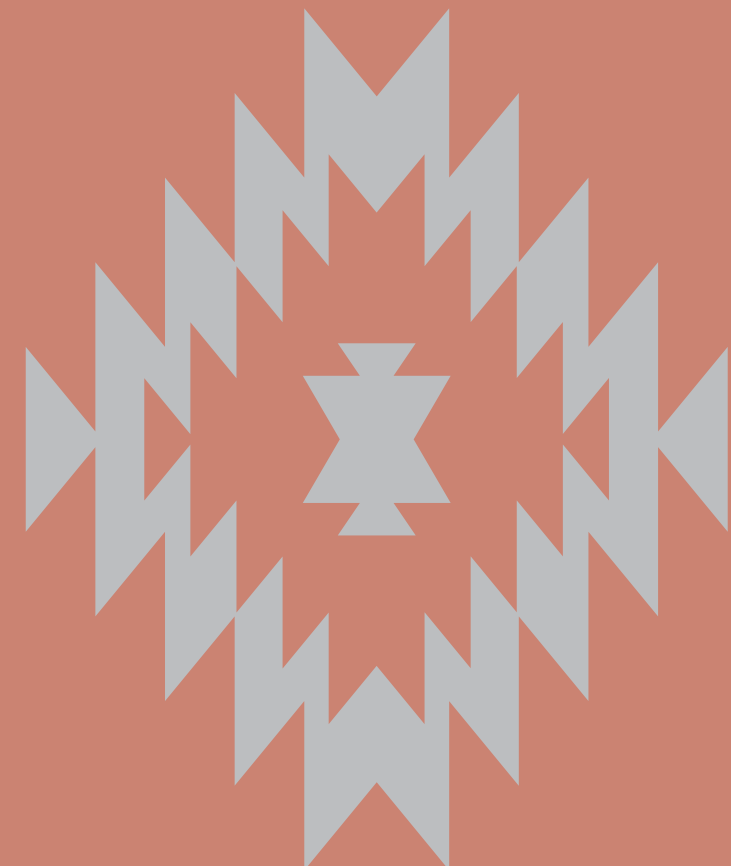
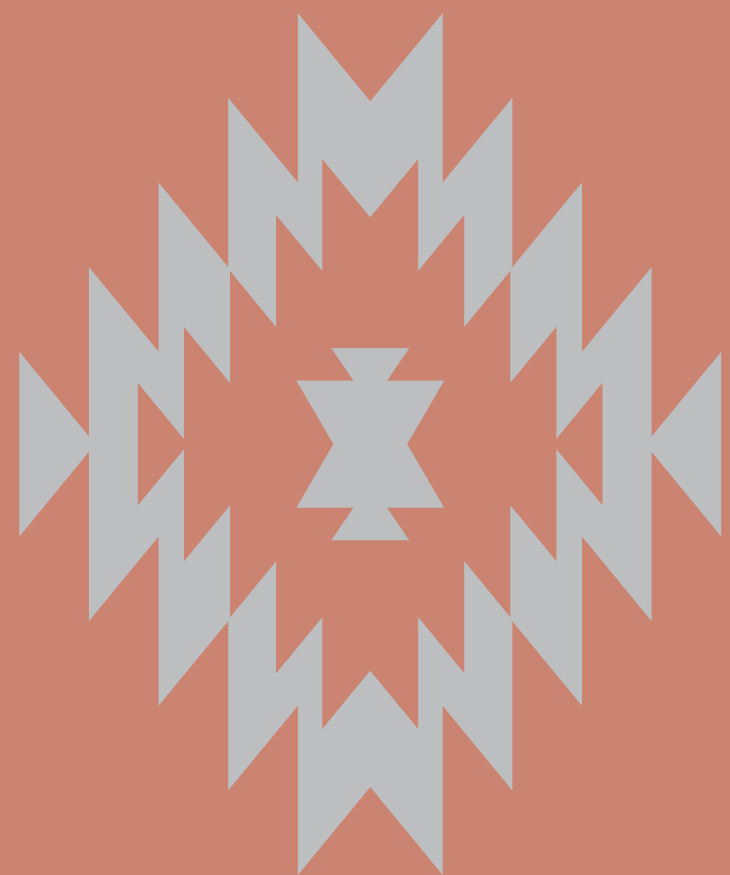
Case Example





MTFS & USAO

Example



Common Biases

Native Americans are
wealthy because of
their casinos.

The “vanishing race”

**Alcoholics
&
Addicts**

Being an “apple”

Native Americans live
in teepees, round
houses, etc.



Worker Best Practices/ FAQ Handout

Perspective

Rapport Building

Compassion

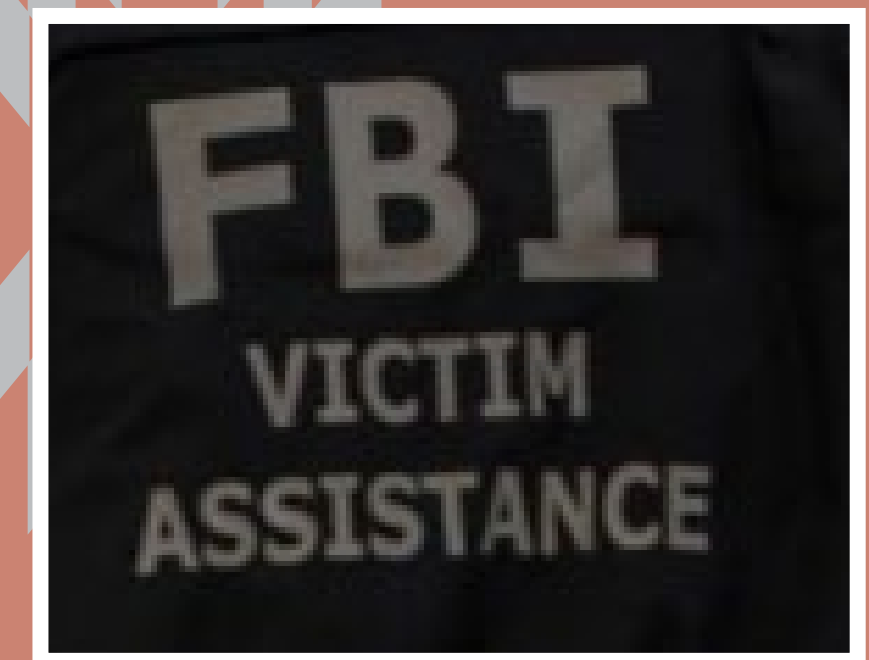
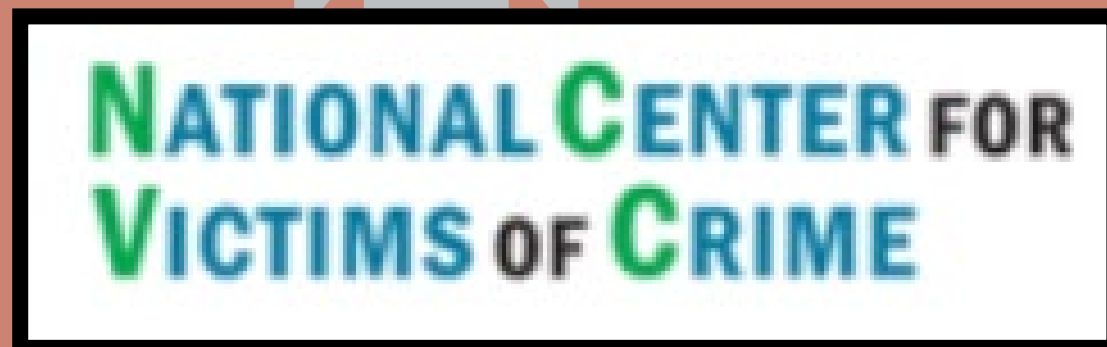
Intent

Adaptability

Empowerment



Victim Services in Indian Country





Questions?



Resources

Above The Noise. (2021, December 1). *How Does the Boarding School Era Impact Native Youth Today?* [Video]. Youtube.

https://www.youtube.com/clip/UgkxQc7w_wcGGSgHluTxYPsL3S0jg1mztA8s

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Robbins, C. (2017, December 10). *JOHN TRUDELL on Where Spirits Get Eaten and Drunken Indians* [Video]. Youtube.

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Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. (2024) Wisconsin Youth Justice Referrals and Intake: Report for Calendar Year 2022. Retrieved from <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/yj/pdf/2022-intake-report.pdf>.

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. (n.d.). *Native American Tribes of Wisconsin Locations*. WISELearn Resources.

<https://wresources.dpi.wi.gov/courseware/lesson/1607/overview>

WXOW News 19. (2021, October 11). *Wisconsin’s history with Indigenous boarding schools for children* [Video]. Youtube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UEpQQx4BBM>



Community Resource Contacts

Bad River

715-682-7111

Brothertown

920-929-9964

Ho-Chunk

715-284-0905

Lac Du Flambeau

715-588-3303

La Courte Oreille

715-634-8934

Menominee

715-799-5137

Oneida

920-490-3700

Oneida (SE WI)

414-329-4101

Potawatomi

715-478-6500

Red Cliff

715-779-3700

Sokaogon Chippewa

715-478-7600

St. Croix

715-349-2195

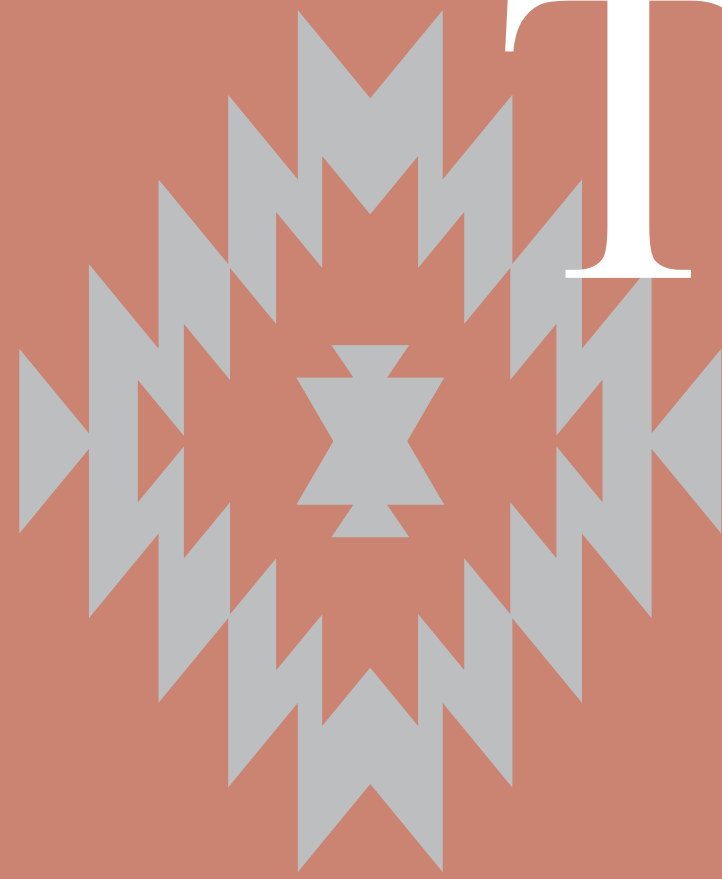
Stockbridge-Munsee

715-793-4080





Thank you!





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