Use the 2017 NCVRW Resource Guide to plan your campaign. National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW) will be observed April 2–8, 2017. Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) encourages you to incorporate the resources available into your outreach materials to support this weeklong event. This year’s NCVRW theme video centers around this year’s theme—Strength. Resilience. Justice. It reflects a vision in which all victims are strengthened by the response they receive, organizations are resilient in response to challenges, and communities can seek collective justice and healing. Theme artwork is also available for organizations to incorporate into their outreach materials, including: Theme Poster, Facebook and Twitter imagery, Artwork for buttons, bookmarks, ribbon cards, and more. Explore the Guide online and download all materials for use offline. The guide is also available in Spanish.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. OVC’s “Through Our Eyes: Children, Violence, and Trauma” is a video series where victims lend their voices to provide first-hand accounts of how their exposure to violence as children affected them.

Office for Victims of Crime TTAC (OVC TTAC) is Now Accepting Applications for the Spring 2017 NVAA Leadership Institute! This comprehensive ONLINE training covers essential skills you need to guide, motivate, and support your staff to achieve your organization's mission and vision.

Utilize the U.S. Resource Map of Crime Victim Services & Information from OVC. If you are a victim of crime, click on your state or territory to find—victim compensation and assistance, victim notification programs, other victim assistance programs through the Online Directory, and information on reporting crime victim’ rights violations. If you are a provider/community leader, click on your state or territory to find—conferences and events, victims’ rights legal provisions, statistics, and statewide performance reports.

For a complete list of current funding solicitations from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), visit http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/Solicitation.aspx
INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

Launch of the StrongHearts Native Helpline: 1-844-7NATIVE (1-844-762-8483). On March 6, 2017 the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, the Administration for Children and Families, and their partners launched the StrongHearts Native Helpline: “StrongHearts is a culturally-appropriate, anonymous, confidential service dedicated to serving Native American survivors of domestic violence and concerned family members and friends. By dialing 1-844-7NATIVE (1-844-762-8483) Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CST, callers can connect at no cost one-on-one with knowledgeable StrongHearts advocates who can provide lifesaving tools and immediate support to enable survivors to find safety and live lives free of abuse.” The Native domestic violence hotline is the first of its kind and a much-needed resource for Native victims/survivors of domestic violence and their communities. While there are other domestic violence helplines and hotlines, the StrongHearts team has specifically addressed the unique positions of Native victims/survivors by ensuring their advocates working the helpline have “a strong understanding of Native cultures, as well of issues of tribal sovereignty and law, in a safe and accepting environment, free of assumption and judgement.” In addition to the helpline, the StrongHearts project team has been collaborating with the National Center for Victims of Crime, the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, and the National Congress of American Indians on the Office of Victims of Crime funded Tribal Resource Mapping Project, which aims to create an online ‘Tribal Victim Services Resource Mapping Tool’ that Native victims/survivors of any type of crime can use to quickly find culturally-appropriate services. **All quoted text has been taken from the StrongHearts Native Helpline press release, available at: www.niwrc.org/news/stronghearts-native-helpline-launches-critical-resource-domestic-violence-and-dating-violence

Resources for Victim-Centered Tribal Code Development. Victim-centered tribal codes are incredibly important for American Indian and Alaska Native justice systems. The following publication series—Legal Code Development—by the Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TLPI) can be used to create and/or revise tribal codes with a victim-centered approach. The most relevant are highlighted below, but be sure to visit www.home.tlpi.org/legal-code-development-series or www.Home.TLPI.org/publications for complete TLPI resource listing.

❖ Guide for Drafting or Revising Victim-Centered Tribal Laws Against Domestic Violence
This guide includes examples from a variety of tribal codes designed to offer suggestions on how tribal laws can be drafted in a way that provides safety and support for the survivors of domestic violence. (2015)

❖ Guide for Drafting or Revising Victim-Centered Tribal Laws Against Sexual Assault and Stalking
This guide includes sample language and discussion questions designed to create discussion on what laws will best reflect tribal values. This resource was revised and updated in May 2012, including changes reflecting the 2010 enactment of the Tribal Law and Order Act. (2012). Please note: A substantial revision is currently pending federal approval, contact TLPI for more information.

❖ A Victim-Centered Approach to Crimes Against American Indian & Alaska Native Children: Resource Guide and Workbook for Drafting New or Amended Tribal Laws on Crimes Against Children
This Resource Guide and Workbook aims to provide a process for enacting a culturally-appropriate criminal code that address the victimization of tribal children. This resource attempts to balance the goals of protecting the sacredness of children while also assuring due process protections for the accused. (2008). Please note: This resource is currently being updated to reflect relevant federal laws enacted since 2008.

❖ Guide for Drafting or Revising Tribal Laws to Implement the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) Enhanced Sentencing and the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization of 2013 (VAWA) Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction
This resource provides guidance for Native nations interested in implementing enhanced sentencing under the Tribal Law and Order Act and/or the special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction under the 2013 Violence Against Women Act. (Updated 2016)

❖ Civil Children’s Code: Guide for Drafting or Revising Tribal Civil Dependency and Related Laws
This resource is designed to be used while drafting new or amended tribal laws on child dependency and related legal issues. This resource is not a model code but instead aims to provide a process for enacting culturally-appropriate and victim-centered laws that address the neglect of tribal children. (Forthcoming).
The Administration for Children and Families, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administrations, the Administration for Community Living, the Offices of the Assistant Secretary for Health and the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have worked together to develop a Guide to Trauma-Informed Human Services. This resource guide is intended to provide an introduction to the topic of trauma, a discussion of why understanding and addressing trauma is important for human services programs, and a "road map" to find relevant resources. https://www.acf.hhs.gov/trauma-toolkit

Reliance, in partnership with The Poynter Institute for Media Studies, recognizes the importance of sexual violence reporting. The RALLYs awards honor the highest level of journalistic achievement in covering sexual violence. The RALLYs will be presented at the Reliance Media Summit on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at the Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington, D.C. This one-day event will bring together journalists to discuss reporting on sexual violence. To view the press release, register to attend, or submit a contest entry visit http://www.reliance.org/.

“RCT Testing Bystander Effectiveness to Reduce Violence.” Bystander-based programs have shown promise to reduce interpersonal violence at colleges, yet limited rigorous evaluations have addressed bystander intervention effectiveness in high schools. This study evaluated the Green Dot bystander intervention to reduce sexual violence and related forms of interpersonal violence in 26 high schools over 5 years. http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797%2817%2930027-2/abstract.

Live the Green Dot. The Green Dot Program is built on the premise that in order to measurably reduce the perpetration of power-based personal violence, a cultural shift is necessary. In order to create a cultural shift, a critical mass of people will need to engage in a new behavior or set of behaviors that will make violence less sustainable within any given community. The “new behavior” is a Green Dot. https://www.livethegreendot.com/index.html

Crime Victim Compensation Program. Crime victim compensation programs across the country offer crucial financial assistance to victims of violence. Victims of violent crime may suffer financial stress as devastating as their physical injuries and emotional trauma. Recovering from violence or abuse is difficult enough without having to worry about how to pay for the costs of medical care and counseling, or about how to replace lost income due to disability or death. The National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards offers a plethora of information for victims and/or victim advocates to include a program directory and state links for each state compensation program. http://www.nacvcb.org/index.asp?sid=1

The month of April has been designated as Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in the United States. It is a time to raise awareness about the prevalence and devastating effects of these behaviors and crimes, and to educate individuals, families, and communities about what they can do to prevent and put a stop to them.


TRAININGS AND EVENTS

Registration Open for Training on Creating a Trauma-Informed School. The National Center for School Engagement is offering “Creating a Trauma Informed School” on June 9, 2017, in Colorado Springs, CO. This training will provide educators and counselors with an understanding of the educational impacts of trauma on students. Participants will learn strategies to help students who have experienced trauma to become successful in the classroom, school, and community. [http://schoolengagement.org/trainings#030717](http://schoolengagement.org/trainings#030717)

Register now for National Criminal Justice Training Center's "Crimes Against Children in Indian Country" Conference. Apr 25-27, 2017. Carlton, MN. Native American youth are impacted by unique and challenging threats that affect their physical and emotional development and well-being. Substance and physical abuse, families in crisis, and violence continue to threaten their communities. Join us at this year's conference to gather resources, strengthen relationships between agencies, and promote a multidisciplinary, multi-jurisdictional approach to serving Native young people. [https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/training/details/TR00003456/TRI0003457/crime-against-children-in-indian-country-1#.WK9dCphQE_k.facebook](https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/training/details/TR00003456/TRI0003457/crime-against-children-in-indian-country-1#.WK9dCphQE_k.facebook)

Apply for National Institute of Corrections' (NIC) Mental Health First Aid courses coming in May and June. Mental Health First Aid is an 8-hour, one day course that teaches individuals how to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The training helps individuals identify, understand and respond to signs of addictions and mental illnesses. Topics covered include Depression and Mood disorders; Anxiety disorders; Trauma; Psychosis; and Substance Use Disorders. Mental Health First Aid teaches about recovery and resiliency – the belief that individuals experiencing these challenges can and do get better, and use their strengths to stay well. May training info: [https://nicic.gov/training/17p1019](https://nicic.gov/training/17p1019); June training info: [https://nicic.gov/training/17p1020](https://nicic.gov/training/17p1020).

Child Welfare Information Gateway Podcast Series: "Engaging Fathers." Children with a caring father figure in their lives are at less risk for behavioral problems, substance use, teen pregnancy, and incarceration than their peers who lack positive paternal involvement. Learn how you can engage fathers and paternal family members in your everyday casework and improve outcomes for the children and families you serve in this new 3-part podcast series. [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/capacity/child-welfare-podcast-series](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/capacity/child-welfare-podcast-series)

End Violence Against Women (EVAW) International's 2017 International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Systems Change (Orlando, FL. April 18 - 20, 2017) will offer a variety of workshops focusing on intimate partner violence. The following are just a sample of the sessions you can attend during three days of training. A Case of Domestic Violence Against Muslim Women; Effective Strategies to Respond to Older Victims of Abuse; Court and Community Collaboration: Innovative Strategies for Assessing Risk in Domestic Violence Cases; Breaking the Cycle of the "Bullying to Partner Violence Pipeline"; LGBTQ* Domestic Violence: Building Capacity; Working to Better Understand How Domestic Violence Survivors Experience and Interpret Abuse: Research Findings and Strategies for Outreach and Intervention. To find out more about these and other valuable sessions at this year's conference, please visit the conference page. [http://www.evawintl.org/conferencedetail.aspx?confid=28](http://www.evawintl.org/conferencedetail.aspx?confid=28)

Call for Artists Competition Open at NICWA 2018 Annual Conference. NICWA invites American Indian and Alaska Native artists to participate in our Call for Artists. NICWA is excited to once again provide an opportunity for artists to showcase their talents in support of our 2018 Protecting Our Children Conference in Anchorage, Alaska. The selected artist will be awarded a cash prize of $1,500 for the use of their work in promotional materials for our 2018 conference. Artists interested in becoming conference arts and crafts vendors can opt to receive $1,100 and a booth space at the 2018 annual conference. The image will be published on NICWA's website and printed materials will reach thousands, as well as being the visual centerpiece throughout the event. This is a can't-miss opportunity for any Native artist looking to achieve exposure on a national scale. Artwork and submission forms should be sent no later than May 4, 2017. [http://www.nicwa.org/callforartists/](http://www.nicwa.org/callforartists/)
During an unseasonably warm February week, the Winnebago Domestic Violence (DV) Intervention Program brought together their interdisciplinary team to work through the strategic planning process. The OVC CTVA grantee, under the direction of Director Jim Swanson, exists to provide quality services for victims in the community through intervention, referrals, advocacy, and cultural tradition. The shelter program and their planning partners were able to identify several on-going issues currently faced by victims in the community and develop a dynamic action plan to address issues of privacy, on-going victimization, and lack of resources for referrals.

The planning team, consisting of advocates, law enforcement, social workers, data collection specialists, and Tribal planners, were able to attend the 2-day Community Analysis Process for Planning Strategies (CAPPS) training held at one of their community buildings. The CAPPS process, developed over 20 years ago by justice professionals, is a process used by teams to address community and programmatic problems. The Winnebago DV Intervention Program was able to use this process to define team member’s roles and responsibilities, develop a vision statement, review needs assessment data, create goals/objectives/activities in support of their mission, and identify community strengths and resources for victims of crime. Congratulations to Director Swanson and his team for all the hard work and effort they put in during this process.

If you are beginning the strategic planning process and would like to obtain training and technical assistance, please contact your OVC Program Manager. Your Program Manager will contact your T&TA provider, NCJTC or Unified Solutions.
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