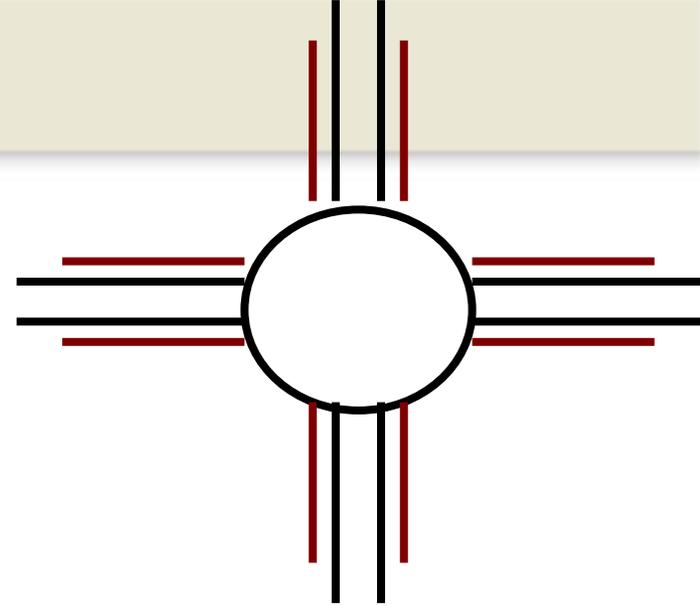


Understanding Our Communities



Region XI American Indian and Alaska Native

- Captain Robert Bialas, Regional Program Manager
- W.J. Strickland, Senior Program Specialist
- Walter Jourdain, Program Specialist
- Micker (Mike) Richardson, National AIAN Collaboration Director, FHI 360



- 150 Grantees
- 26 States
- Sixteen (16) Program Specialists
- 26,052 children and families served
 - ACF Funded Enrollment ~ 22,800
 - Head Start ~ 21,216
 - Early Head Start ~ 4,288
 - Pregnant Women ~ 548
 - Classrooms ~ 1,385



Tribal Sovereignty

The essence of tribal sovereignty is the ability to govern and protect the health, safety and welfare of tribal citizens within tribal territory. Tribal governments have their inherent right to develop their own form of government, to determine their own citizenship, to establish their own civil and criminal laws and be ruled by them in tribal courts, to tax, to license and regulate, and to exclude people from tribal lands.



Government-to-Government

- During introductions listen to how tribal leaders introduce themselves and how other council members respond to them. Be respectful and address these individuals by their titles.
- Listen first, respect always.
- Do not interrupt a tribal leader when they are speaking, let them continue until they are finished.
- Be aware of Tribal Elders in the meeting, even if they do not speak, they are to be shown respect at all times, if they do speak, listen.
- A tribe can have 500 members or 300,000 members the same respect is shown to both.
- Gifts and/or food provided by the tribe.



The Circle

"You have noticed that everything an Indian does is in a circle,
And that is because the Power of the World always works in circles,
And everything tries to be round....

The sky is round,

And I have heard that the earth is round like a ball,

And so are all the stars.

The wind, in its greatest power, whirls.

Birds make their nests in circles, for theirs is the same religion as
ours....

Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing,

And always come back again to where they were.

The life of a man is a circle from childhood to childhood, and so it is
in everything where power moves."

-Black Elk, Oglala Sioux (1863-1950)



We Welcome

- Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.
- Tribal Leaders, Tribal Administrators, Head Start Directors, Fiscal Officers, Federal Staff, T/TA partners, and all others.



Monitoring in Native Communities

- Why do we monitor?
 - Ensure compliance with Head Start regulations.
- What is your role?
 - Set a positive tone.
 - Make monitoring a positive experience that enhances and fosters a positive future government-to-government relationship.



Diversity within Native Communities

- Don't make assumptions about community members.
- Members in the community can be very diverse as well.
- Regardless of a community members involvement with the tradition, be respectful of the tradition, language, and culture.

Tips and Suggestions

- Be Respectful, be open minded and remember that you are a GUEST.
- Don't make assumptions about the individuals in the community.
- As a Federal Team Leader, you set the tone.
- Maintain open communication with the Head Start Director(s) and any other points of contact whom the Tribe may want involved.
- Be mindful that each government-to-government interactions may effect the ongoing relationship with a sovereign nation.



Understanding Our Communities



Questions

