

# Services Provided By Federal Agencies to Assist in Effective Sentencing

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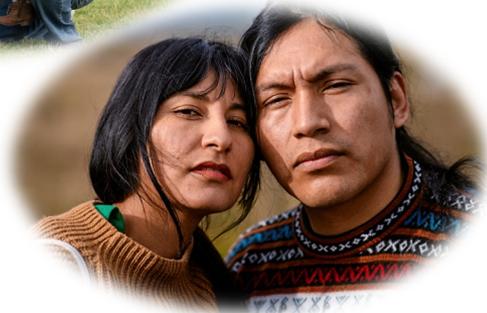
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**SAMHSA**  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

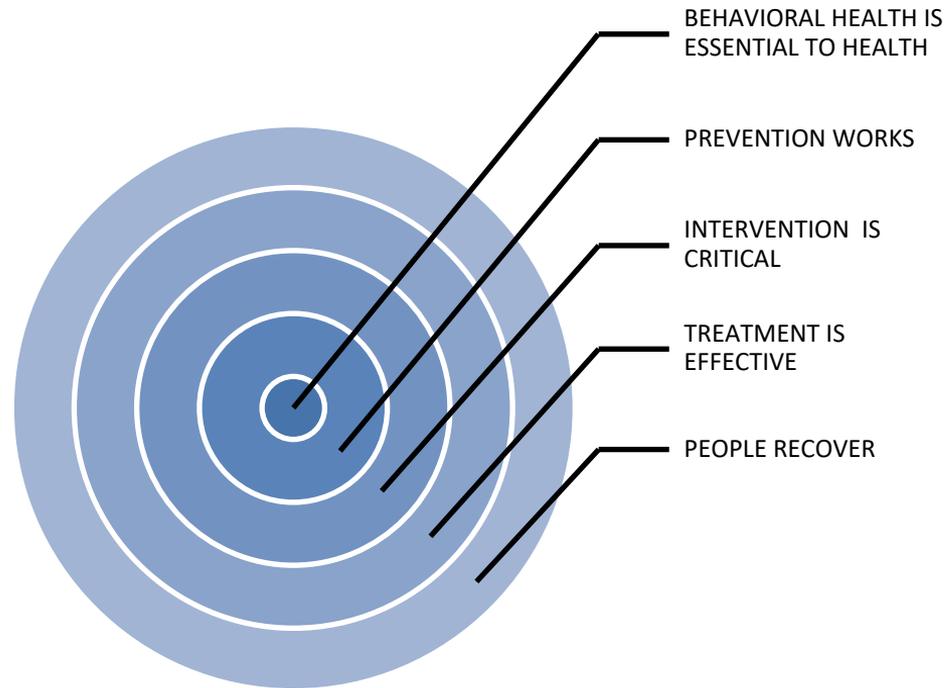
# Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy



- Serves as the [primary point of contact](#) within SAMHSA for Tribes, Tribal organizations, and other partners on Tribal behavioral health.
- Leads and supports SAMHSA-wide actions to improve behavioral health of Tribal communities.
- Leads SAMHSA Tribal consultation, outreach, education, and engagement efforts.
- Leads coordination of Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse (IASA) efforts in response to the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA).

# Behavioral Health – A National Priority

**SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance use and mental illness on America's communities.**



# Intersecting Mental Health and Criminality

- People with mental and substance use disorders are over-represented in the justice system.
- Reportedly, 44 percent of those in jail and 37 percent of those in prison have a mental illness.
- Reportedly, 63 percent of people in jail and 58 percent in prison have a substance use disorder (SUD).
- People with SUDs have challenges receiving appropriate treatment and often incarceration worsens their symptoms. This can lead to individuals staying incarcerated longer than those without behavioral health concerns.

# Criminal and Juvenile Justice

- To reduce the human and fiscal cost and consequences of repeated arrests and incarceration for people with behavioral health issues, SAMHSA [approaches the work](#) through:
  - **Early identification of individuals with mental and substance use disorders at all points of contact with the justice system – pre-arrest, booking, adjudication, reentry.**
  - Use of screening and assessment to ensure linkage with evidence-based treatment, services and supports.
  - **Diversion of individuals from the justice system into home- and community-based treatment.**
  - Engaging law enforcement, first responders, and crisis management teams, justice court personnel, and community treatment providers in diversion strategies that meet both clinical and public safety needs.
  - **Provision of an array of services and supports to enable successful reentry into the community for those transitioning from incarceration or detention.**
  - Promotion of cross-sector collaboration to better serve these populations dually involved with the behavioral health and criminal justice systems.

# GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation



- The [GAINS Center](#) focuses on expanding access to services for people with mental and/or substance use disorders who come into contact with the adult criminal justice system.
- SAMHSA's GAINS Center provides technical assistance and support to the following:
  - Professionals working in the fields of behavioral health and criminal justice.
  - States and communities across the country who are working to achieve integrated systems of mental health and substance use services.

# Criminal and Juvenile Justice Grants

- SAMHSA grants that have a specific focus of serving those involved in the criminal justice system:
  - [Law Enforcement and Behavioral Health Partnership for Early Diversion](#)
    - Establishes or expands programs that divert adults with a serious mental illness (SMI) or a co-occurring disorder (COD), from the criminal justice system to community-based services prior to arrest and booking.
  - [Family Treatment Courts](#)
    - Expands SUD treatment services in existing family treatment drug courts, which use the family treatment drug court model, in order to provide alcohol and drug treatment to parents with a SUD and/or co-occurring SUD and mental disorders who have had a dependency petition filed against them or are at risk of such filing.
  - [Offender Reentry Program](#)
    - Expands SUD treatment and related recovery and reentry services to sentenced adult offenders/ex-offenders with a SUD and/or co-occurring substance use and mental disorders, who are returning to their families and community from incarceration in state and local facilities including prisons, jails, or detention centers.
  - [Adult Treatment Drug Courts and Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts](#)
    - Expands SUD treatment services in existing adult problem solving courts, and adult Tribal Healing to Wellness courts, which use the treatment drug court model in order to provide SUD treatment (including recovery support services, screening, assessment, case management, and program coordination) to defendants/offenders.

# Tribal Law and Order Act



- The Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA), which reauthorized and amended the Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, focuses on prosecution as well as prevention.
- SAMHSA/OTAP is directed to take the lead role in interagency coordination and collaboration on Tribal substance abuse programs.

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of Interior (DOI), and Department of Justice (DOJ) must also develop and maintain a sustainable partnership infrastructure that engages other Federal agencies and offers a holistic approach to addressing alcohol and substance use issues faced by American Indian and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) in the following areas:
  - Scope of the Problem
  - Minimum Program Standards
  - Identification of Programs and Resources
  - TAP Development
  - Newsletter
  - **Law Enforcement and Judicial Training**
  - Child Protection, Child Welfare, and Child Abuse and Neglect Data
  - Juvenile Detention Centers
  - [Model Juvenile Code](#)
  - BIE-IHS Collaboration and Local MOAs



## **The Importance of Culture**

# Better Addressing Cultures

- Cultural respect/humility is important to consider when addressing health disparities. When developed and applied as a framework, cultural respect enables groups, agencies, and systems, agencies to function effectively and better understand how to adequately address the healthcare needs of populations.
- OTAP, and by extension SAMHSA, recognizes the value of respecting AI/AN cultures and celebrating Native American heritages.

# Tribal Only Grant Programs – Native Connections

## Tribal Behavioral Health Grant (TBHG/Native Connections)

- The purpose of this program is to prevent suicide and substance misuse, reduce the impact of trauma, and promote mental health among American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth through the age of 24 years.
- Native Connections is intended to reduce the impact of mental and substance use disorders, foster culturally responsive models that reduce and respond to the impact of trauma in AI/AN communities.



In FY21, SAMHSA awarded 40 Tribes and Tribal organizations.

In FY 22 SAMHSA awarded 41 Tribes and Tribal organizations.

The Native Connections grant is funded up to \$250k for up to 5 years.

# Culture is Prevention



- This tool comprises a webinar and reading document. The former focuses on the resilience and strengths of Tribal communities using culture. Additionally, the *Culture is Prevention* webinar briefly looks at historical trauma, cultural protective factors, and evidence-based factors.
- The *Culture is Prevention* reading document highlights the importance of community-based participatory research as a tool that is more respectful, ethical, sympathetic, and useful when trying to help AI/AN populations as opposed to research associated with exploitation and colonization.

## Culture is Prevention

Youth attend a sewing or beading group to learn their traditional language. A group of young women participate in a talking circle to discuss dating violence. A young man asks a traditional practitioner for a ceremony. A youth group drums at a powwow. A community holds a sweat or steam baths once a month. An elder visits a classroom to share traditional knowledge with the youth. Is this prevention?

Native Connections (NC) grantees know, from their own experience and from that of other grantees and partners, that culture is prevention. But how do we convince others – funders, tribal councils, community members? What, besides anecdote, demonstrates this is true? How do we know that cultural practices are protective factors?

There's research! Research shows that the risk for substance misuse and other adverse behaviors increases as the number of risk factors increases, while the more protectives that are in place reduce the risks.<sup>1</sup> Categories of protective factors positively associated with health and social outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth include: personal wellness, positive self-image, self-efficacy, familial and non-familial connectedness, positive opportunities, positive social norms, and cultural connectedness. Such factors positively influenced adolescent alcohol, tobacco, and substance use; delinquent and violent behavior; emotional health including depression, suicide attempt; resilience; and academic success.<sup>2</sup> In a study of suicide attempts among AI/AN youth, the authors concluded that increasing protective factors was more effective at reducing the probability of a suicide attempt than was decreasing risk factors.<sup>3</sup>





**SAMHSA Programs and Resources for American Indian/Alaska Natives and Justice-Related Concerns**

# Six Guiding Principles To A Trauma-Informed Approach

## 6 GUIDING PRINCIPLES TO A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH

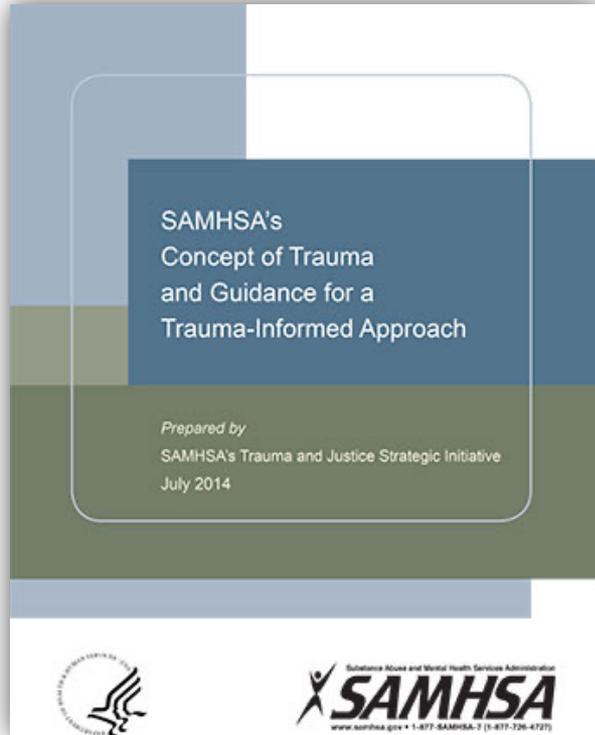
The CDC's [Center for Preparedness and Response \(CPR\)](#), in collaboration with SAMHSA's [National Center for Trauma-Informed Care \(NCTIC\)](#), developed and led a new training for CPR employees about the role of trauma-informed care during public health emergencies. The training aimed to increase responder awareness of the impact that trauma can have in the communities where they work.

Participants learned SAMHSA'S six principles that guide a trauma-informed approach, including:



Adopting a trauma-informed approach is not accomplished through any single particular technique or checklist. It requires constant attention, caring awareness, sensitivity, and possibly a cultural change at an organizational level. On-going internal organizational assessment and quality improvement, as well as engagement with community stakeholders, will help to imbue this approach which can be augmented with organizational development and practice improvement. The training provided by [CPR](#) and [NCTIC](#) was the first step for CDC to view emergency preparedness and response through a trauma-informed lens.

# SAMHSA's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach



- This manual introduces a concept of trauma and offers a framework for becoming a trauma-informed organization, system, or service sector. The manual provides a definition of trauma and a trauma-informed approach, and offers 6 key principles and 10 implementation domains.

# SAMHSA's 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

- In 2020, Congress designated the new 988 dialing code to be operated through the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. SAMHSA sees 988 as a first step towards a transformed crisis care system in America.
- SAMHSA recognizes the need for governments, states, territories, Tribes, crisis centers, and partners to speak with one voice to ensure there is a clear understanding about what 988 is and how it will work.
- The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) offers 24/7 call, text and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing suicidal, substance use, and/or mental health crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress.
- People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.



**In 2020, Congress designated the new 988 dialing code to operate through the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.**

**The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the lead federal agency, in partnership with the Federal Communications Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs, working to make the promise of 988 a reality for America. Moving to a 3-digit dialing code is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to strengthen and expand the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (the Lifeline).**

Of course, 988 is more than just an easy-to-remember number—it is a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health related distress – whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. Preparing for full 988 implementation requires a bold vision for a crisis care system that provides direct, life-saving services to all in need.

SAMHSA sees 988 as a first step towards a transformed crisis care system in much the same way as emergency medical services have expanded in the US.



In pursuit of this bold yet achievable vision, SAMHSA is first focused on strengthening and expanding the existing Lifeline network, providing life-saving service to all who call, text or chat via 988. Longer term, SAMHSA recognizes that linking those in crisis to community-based providers—who can deliver a full range of crisis care services—is essential to meeting crisis needs across the nation.



Developed in collaboration with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention

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# Tribal Communities & Partnering with 988

- Check your state's Department of Health, local call center, or 988 Implementation Coalition, to see how you can get involved.
- Partner with local crisis service providers to ensure culturally appropriate services.
- Develop culturally aware mobile crisis response teams for Tribal communities.
- Establish Tribally specific crisis service centers to become part of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.
- To find the nearest crisis center and their contact information, go to <https://988lifeline.org/our-network/>.

# Homeless and Housing Resource Center



- The [Homeless and Housing Resource Center \(HHRC\)](#), established by SAMHSA, works to expand the availability of high-quality training in evidence-based housing and treatment models focused on adults, children, and families who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, substance use disorders, or co-occurring disorders.

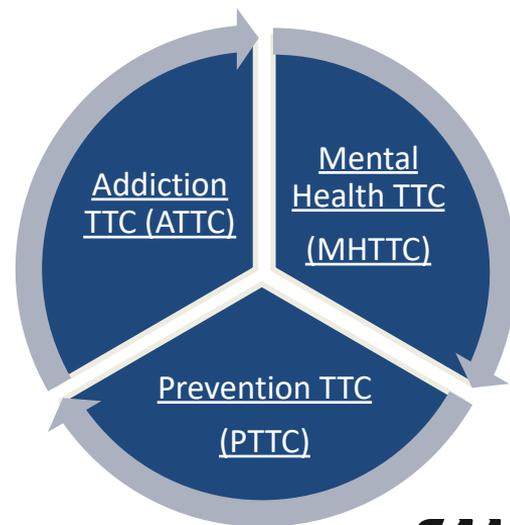
# SAMHSA Tribal Technical Assistance



The National AI/AN TTCs work to develop and strengthen the specialized behavioral healthcare and primary healthcare workforce that provides SUD and mental health prevention, treatment, and recovery support services to American Indian and Alaska Native individuals, families, and Tribal and urban Indian communities.

The [Tribal Training and Technical Assistance \(TTA\) Center](#) offers technical assistance (TA) on mental and substance use disorders, suicide prevention, and mental health promotion using the Strategic Cultural Framework. Events included the following:

- Opioids Training and Technical Assistance
- Gathering of Native Americans (GONAs)
- Learning Communities
- Virtual TTA
- Intensive TTA
- Information Dissemination



# Facts about Native American Women and Violence

- Reportedly, AI/AN women experience higher rates of victimization when compared with women from other racial or ethnic groups in the US.
- Native American women are nearly twice as likely to be sexually assaulted or raped when compared with Black or White women, with non-Native men committing nearly 80 percent of sexual assault against Native American women.
- Less than half of all AI/AN women who experience violence report these crimes to police. Of those who report, 60 to 90 percent of cases go unprosecuted.
- Native American women who are victims of violence and live in villages or on reservations face far greater barriers in obtaining prosecution due to limited Tribal criminal justice funding, jurisdictional conflicts, and lack of jurisdiction.

# Advisory Committee for Women's Services

- The [Advisory Committee for Women's Services](#) (ACWS) advises the Associate Administrator for Women's Services and the SAMHSA Administrator on appropriate activities to be undertaken by the SAMHSA Centers with respect to women's substance abuse and mental health services.





# Areas to Consider

- Violence against AI/AN men
- Violence against AI/AN children
- Violence against Native American communities

# Thank You

SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance misuse and mental illness on America's communities.

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration**  
[www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)

**To contact SAMHSA's OTAP office, please see the following:**

OTAP Mailbox - [otap@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:otap@samhsa.hhs.gov)