

# Elder Abuse in Indian Country

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## ❖ National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative

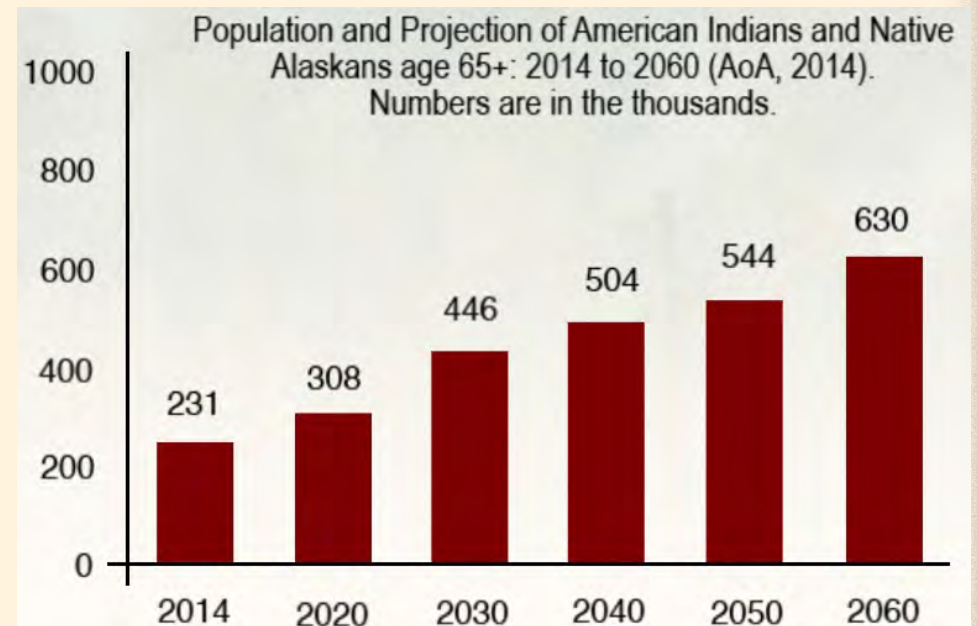
- National Resource Center for Tribal Elder Abuse
- Established in 2011
- Develop resources & maintain repository for culturally relevant elder abuse prevention information for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians

## ❖ Mission:

- Restore Respect and Dignity by Honoring Indigenous Elderly

# Demographics

- ❖ In 2009, persons age 65 or older made up about 12.9% of the U.S. population, and it is estimated that at the current rate by 2030 they will make up 19% (AoA, 2014).
- ❖ Incidents of elder abuse and/or neglect are expected to increase with the growth of the elder populations.



# Implications

- ❖ 90% of elder abuse is committed by a family member (Barton, 2012).
- ❖ Elders who have been abused are at a 200% higher risk of death than those who have not been mistreated (NCOA, 2014).
- ❖ Nationally, financial abuse costs older Americans \$2.9 billion year (NCEA, 2013).
- ❖ The above numbers are thought to be underreported because of love for or fear of the abuser.

# Elder Abuse

- ❖ According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, elder abuse generally refers to any of the following types of mistreatment that are committed by someone with whom the elder has a special relationship (for example, a spouse, sibling, child, friend, or caregiver).

# Types of Abuse

- ❖ According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, there are seven types of elder abuse:
  - Physical Abuse
  - Emotional or Psychological Abuse
  - Sexual Abuse
  - Financial or Material Exploitation
  - Neglect
  - Self-Neglect
  - Abandonment
- ❖ According to Gray, LaBore, & Carter (2018), an additional type of abuse commonly affecting Native American elders is spiritual abuse.

# Spiritual Abuse

- ❖ Spiritual abuse is defined as harmful interference with spiritual growth including the corruption of another person's value system. (Gray et al., 2018).
- ❖ Examples include:
  - Preventing an elder from attending spiritual activities or ceremonies
  - Theft of an elder's ceremonial items to sell or use without permission
  - Comments or activities which are damaging to the elder's spirit or sexual abuse as a spiritual activity
  - Sexualized touching, molesting, or rape as a part of spiritual healing or ceremonies.

# Self-Neglect

- ❖ Self-neglect is characterized as the behavior of an elderly person that threatens his/her personal health or safety. Self-neglect may manifest in an elder as a refusal or failure to provide him/herself with adequate nutrition, clothing, shelter, personal hygiene, medication, and safety precautions (NCEA, 2013).
- ❖ The definition of self-neglect excludes a situation in which a mentally competent elder, who understands the consequences of his/herself decisions, makes a conscious and voluntary choice to engage in acts that threaten his/her health or safety.
- ❖ Examples include:
  - Lacking food or basic utilities
  - Refusing medications or hoarding



- ❖ World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – June 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Began 2006
  - International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse & World Health Organization
  - NIEJI held the first event 2012
- ❖ Tribal WEAAD Events
  - June 15<sup>th</sup> & other times
  - Elder Abuse Awareness Days, Conferences, Events

*Restoring respect and  
dignity by honoring  
Indigenous Elders*



## National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative

If this is an emergency, call 911. To report Elder abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation, view the [State/Tribal Hotlines](#) page for local numbers.

Most cases of Elder abuse are undetected, under reported, and unresolved resulting in injury, financial decimation, and even death. The National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative (NIEJI) was created to address the lack of culturally appropriate information and community education materials on Elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation in Indian Country.

### Webinar Recording

[A Conversation on Applying Restorative Justice to Elder Abuse](#), April 28

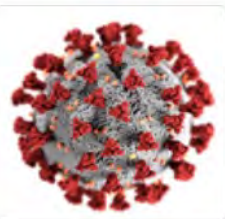


### Tribal Elder Abuse Services Survey

- [Learn about TEAS Survey.](#)
- [Take the TEAS Survey.](#)

### New Fact Sheets

- [View new fact sheets on Indian Country.](#)



### COVID-19 Resources

These [COVID-19 Tribal Elder Resources](#) will help to inform your communities on how to prevent the spread, protect your Elders and loved ones, and prevent falling for [scams](#).

# Resources



Honor ~ Respect ~ Dignity

National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative

- [COVID-19 Tribal Elder Resources](#)  
Resources related to COVID-19
- [Elder Abuse](#)  
Types of Elder abuse and the warning signs
- [Tribal Elder Protection Team Toolkit](#)  
A step-by-step guide for developing a successful model for addressing Elder abuse in Indian Country
- [Grandparent Resources](#)  
Resources for grandparents taking care of grandchildren
- [Model Projects](#)  
NIEJI projects other groups may want to replicate
- [News & Events](#)  
News, events, conference and seminars
- [Publications](#)  
Newsletter articles, research reports and other documents
- [Presentations](#)  
Presentations/poster presentations from related meetings and conference
- [Sample Products](#)  
Items created by Elder abuse prevention grantees
- [Videos](#)  
Videos on a variety of Elder abuse topics and traditional language awareness videos
- [Websites & Tools](#)  
Related websites



## Native Elder Protection Team Toolkit

The [Native EPT Toolkit](#) is a step-by-step guide for developing a successful model for addressing Elder abuse in Indian Country. The Toolkit is designed to help you identify and implement a tribal Elder protection team.



## Elder Abuse Warning Signs

Most cases of Elder abuse are undetected, under reported, and unresolved. Learn more about the [types of abuse and the warning signs](#).

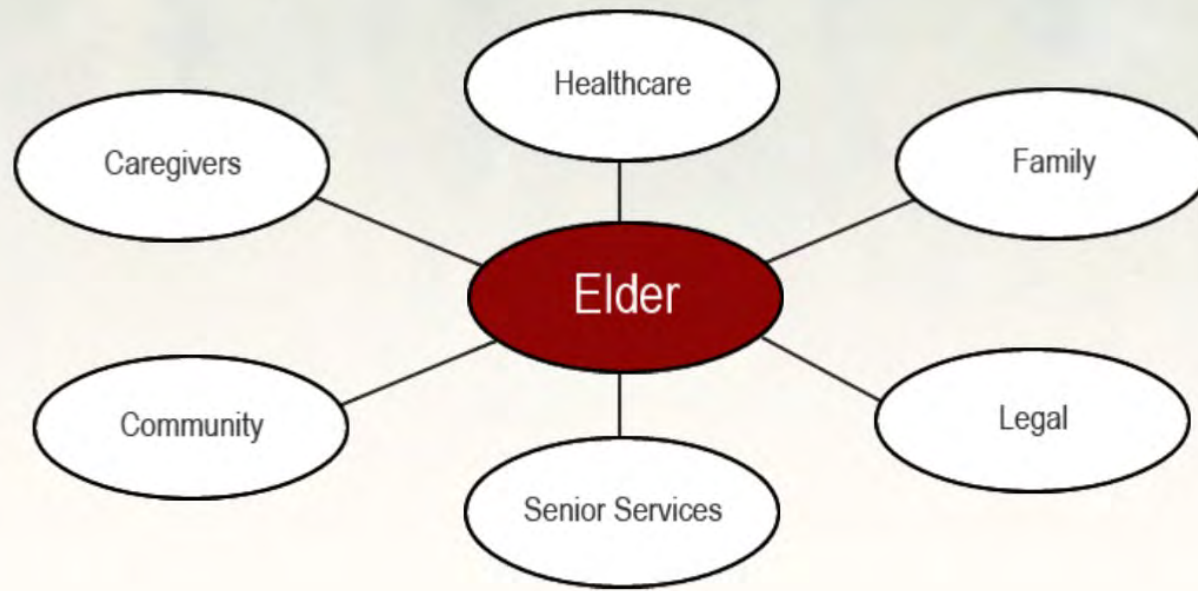


# Elder Protection Team

- ❖ The Elder Protection Team addresses the issues of elder abuse and is dependent upon the resources of each specific tribe. Possible responsibilities of an Elder Protection Team may include:
  - Educating the community and conducting prevention activities
  - Building collaboration and trust among professionals, elders and families
  - Providing empathetic listening
  - Implementing an effective method for responding to elder abuse while maintaining confidentiality
  - Reporting suspected abuse and intervening when necessary
  - Restoring respect of elders

# Members of an Elder Protection Team

- ❖ The Elder Protection Team always includes the elder. Due to the complexity of elder abuse, the makeup of the team is individualized, will vary and may include:



# Elder Abuse Codes

## Elder Abuse Codes

### Alabama

- [The Poarch Band of Creek Indians](#)

### Alaska

- [Curyung Tribal Council](#)
- [Kenaitze Indian Tribe](#)
- [Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska](#)

### Arizona

- [Colorado River Indian Tribes](#)
- [Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation](#)
- [Gila River Indian Community](#)
- [Hopi Tribe](#)
- [Navajo Nation](#)
- [Pascua Yaqui Tribe](#)
- [Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community](#)
- [Tohono O'odham Nation](#)
- [White Mountain Apache Tribe](#)

## Code Examples

- [Civil Tribal Elder Protection Code Example](#)
- [Criminal Tribal Elder Protection Code Example](#)
- [Sample Resolution for Adopting Elder Abuse Code](#)



## Native Elder Protection Team Toolkit

The tribal Elder abuse code allows the tribe to establish laws that protect elderly persons from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. For more information, view the following section of the EPT toolkit:

- [Developing Tribal Elder Abuse Codes](#)





National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative

# State & Tribal Hotlines

## Oklahoma

### Tribal Hotlines

Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma	1-405-275-4030
Social Services	1-405-275-4030
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town	1-405-452-3987
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	1-405-247-9493
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma	1-405-656-2344
Social Services	1-405-656-9209
Cherokee Nation	1-800-256-0671 or 1-918-453-5000
Children, Youth, and Family Services	1-918-453-5000
Elder Care	1-918-453-5000 Ext. 5657
Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma	1-800-247-4612
Elder Care Program	1-405-422-7726
Social Services	1-405-422-7692
Chickasaw Cherokee Nation MO/AR White River	1-415-232-3033
Chickasaw Cherokee Nation White River Band	1-918-299-5207
Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma	1-580-436-2603
Division on Aging	1-580-795-9790
Cioux Nation of Oklahoma	1-800-522-6170

### State/Tribal Hotlines

If this is an emergency, call 911.



# Training Modules

- ❖ Interactive
- ❖ Engaging
- ❖ Accessible
- ❖ Training for Professionals

- Elder Abuse

- Legal

- Financial Exploitation

- Caregivers

- Policy

- Healthcare Providers

- Social Services

- Medication Issues

- ❖ <https://www.nieji.org/training>



- ❖ Elder Abuse
- ❖ Policy
- ❖ Legal
- ❖ Financial Exploitation
- ❖ Healthcare
- ❖ Medication Issues
- ❖ Social Services
- ❖ Caregivers

## Online Interactive Educational Modules

These educational modules are available to train those working with Indigenous elders to identify and address elder abuse in Indian Country.

The materials presented in the elder justice curriculum are designed to help those working with Native American elderly to understand the various types of elder abuse and become more knowledgeable about elder abuse issues. The materials will assist staff in responding appropriately to Indigenous victims of crimes and their families and enhance provision of culturally sensitive services.

The content for this training is organized for presentation either as a series of workshops or as an individual training. The training modules are designed so the presenter has all necessary information for each section in a format that is easily presented.



### Modules

When conducting trainings, always begin the training with the [Elder Abuse module](#). It provides foundational information that is relevant to all other sections.



#### Elder Abuse

Duration: Approximately 30 minutes

Elder abuse generally refers to many types of mistreatment by someone whom the elder has a special relationship with. Information about the types of abuse, elder protection teams, elder vulnerability, and prevention is provided.





# Other Fact Sheets



## Intimate Partner Violence and Elder Abuse

Among Older Native Americans during COVID-19

### BACKGROUND ON INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV) AMONG NATIVE AMERICAN ADULTS

In comparison to other races/ethnicities, American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) have higher rates of interpersonal violence. Child abuse, violence against women, and elder abuse are important contributors to the increased risk of morbidity and mortality among AI/AN.<sup>1</sup>

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THERE ARE VERY FEW STUDIES ON ELDER ABUSE IN INDIAN COUNTRY. FINDINGS ON ABUSE FROM TWO STUDIES INDICATE THAT ELDER ABUSE DOES HAPPEN IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES.

- 9% of men reported experiencing physical violence, intimate partner violence at 1%, emotional abuse at 12% in the past year.
- 5% of women reported physical violence in the past year, 3% reported intimate partner violence, and 18% reported emotional abuse.<sup>2</sup>
- Abuse tended to be associated with sudden dependency, having mental problems, family crises due to having abrupt caregiving responsibilities for which they were unprepared, and personal problems of primary caregivers.<sup>3</sup>

#### OVERVIEW OF STAY-AT-HOME ORDERS

- Stay-at-home orders limit the circumstances under which people can leave their houses.
- Under a stay-at-home order, all non-essential workers must stay home.
- People can leave their homes only for essential needs like grocery stores, medicine, or for individual outdoor exercise.
- Only businesses that have been deemed essential can continue to operate.<sup>4</sup>

#### STAY-AT-HOME ORDERS IN INDIAN COUNTRY

- Many tribal communities have strict stay-at-home orders to slow the spread of the disease.
- Tribal elders, revered for their knowledge and cultural guidance, are the biggest concern during COVID-19.
- Tribal communities do not want to lose them, as older adults are disproportionately effected by the disease with health complications and death.<sup>5</sup>

- Two Spirit is a contemporary term that many American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN), and First Nations people identify with to bring together their sexual orientation, and gender identity with their spirituality, traditions, and culture.<sup>1</sup>
- This term was adopted at the 1990 Native American and First Nations Gay and Lesbian conference in Winnipeg. It comes from the Ojibwa words niizh manitoag (Two Spirit).<sup>2</sup>
- Not all AI/ANS consider themselves Two Spirit and identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or third, fourth, or fifth gender.
- Many AI/AN tribes had more flexibility in sexuality and greater gender diversity with four or five gender

- roles or identifications that were honored and respected.<sup>1</sup>
- 574 federally recognized tribes speak over 200 languages, with most having terms/names for gender identity, social, and spiritual roles.<sup>3,4</sup>
- The term Two Spirit is not accepted by all AI/AN Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ). For some tribes, when Two Spirit is translated into traditional language, it can mean something inappropriate or dangerous.
  - In the Navajo and Apache languages, the term Two Spirit, means that a person possesses both a living and dead spirit, and this is in direct conflict with traditional ways of life.<sup>5</sup>

#### COLONIZATION

- Colonization negatively impacted tribal traditions, language, culture, and the social and spiritual roles of individuals in tribal communities. As a result, some tribes took this knowledge underground to prevent further desecration of their way of life.
- By the mid-1800s, tens of thousands of AI/ANS were forcefully removed from their traditional homelands, and systematic assimilation policies were put in place.
- Between 1880 and 1930, a significant number of AI/AN children were placed in off-reservation boarding schools.
- By 1930, nearly half of all AI/AN children attending boarding schools that were often hundreds of miles away from their homes. The students were forbidden to engage in cultural practices or speak their languages, suffering harsh punishment if they disobeyed.
- Christian standards of conduct were strictly enforced with the prohibition of cultural practices and conformity to rigid gender roles. The historical trauma increased contemporary Two Spirits' to struggle with identity and mental health.
- Historical trauma is defined as an unresolved trauma resulting in grief that continues to impact the lives of survivors and subsequent generations, often referred to as intergenerational trauma.<sup>6</sup>
- Historical trauma profoundly affects health disparities and health outcomes of all AI/ANS, but even more so among Two Spirit people.



\*\*There is very little research or data on LGBTQ Two Spirit Elders. The information presented may refer to AI/ANs in general.\*\*

## PHYSICAL DISTANCING IS BEING A GOOD RELATIVE

- Follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation to limit face-to-face contact with others to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). It is important to follow the guidelines of your communities, because they are trying to keep you safe and healthy.
- For more information on COVID-19, visit the CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Get up-to-date information from public health officials.
- Physically distancing is being a good relative.

## HERE ARE SOME IDEAS TO HELP YOU KEEP YOUR DAYS FULL AND TO REMAIN SOCIALLY ENGAGED

- TH FAMILY USING APPS SUCH AS OR ZOOM**
  - others using it lets you check in, and you can laugh
- ES SUCH AS LOSSWORD**
  - n be found at <http://category/solitaire/> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q64ETHp1QQ>
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cnQAAABAI7rGdL-70Z>
- READ AND SEW REGALIA**
  - How to Bead Peyote Stitch with Donald Porta <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRG8g6AMXSY>
  - Beaded Medallion with Kristen Dosela <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OG4ETHp1QQ>
  - Beading for beginners, two-needle flat stitch technique with Mona C. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qz-q2y5z7A>
  - Making Regalia with Joaquin Lonelodge <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXbA7OHh-Q>
  - Sew cloth masks for loved ones <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnVk12sFBKY>
- VISIT MUSEUMS DOING VIRTUAL TOURS**
  - Smithsonian Natural History Museum <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/virtual-tour>
  - Museum of the American Indian <https://americanindian.si.edu/exhibitions/all-roads-are-good/> <https://videos.aarp.org/detail/video/394874386001/video-chatting-basics>
- YOGA FOR SENIORS**
  - Slow and Gentle Yoga with Adriene [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFHG\\_Zd1N4&list=PLenloXfCoNbs83fl4\\_AhrT5\\_3CE6xIDj&index=42&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFHG_Zd1N4&list=PLenloXfCoNbs83fl4_AhrT5_3CE6xIDj&index=42&t=0s)

## TA REMINDER, SCAMMERS ARE STILL AT IT!

- Hang up on robocalls. Scammers are using illegal robocalls to pitch every thing from low-priced health insurance to work-at-home schemes.
- Do your homework when it comes to donations. Never donate in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money.
- Watch for emails claiming to be from the CDC or World Health Organization (WHO). Use sites such as [coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/) and [usa.gov/coronavirus/](https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus/) to get the latest information. And don't click on links from sources you don't know.

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## Data

There have been several projects developed through the National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative that will result/have resulted in valuable information and data.



### Tribal Elder Abuse Services Survey

The Tribal Elder Abuse Services Survey is a research study focusing on the availability of community Elder services, such as:

- Case management
- Elder abuse coalition
- Elder abuse codes
- Judicial system response
- Legal assistance, including guardianship, power of attorney, advanced directives, and do not resuscitate orders
- Reporting systems
- Traditional justice

Information gathered during the Spring tribal Elder justice services online directly addresses the needs of American Indian Tribes, Alaska Natives, and Hawaiian Homesteads.

Thank you for your interest in completing the survey.

If you would like to participate in the Tribal Elder Abuse Services Survey, please contact us depending on your responses. When you complete the survey, you will receive a \$100 gift card.

Your information will help inform planning and development of services.

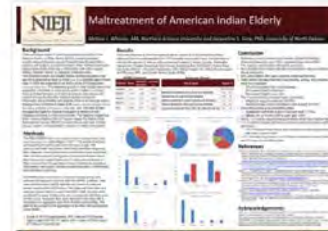
### Research Findings from the NEMS Pilot Survey



[NEMS: Elder American Indian Women's Experiences](#)



[Spiritual Abuse Among American Indian Elderly](#)



[Maltreatment of American Indian Elderly](#)

#### NEMS Materials

- [How to Get Started](#)
- [Step-by-Step Guide](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Tribal Council Resolution](#)
- [Verbal Consent Form](#)
- [Interviewer's Guide](#)



### Native Elder Maltreatment Survey

The Native Elder Maltreatment Survey (NEMS) helps Native American Tribes, Alaskan Villages, and Hawaiian Homesteads to understand the prevalence of Elder mistreatment, neglect, and financial exploitation in their respective communities.

#### What does the survey assess?

This survey uses the Hwalek-Sengstock Elder Abuse Screening Test (HS-EAST) to assess if Elders are at high risk for mistreatment. The survey also uses the Native Elder Life Scale (NELS), which assesses neglect and financial exploitation. The NELS provides insight on financial abuse, self-neglect, family neglect, and physical and emotional harm by others.

#### How does NIEJI assist with the survey?

NIEJI provides training and technical assistance to communities to implement NEMS. We will supply paper copies of the survey for your community. And we will assist in data analysis and producing meaningful and culturally informed reports and fact sheets.

#### What is NIEJI's research approach?

NIEJI's approach is consistent with the Tribal Participatory Research model giving the community decision making and oversight of the research process. NIEJI respects community research practices and data sovereignty. It is your community's data. NIEJI maintains, with community approval, a copy of the data. Your community's data can be used to inform program services, and to be used in our use of the aggregate dataset.

Information gathered during the Spring tribal Elder justice services online directly addresses the needs of American Indian Tribes, Alaska Natives, and Hawaiian Homesteads. Thank you for your interest in completing the survey. If you would like to participate in the Tribal Elder Abuse Services Survey, please contact us depending on your responses. When you complete the survey, you will receive a \$100 gift card. Your information will help inform planning and development of services.

For more information, please contact our office for more information.

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National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative

# Resources

## NIEJI PARTNERS

### **Elder Resource Centers**

National Resource Center for American Indian, Alaska Native & Native Hawaiian Elders – University of Alaska Anchorage's mission is to increase and improve service delivery of health issues, long term care including in-home care, elder abuse, mental health, and other issues facing Native communities

<https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/elders/>

Hā Kūpuna National Resource Center for Native Hawaiian Elders – research on improving the health and increasing life expectancy of Native Hawaiian Elders

<http://www.manoa.hawaii.edu/hakupuna/>

National Resource Center on Native American Aging – increasing awareness and advocacy for developing community-based solutions for Native American Elders

<https://www.nrcnaa.org/>

National Indian Council on Aging – advocating for improved comprehensive health, social services and economic well-being for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders

<http://nicoa.org/>

### **Elder Abuse Resources**

National Center on Elder Abuse – resource for policy makers, social services and health care representatives, law enforcement, and families

<http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/>

Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse and Neglect – University of California's "living laboratory" of innovative approaches to preventing elder abuse

<http://www.centeronelderabuse.org/>

Elder Financial Protection Network

<http://www.elderfinancialprotection.org/>

National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center – advocating for rights to residents in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities

<http://ltcombudsman.org/>

# Resources Cont.

## NIEJI PARTNERS

### *Elder Resource Centers*

### *Adult Protective Services*

Bureau of Indian Affairs Adult Protective Services Handbook – A Guide for Protecting Vulnerable Adults

<http://www.bia.gov/cs/groups/webteam/documents/document/idc1-026637.pdf>

Administration on Aging – Older Americans Act and Title VI Programs, Adult Protective Services

<http://www.aoa.gov/>

National Adult Protective Services Association

<http://www.napsa-now.org/get-help/>

### *Legal Resources*

National Legal Resource Center

[http://nlrc.acf.gov/index.aspx#elder\\_abuse](http://nlrc.acf.gov/index.aspx#elder_abuse)

National Congress of American Indians: serving the broad interests of tribal governments and communities

<http://www.ncai.org/>

Tribal Law and Policy Institute: providing assistance to Native nations and tribal justice systems

<http://www.home.tlpi.org/>

Model Civil Elder Abuse Code and Model Criminal Elder Abuse Code

<https://www.nieji.org/publications>

# QUESTIONS???

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