

CALIFORNIA TRIBAL FAMILIES COALITION

NBRC Board Meeting
December 4, 2024



CALIFORNIA TRIBAL FAMILIES COALITION

CTFC is a successor organization to the California ICWA Compliance Task Force Report which can be found at: www.caltribalfamilies.org



CALIFORNIA ICWA COMPLIANCE TASK FORCE

REPORT TO THE
CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S
BUREAU OF CHILDREN'S JUSTICE
2017

MISSION



Our mission is to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of tribal children and families, which are inherent tribal governmental functions and are at the core of tribal sovereignty and tribal governance.

BASKETS OF WORK



POLICY

CTFC develops policies and programs in partnership with tribes to administer tribal child welfare systems, advocates for improved policies and practice at the state & county levels, and engages in legislative advocacy.



TRAINING

CTFC developed the standardized curriculum for county ICWA specialist certification and offers continuing education for attorneys & social workers.

2,000

participants
trained in 5
years.



LEGAL

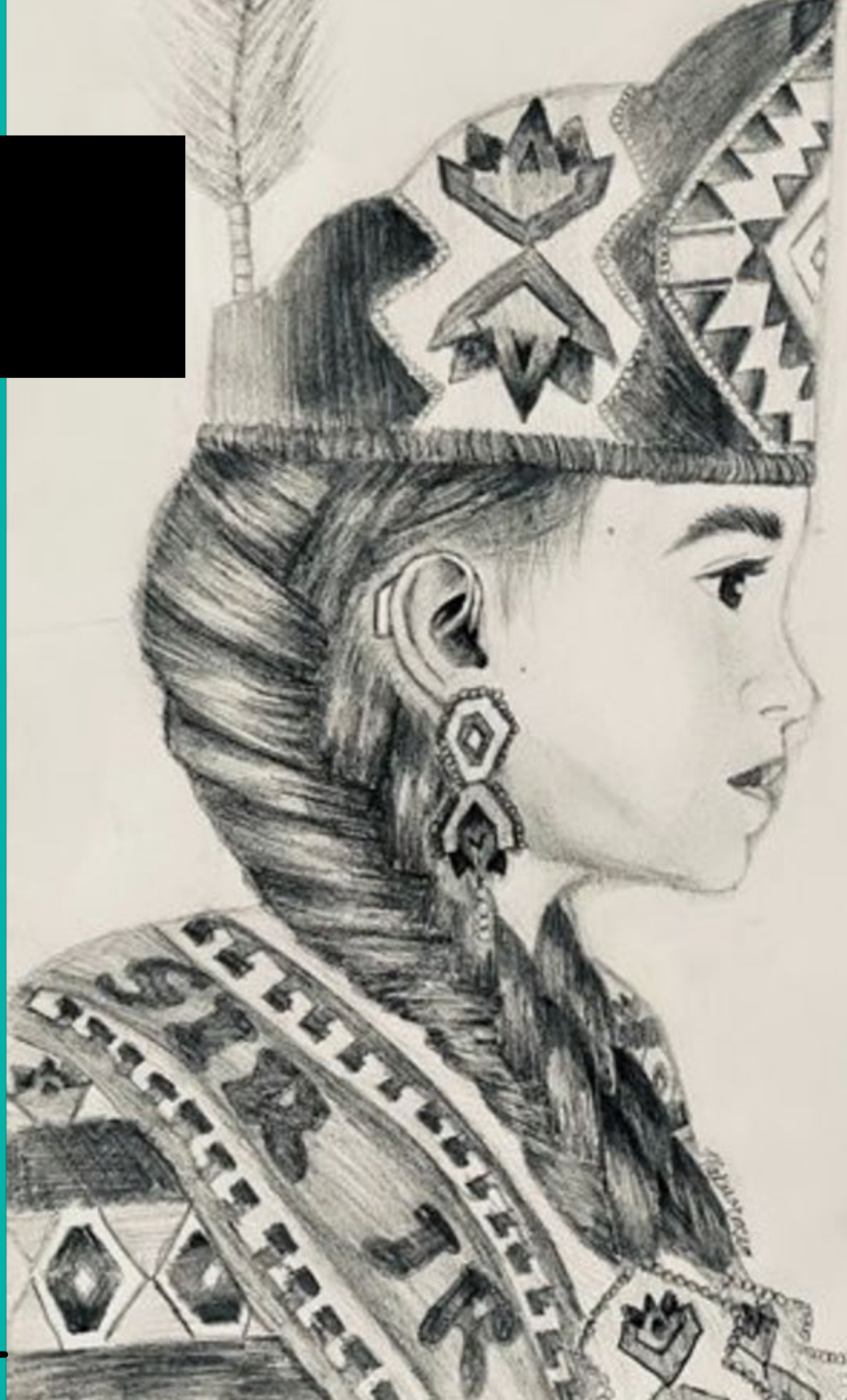
CTFC provides direct legal representation to tribes in state ICWA cases, trains new attorneys, and initiates impact litigation.

90 %

of children in our
cases are placed in
ICWA compliant
homes.

I/ DD WORK AT CTFC

- 1. Strengthening & Protecting Tribal Families with Special Needs (DDS Service Access & Equity Grant):** Provide training and tools on the intersection between I/DD services and the child welfare system for tribal members age 3+
- 2. Tribal Early Start Outreach:** Raise awareness of I/DD services available to tribal members ages 0-3, and training Regional Center staff and leadership how to engage with tribal communities



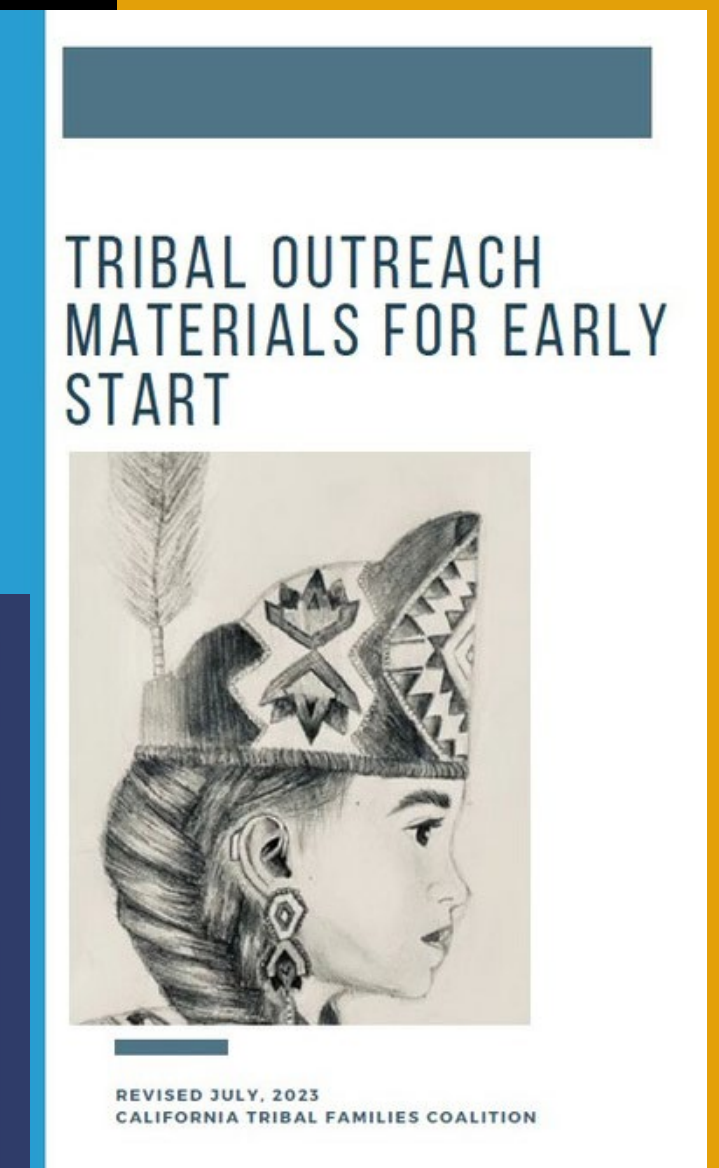
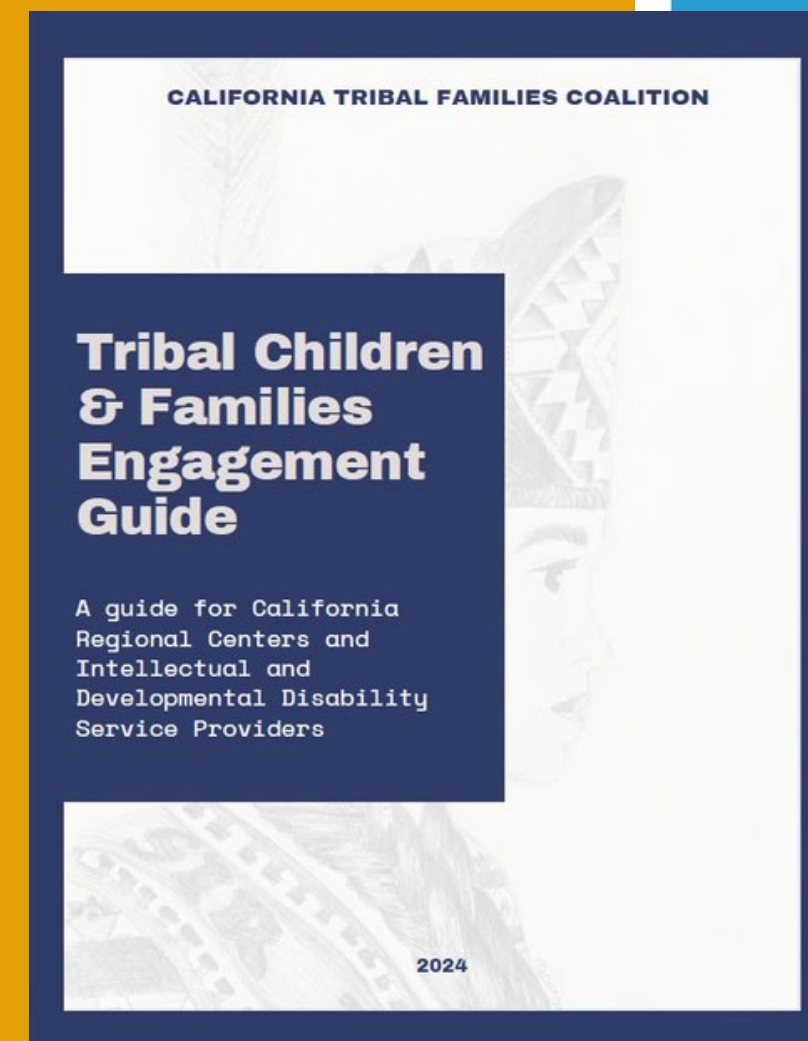
IMPORTANCE OF TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT

- Tribes, as sovereign nations, have a critical role in the lives and governance of their citizens
- They also provide community, culturally driven services, and can help families navigate complex systems that weren't designed with them in mind



IMPORTANCE OF TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT

- You have 6 tribal nations in your catchment area!
- And approximately 12,000 Native people residing in the 3 counties you cover!
- So how can you work with tribes and urban Indian organizations to best serve this part of your client population?



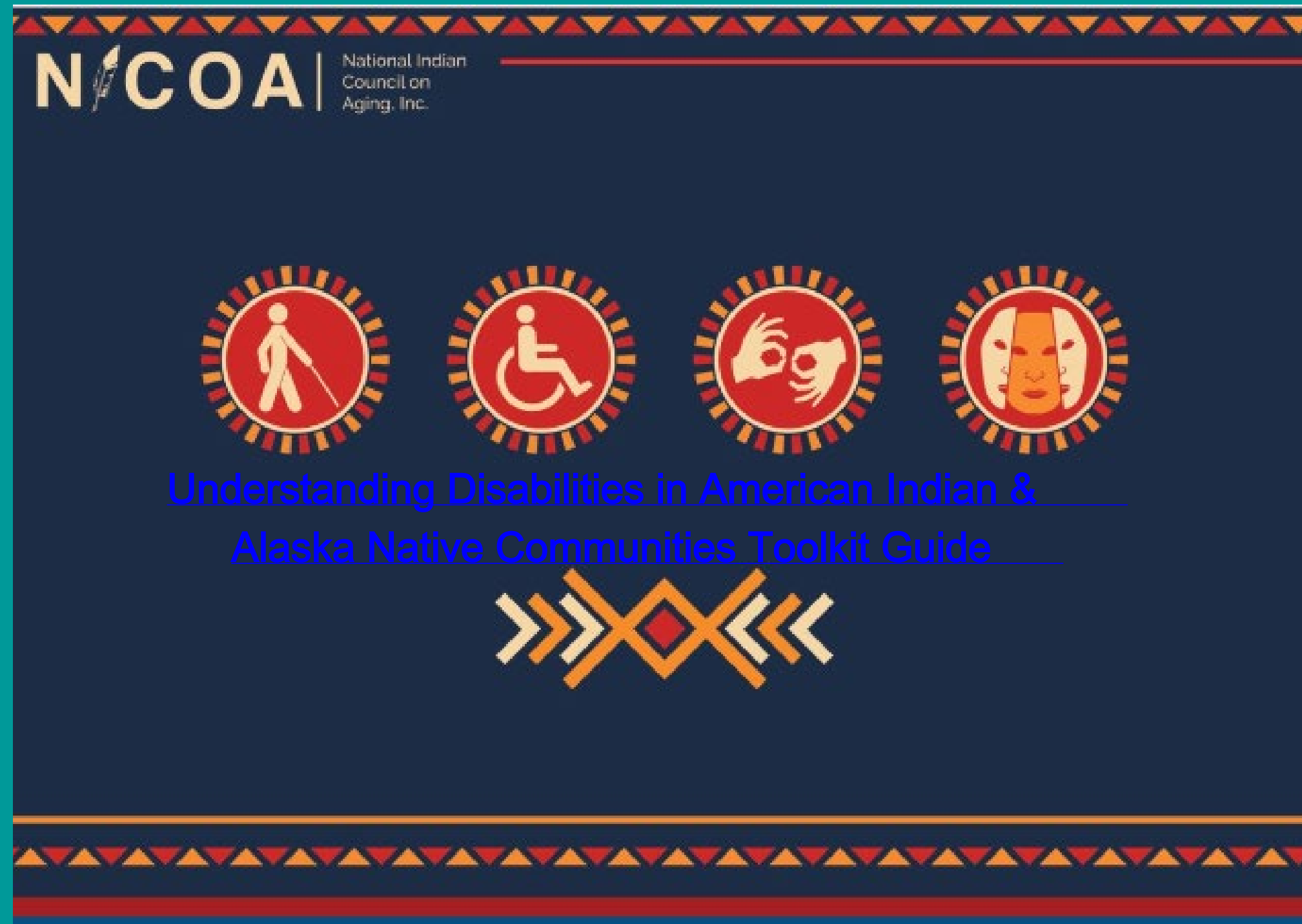
USE OUR LOOKUP TOOL TO FIND TRIBAL & REGIONAL CENTER SERVICES

The screenshot displays a web application interface for finding Tribal and Regional Center services. At the top, there are two search bars: "Search for" and "Near". Below these are two filter sections. The "Regional Center" filter has a dropdown menu currently set to "Regional Center". The "Additional Details" filter includes five checkboxes: "Social Services Department", "Education Services", "Health Services", "TANF", and "Tribal Court". A search button is located below the filters. The main content area is split into two parts. On the left, a card for "Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians" is shown, containing a link to the "Tribal Website", the address "5401 Dinah Shore Drive, Palm Springs, Riverside County, 92264, United States", the phone number "760-699-6800", and links for "Tribal Departments/Services Provided", "Regional Center Website", and "Regional Center: Inland Regional Center". Below this is a card for "Alturas Indian Rancheria". On the right, a map of the Western United States is displayed, showing numerous red location pins across California, Nevada, and Arizona. The map includes navigation controls like zoom in (+) and zoom out (-) buttons, and a "Map" button. The Google logo and copyright information are visible at the bottom of the map.



DISABILITIES IN INDIAN COUNTRY

NEW
RESOURCE!



BUT STILL A
LACK OF I/DD
DATA
SPECIFICALLY

DISABILITIES IN INDIAN COUNTRY

5.9%
AI/AN
VS. 4.3%
WHITE

American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children had the highest rate of childhood disability of all racial groups, at 5.9% in 2019 (U.S. Census Bureau)

24% of AI/ANs have a disability, compared to 19% of the general population. "Many AI/ANs with disabilities are either unserved or underserved."
(National Congress of American Indians)

24% AI/AN
VS.
19% GENERAL
POP

STRENGTHENING & PROTECTING TRIBAL FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: YEAR 1, 2, & 3

- Trained over 800 Regional Center staff and leaders about tribal communities and ICWA.
- Trained 82 tribal advocates on how Regional Center services can and should be accessed through child welfare cases.
- Launched the Tribal Regional Center Lookup Tool to assist I/DD services providers in connecting with tribal services to ensure families can access culturally driven and local services when possible!
- Connected with over 35 tribes around the state on I/DD specific issues.
- Changed internal attorney practice to prompt RC assessments.



TRIBAL EARLY START OUTREACH

2022-2024

- Hosted 1st & 2nd California American Indian Developmental Disability Symposiums - reaching over 300 people!
 - Held 5+ listening sessions reaching over 130 tribal participants
 - Administered a Community Needs Survey to tribal participants around the state
 - Began developing the "Tribal Engagement Guide" and published a year -end report called "I/DD in Tribal Communities"
 - Created "Tribal Outreach Materials for Early Start" booklet
 - Hosted Tribal Lunch and Learn training sessions once per month since Summer 2023
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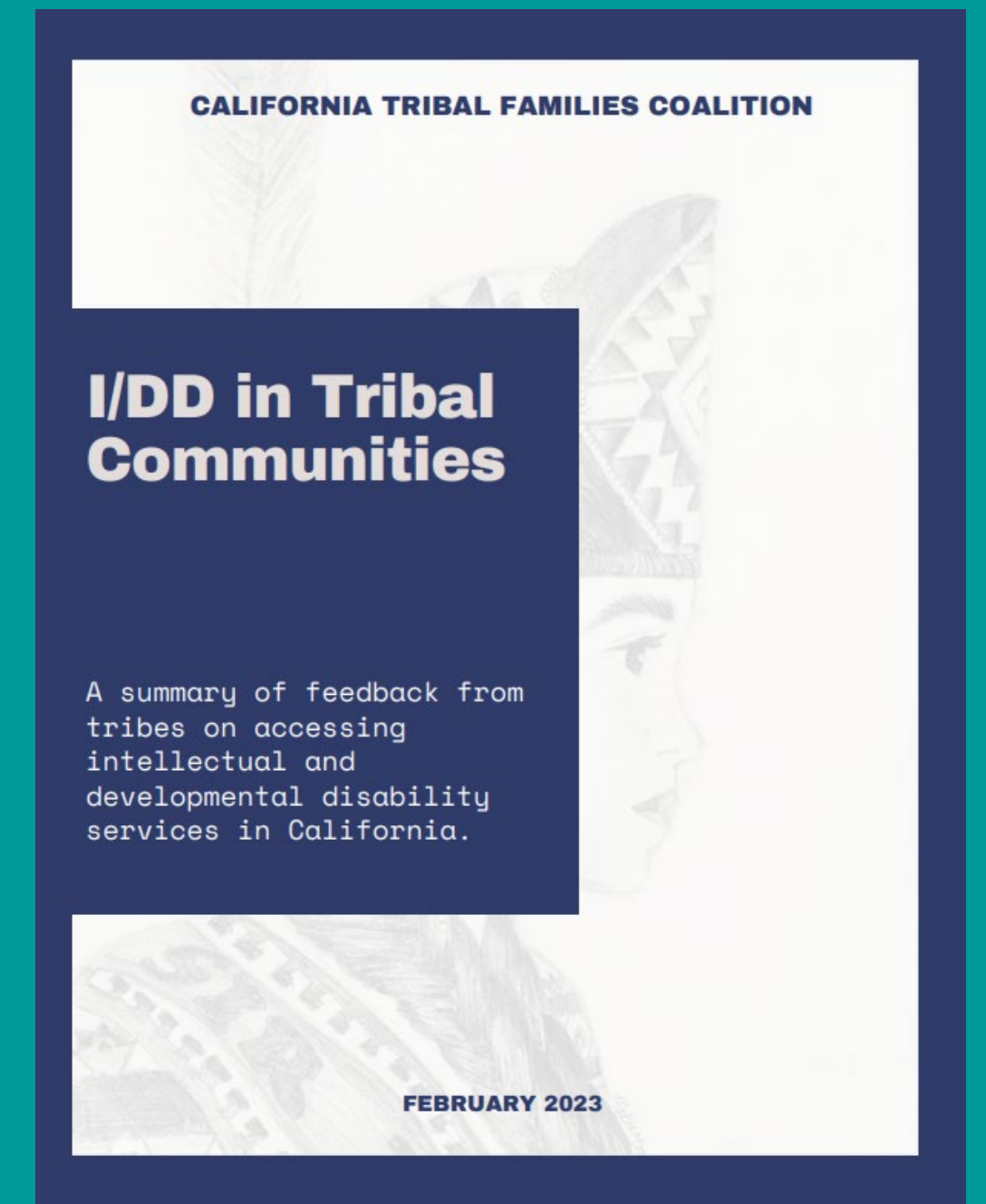


I/DD IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN CA

- 131 listening session participants from 16 tribes
- 121 survey respondents with 83.4% identifying as tribally affiliated

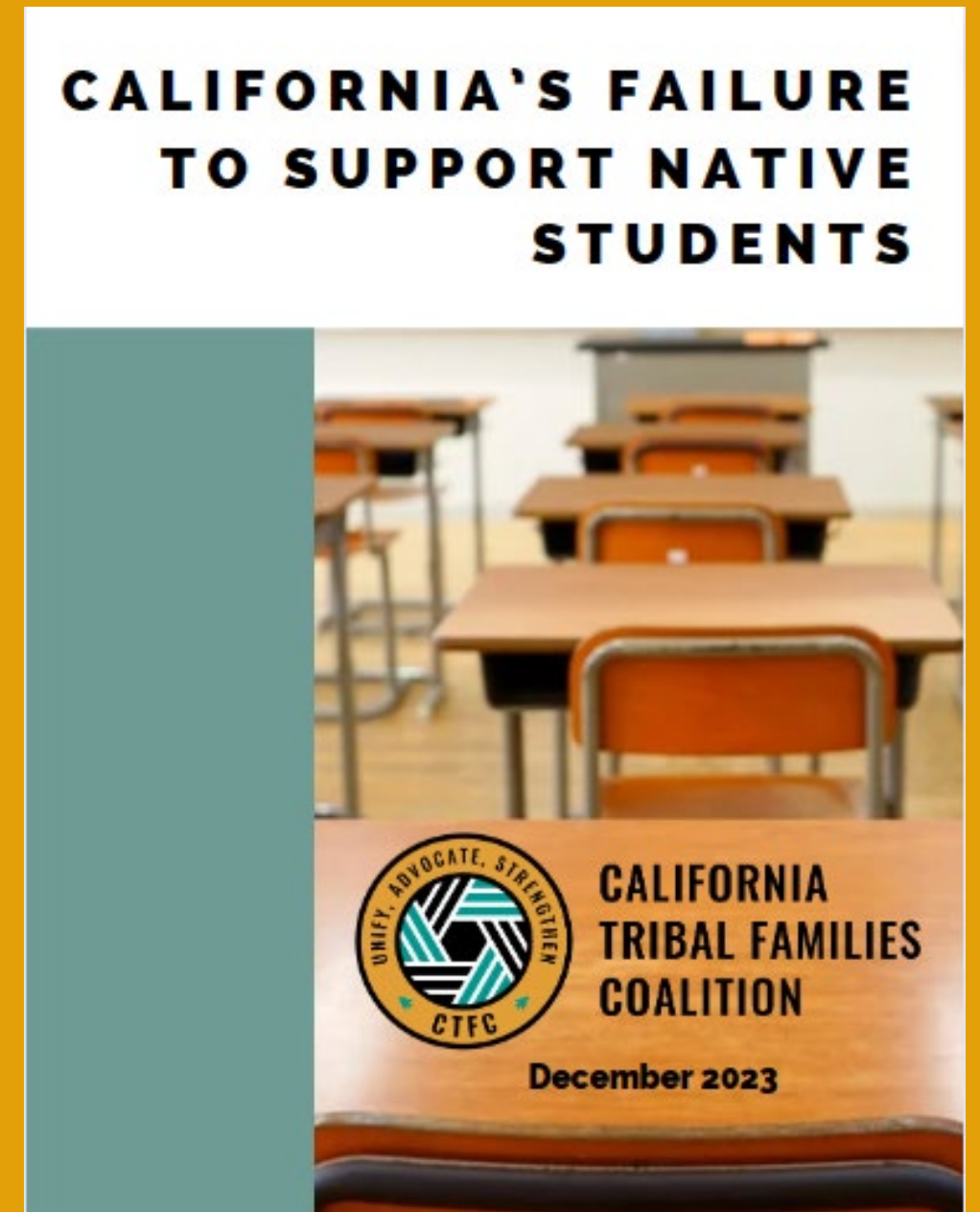
Resulted in the [Year 1 Report on I/DD in Tribal Communities](#)

- **Listening Session and Community Survey Analysis:** Summarizes the stories and data gathered through community-based participatory research in year one of the Tribal Early Start Outreach Project.
- **Next Steps for More Effective Tribal Engagement:** Provides next steps on how to 1) improve engagement and service delivery with tribal children and families; and 2) enhance outreach and education in tribal and urban Indian communities.



2023 EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS PROJECT ON SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVOCACY FOR TRIBAL YOUTH

- Developed a fact sheet on education disparities for Native youth in California, with a focus on Native foster youth and Native youth with disabilities.
- CTFC's Legal Counsel for Tribes program began implementing a formal screening process to identify regional center and special education eligibility to better facilitate adequate and trauma informed services and accommodations for tribal foster youth with disabilities.
- Over the next two -years, we will develop educational resources and begin hosting listening sessions and 'Know -Your-Rights' trainings for tribes and tribal families regarding special education advocacy for tribal youth.



2023 EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS PROJECT ON SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVOCACY FOR TRIBAL YOUTH

Advocating for Trauma -Informed Schools for Tribal Youth

- Historical trauma resulting from the federal government's Indian boarding school policies has been exploited as a basis to over-discipline Native students.
- Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act,
 - Students with complex trauma have a right to receive special education services and accommodations, including behavioral health resources, mental health resources, and culturally relevant interventions.
 - Students with complex trauma CANNOT be excluded--via suspensions, expulsions, or otherwise--for behaviors that are a manifestation of their trauma.



HOW TO ENGAGE WITH US...



MODEL ENGAGEMENT



TRIBAL SERVICE
PROVIDERS &
FAMILIES

SERVICE
PROVIDERS &
ADVOCATES

RC STAFF &
LEADERSHIP

Key Value: Reciprocity

- By request of the community or only with their permission
- Build in time for relationship building
- Compensate tribal leaders, representatives, and families for their time
- Welcoming space/venue
- Good food!

TRAININGS WE OFFER

For Tribal Communities

1. Introduction to Developmental Disability Services and Regional Centers in California: *Information for Tribal Families and Tribal Communities*
2. *RC Vendorization for Tribal Service Providers*
3. Special Education Advocacy for Tribal Youth
4. ICWA 103

For RCs & Service Providers

1. Cultural Humility: Through an Indigenous Lens
2. Introduction to CA Tribal History, Contemporary Tribal Governance & Lifeways, ICWA, and More
3. ICWA 101
4. Monthly coaching calls

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES

Training for Tribal Communities on Advocating for Children with Disabilities

**December 18, 2024
@ 12:00-1:00pm**

Join us to learn about Regional Center services for tribal members with intellectual & developmental disabilities.

Register at link in bio!



**CALIFORNIA
TRIBAL FAMILIES
COALITION**

Please contact us events@caltribalfamilies.org if you have accessibility needs.



Presenter Information

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