

Strengthening the Spirit of Our Future

**2008 Community Assessment Report
on Risks and Protective Factors for
NATIVE YOUTH
in Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino Counties**



Activating Native Youth Assets

This 2008 Community Assessment Report on Risks and Protective Factors for Native Youth in Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino Counties is a collective effort by the partnering organizations of the Activating Native Youth Assets Project to document challenges facing Native youth and community assets for strengthening youth resiliency.

WHAT WE DO:

The Activating Native Youth Assets Project is administered by a lead agency, the National Indian Justice Center (NIJC) in collaboration with two regional Native-led community partner organizations. Our mission is to build our individual and mutual organizational capacity so that we may serve as resources to help strengthen existing Native and non-Native assets for positive youth development in our region.

WHO WE ARE:

National Indian Justice Center, Inc.

Joseph Myers, Executive Director

The National Indian Justice Center (NIJC) is an Indian owned and operated non-profit corporation with principle offices in Santa Rosa, California. NIJC was established in 1983 through the collective efforts of the National American Indian Court Judges Association, the American Indian Lawyer Training Program and the Bureau of Indian Affairs in order to create an independent national resource for Native communities and tribal governments. The goals of NIJC are to design and deliver legal education, research and technical assistance programs which seek to improve the quality of life for Native communities and the administration of justice in Indian Country.

www.nijc.org

Sonoma County Indian Health Project, Inc.

Healthy Traditions Wellness Program

Tim Campbell, Project Coordinator

The Sonoma County Indian Health Project, Inc (SCIHP) was established in 1971 by a group of visionary leaders from the Indian communities of Sonoma County. Their goals were to have a health center that would afford easy access to high quality care for all Indians of Sonoma County, and to provide such service in a manner sensitive to the cultures and traditions of local Indian people. The SCIHP Healthy Traditions Wellness Program mission is to elevate the health status of American Indian community members to the highest degree possible. This includes providing opportunities for maximum involvement of Indian people in defining and meeting their own health needs.

California Indian Museum and Cultural Center

Nicole Lim, Executive Director

The mission of the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center (CIMCC) is to educate the public about the history and cultures of California Indians and to honor their contributions to civilization. Founded in 1991 at the Presidio of San Francisco and incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1996, CIMCC is creating a multi-media, issues-based museum at a 24,000 square foot facility in Santa Rosa, California. When completed, the museum will be a place where the public can learn about tribal perspectives and where teachers and students can access resources on California's diverse Native communities. CIMCC is governed by a Board of Directors composed of a majority of California Indians.

www.cimcc.org



WHAT WE KNOW:

Native youth experience more challenges and adversity than most other young people nationwide. Poverty, domestic violence, substance abuse, parental neglect, institutionalized stereotyping and racism, poor school performance, truancy and other “risk factors” afflict Native youth at greater rates than their non-Native peers. Sometimes it seems that these problems overwhelm the “protections” Native communities offer their youth.

But Native cultures have persisted despite systemized governmental efforts to dismantle Native families and communities and assimilate Native people into a Western way of life. In light of the genocide perpetuated against California Native people and the impact on our lifeways, our ability to bounce back from adversity is nothing short of remarkable.

Resiliency has been defined as the human tendency to strive for more healthier and positive development. For Native people, resiliency is not merely a concept but is an everyday practice that has been passed on from one generation to the next for centuries. It is perpetuated through the pathways of our cultural knowledge and values. Native cultures are vital to supporting our youth and tapping their innate strength.

Native cultures and families are tremendous assets. Thus, the Activating Native Youth Assets project aims to validate culture as a stronghold for Native youth and to reinforce Native family, tribal and organizational efforts to celebrate and perpetuate Native cultures.

Through the community needs assessment summarized herein, some of you have told us about the specific risks and protections that exist for Native youth. With this knowledge, together we can focus on our strengths and mobilize our collective resources to create a bright and hopeful future for Native youth.

This assessment is a work-in-progress. Continued input from Native youth, parents and elders, tribal leaders, and community- and faith-based organizations that serve Native youth is welcome and encouraged.

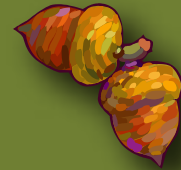
Q: What are the top five things you think the the public should know about your tribe or Native people in general?

A: We get offended by misconceptions about Natives. More Indians are highly educated. Elders are the key to learning about Native life. The future depends upon our youth. Don't judge us by what you don't know about Indians. - B.K.



23 TRIBAL COMMUNITIES in the PROJECT TARGET REGION

Sonoma County



Cloverdale Band of Pomo Indians
Dry Creek Band of Pomo Indians
Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
Lytton Indian Community
Mishewal Wappo Band of Alexander Valley

Lake County



Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians
Elem Indian Colony
Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake Rancheria
Middletown Band of Pomo Indians
Robinson Rancheria Pomo Indians
Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians

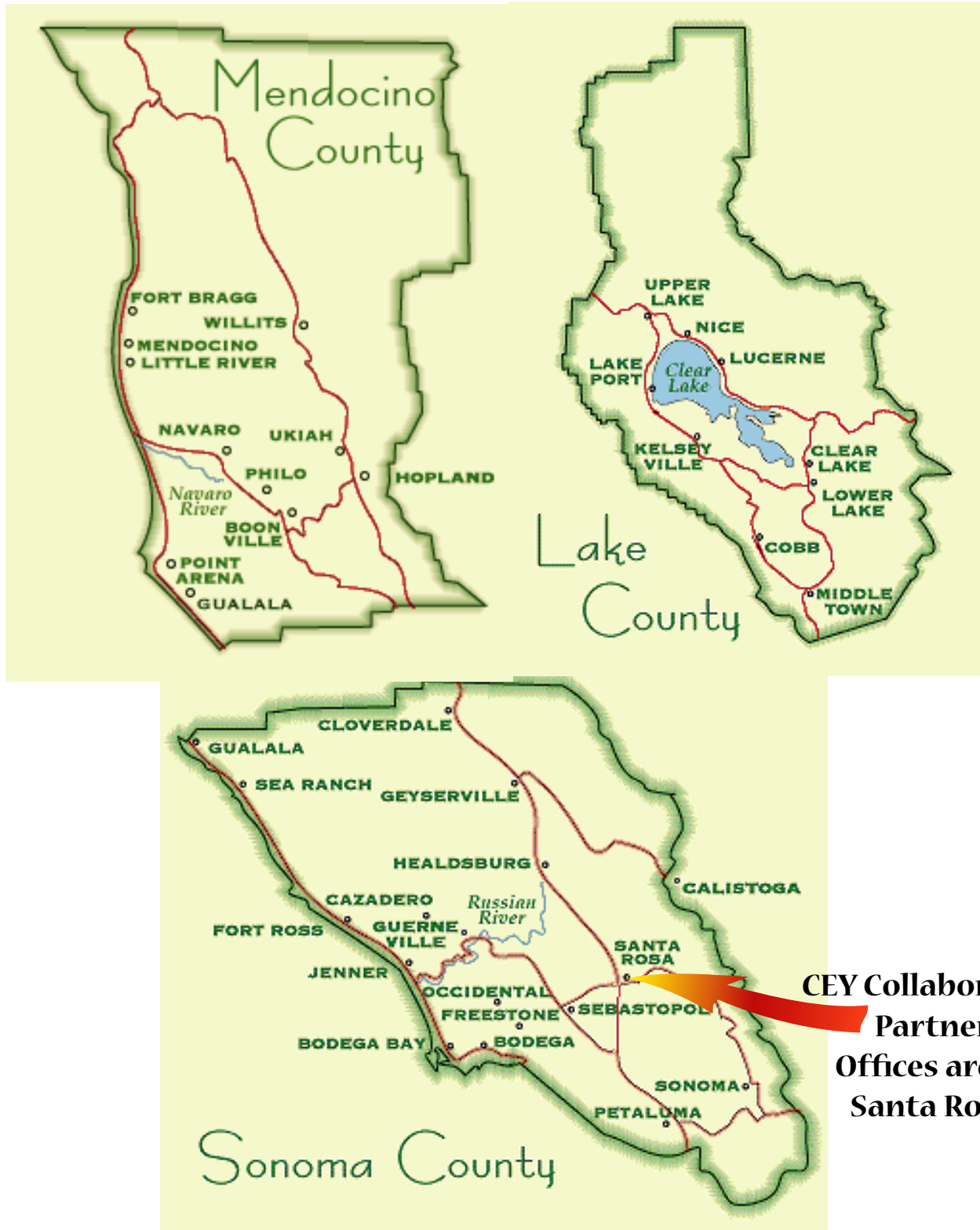
Mendocino County



Cahto Indian Tribe
Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians
Hopland Band of Pomo Indians
Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians
Manchester Point-Arena Band of Pomo Indians
Potter Valley Band of Pomo Indians
Redwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians
Round Valley Tribes
Pinoleville Band of Pomo Indians
Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians
Yokayo Tribe



Tri-County Geographic Service Area



OUR COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT PROCESS:

Simply put, a community assessment is a description of a community and its people, community needs, and what services may meet those needs. The Activating Native Youth Assets project takes a strengths-based approach to promoting positive development for Native youth.

Our assessment asked:

- What programmatic assets for Native youth exist at the tribal community level?
- What risk factors may lead to Native youth violence, gang involvement and child abuse/neglect?
- What protective factors support positive youth development among Native youth?
- What are the community's perceptions about the three best assets for preventing or intervening in youth violence, gang involvement and child abuse/neglect?
- What kinds of capacity building support do existing Native youth programs need to improve or better target their services?
- Where are the gaps in services?

To gather information for our needs assessment, all three CEY project organizations worked collaboratively and used the following methods:

Adapted the Oregon Juvenile Crime Prevention Youth Risk and Protective Factor Assessment Tool (JCP) into a survey that could be used for our data gathering purposes.

Hosted one regional workshop on the JCP tool with Native and non-Native youth serving community- and faith-based organizations from the project target area. The workshop served a dual purpose in providing training and as an opportunity for gathering anecdotal information.

Researched and built a mailing list of tribal youth programs and Native and non-Native youth serving community- and faith-based organizations in the project target area in order to maintain long-term contact with the community about the project.

Distributed the survey online via SurveyMonkey.com and in hard copy to 100% of the tribes and Native youth serving agencies on the mailing list.

Hosted a dinner and held an intergenerational focus group with local Native families at Sonoma County Indian Health Project's (SCIHP) Friday Family Fun Night.

Examined and incorporated answers to open-ended questions provided by Native youth and adults regionally during focus groups and a survey conducted by the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center (CIMCC) for a recent strategic marketing study of at-risk Native youth in Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino Counties.

Held collaborative meetings between the partner organizations to discuss Native youth risk and protective factors and to analyze data.

GATHERING TRIBES — TALKING POINTS



RESPONDENTS:

Essential data for our community needs assessment was provided by a variety of community members through the process described previously. Respondents included youth, grand parents, adults, service providers, tribal government leaders and staff and board members from our partner organizations. We also looked at archival data from local, state and federal sources.



RISK FACTORS

A risk factor is something that increases the likelihood that a particular condition or event will occur. For example, substance abuse and school dropout are risk factors that have been tied to youth violence and gang involvement. In our assessment, we inquired about three levels of risk factors. Respondents identified risk factors that create issues for a preponderance of Native youth in the service area.

Individual Factors

Youth

- Use substances beyond experimental;
- Started using substance prior to 13 years of age;
- Substance use causes problems in their lives;
- Are chronically truant from school;
- Have dropped out of school;
- Are failing academically;
- Engage in disruptive, aggressive or acting out behavior at home, in school and in the community;
- Are pre-occupied with delinquent and anti-social behavior;
- Have been referred for misdemeanor offense;
- Feel violence is acceptable and inevitable;
- Use aggression to solve conflicts;
- Are depressed and withdrawn.

RISK

Youth

- Have family members who abuse substances;
- Family substance use causes family problems;
- Have family with attitudes in favor of substance use;
- Have friends who use substances beyond experimental;
- Have friends with attitudes in favor of substance use;
- Have family who engage in aggressive and disruptive behavior;
- Experience family trauma and disruptions;
- Are exposed to family violence;
- Have family and friends who have attitudes in favor of using aggression to solve conflicts;
- Have friends who have been suspended, expelled or dropped out of school;
- Have friends who engage in aggressive and disruptive behavior;
- Have family and/or friends who are involved in gangs

Youth

- Live in high crime neighborhoods;
- Live in communities where there is a lack of structured, after-school activities;
- Live in communities where there is a lack of job opportunities;
- Attend schools where their cultures are inadequately represented in the curriculum;
- Attend schools where their cultures are unfairly or inaccurately represented in the school curriculum;
- Attend schools where the teachers and staff do not understand their cultures;
- Attend schools where there are violence problems and gang activity.

Family/Peer Factors



Community Factors

WHAT PROTECTS NATIVE YOUTH FROM RISK?

We asked the community to identify protections that can prevent or intervene in violence, gang involvement and child abuse and neglect among Native youth.

Family and culture are seen as the best assets for counteracting multiple individual, family/peer and community risk factors in all three social service priority areas.



ASSETS FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- Supportive Family Environment**
- Social and Spiritual Connection to Native Culture, Identity & Spirituality**
- Acquiring Positive Communication Skills**

ASSETS FOR PREVENTING GANG INVOLVEMENT

- Supportive Family Environment**
- Social and Spiritual Connection to Native Culture, Identity & Spirituality**
- Positive Peer Connection**

ASSETS FOR PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

- Clean and Sober Family Environment**
- Someone Youth Can Talk to Outside of Family System**
- Positive Communication Skills in Family Environment**



WHAT ARE OUR ASSETS?

Q: What are some of the good things your community or tribe does for its young people?

"They send us to conferences and tribal events" - M.L.

"Youth summer camps." - P.A.

"Youth education, youth employment and family gatherings" - C.S.

"Offers trips before going back to school. Offers ceremonies such as sweats, traditional dancing, teaching of songs and languages. Offers in-school leadership skills to high-schoolers. Tutoring for grammar school and high school. Youth talking circle for substance abuse. Trips to different gatherings and ceremonies. Sponsorships for youth to play in local sports. Afterschool programs. Special workshops for youth." - M.M.



TRIBAL COMMUNITY PROGRAM ASSETS

SONOMA COUNTY

Cultural Activities and Native Language Classes were reported as the most predominant tribal program assets for Native youth in Sonoma County with 100% of the tribes having these assets. *A connection to Native culture was perceived as an important protective factor for youth in the social service priority areas of youth violence & gang involvement.*

LAKE COUNTY

100% of Lake County tribes have access to Drug Courts and Substance Abuse counseling to help mitigate youth substance abuse issues and foster the *protective factor of clean and sober family environments to counteract child abuse and neglect.*

100% offer parenting classes. *Community members perceived the protective factor, "positive relationships in the family environment" as important for giving youth resiliency towards child abuse and neglect.*

Cultural activities are also a predominant asset with 83% of the tribes offering cultural programs. *A connection to Native culture was perceived as an important protective factor for youth in two of the social service priority areas.*

MENDOCINO COUNTY

The most predominant community program and service assets for Native youth among the Mendocino County Tribes are an Indian Education Center, Drug Court, Relationship Skills Classes and Substance Abuse Counseling, with 82% of the tribes offering these resources. *Programs and services emphasize the perceived protective factors: clean and sober family environment and positive relationship skills to counteract child abuse and neglect.*



WHAT ARE OUR ASSETS?

NATIVE YOUTH INDIVIDUAL ASSETS

**Youth are proud of
their Native heritage**



**Youth have goals to
graduate from
highschool**



**Their families have
expectations about
school success**

NATIVE YOUTH FAMILY/PEER ASSETS

**They have close, positive and
supportive relationships
with at least one family member.**

**They have friends who
are proud of their Native heritage.**

**Youth have opportunities
to learn about their history and
cultures from their families.**

NATIVE YOUTH COMMUNITY ASSETS

**Youth live in communities
where there is pride in
their Native heritage.**



WHAT ARE OUR ASSETS?

PROJECT PARTNERS' COLLABORATIVE ASSETS

We have 75 years of collective organizational experience in providing programs and services to Native communities.

Our partnership is composed of staff people, executives, board members and volunteers who are members of or descended from Native communities in the project service area. Many of these people have significant field experience with positive development for Native youth.

The partners have relationships with numerous Native elders and culture-bearers throughout the tri-county region and can look to them for advice when creating youth programs. Some of these people are staff members of the partner agencies.

Our organizations are dedicated to establishing trust and credibility within the community by committing resources to community engagement.

The partners offer places for youth to gather and conduct programming.

Our partnership is experienced in new media technology and has a range of audio-visual production equipment and software to support youth media production programming.

INDIVIDUAL ASSETS



Sonoma County Indian Health Project

**Healthy Traditions
Wellness Program**

Youth Coordinator

**Wellness & Cultural
Programs for Youth**

**Permaculture
and Traditional Foods
Garden**



National Indian Justice Center

**Culturally-relevant
Curricula & Training Programs**

**For All My Relations
Conference on Indian Families**

Distance Education Programs

Computer Lab

Website



California Indian Museum & Cultural Center

**Issues-based Exhibits and
Lecture Series on
California Indian
History and Cultures**

Quarterly Newsletter

Storytelling Media Dome

Native Plants Garden

**Web-based Pomo
Language Repository**



NATIVE YOUTH WANT US TO KNOW:

Q: What are some of the things adults could do better to assist young people with challenges?

"Be a better role model because kids look up to adults"- M.H.

"Give guidance and counselng. Get more adults actively involved in group functions."- C.O.

"Recommend counseling for youth. Adults need to challenge the youth to a better life and be an example of a smart role model. We put our trust in adults so much and often they let us down, so they take it upon themselves. Adults need to step up. It is a new season, a new generation rising up."- K.T.

"Respect them a little bit more and let them know that they are important."- C.C.

"Keep the young ones away from bad habits or friends."- A. G.

"They can help by not exposing their youth to drugs and alcohol in the home. They can also keep drugs and alcohol away from small children."- S.G.

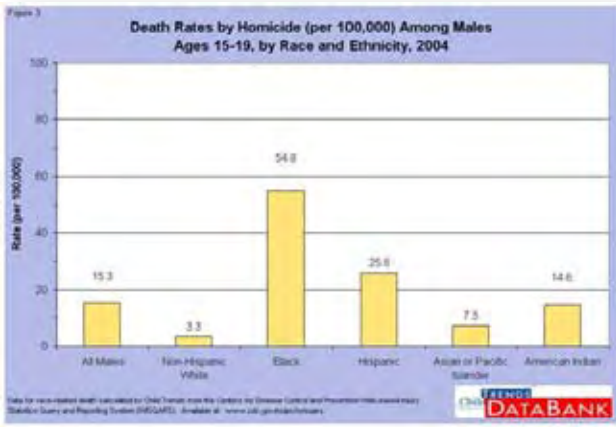
"Pay more attention to their children's whereabouts."- C.R.

"Work together."- J.G.

"Take the time to talk or start a youth group."- J.E.

"Spend time with them, teach them something new everyday."- D.C.





Injuries and violence account for 75% of all deaths among Native Americans ages 1 to 19. (Wallace, 2000)

American Indians/Alaska Natives die at a 61% higher rate from homicides and a 62% rate from suicides than other Americans. (Indian Health Service, Facts on Indian Health Disparities, January 2006)

Among 10 - 24 year olds, homicide is the third leading cause of death for American Indians/Alaska Natives. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007)

Native youth are also arrested for alcohol-related violations at a rate twice the national average.

The suicide rate is three times greater for American Indian youth than for white youth of similar ages. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

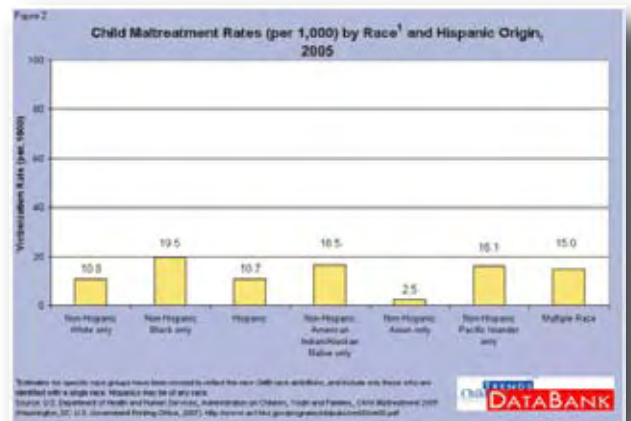
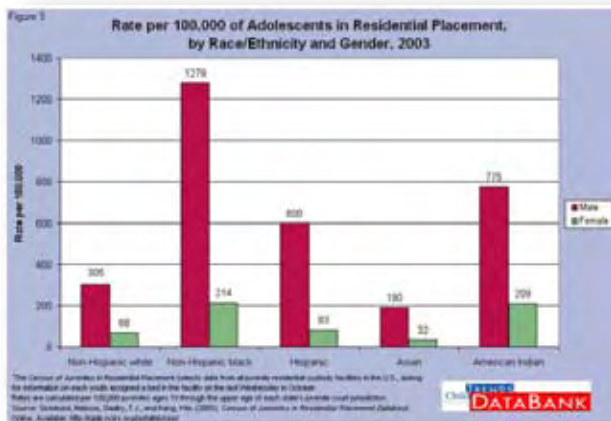
The rate of violent victimization of American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) is twice the national average. AI/AN victims of violence experience post-traumatic stress disorder at a rate of 22% compared to 8% overall. (Surgeon General, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

Native American women experience higher rates of interpersonal violence than any other group.

SOME FACTS ABOUT NATIVE YOUTH VIOLENCE
GANG INVOLVEMENT
CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

The Bureau of Prisons and the Office for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention state that as of February 2001, 74% of the youth in custody in the Federal Bureau of Prisons system were American Indians, an increase of 50% from 1994.

In 2005, American Indian/Alaska Native children experienced higher rates of maltreatment than the general population. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)



Twenty-three percent of tribes representing 60% of the entire population that responded to the United States Department of Justice, National Youth Gang Center survey of Youth Gangs in Indian Country (2000) reported active youth gangs in their communities.



HOW WE CAN ASSIST NATIVE YOUTH WITH POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT:

Q: What types of things do you think Native youth should learn in preparing to become the next generation of tribal leaders?

"Culture, respect and honor" - M.G.

"Our history." - M.L.

"Patience, Policies and Laws.." - R.M.

"Go to college and get a good education.." - B.R.



"Business management - social services, Indian law, accounting." - K.M.

"That being Native is hard but you must try and put up with everything to learn the most you can, to be the best role model you can be for the younger ones. To not be influenced by all the violence and drugs that they always try their hardest to do what is right for their people.." - C.P.

"Who they are and where they came from. Traditions of different Tribes across the Nation. Understand the different practices of the two lives they will live, American Ways vs Tribal Ways. Learn how to Communicate/Listen and how conflict can destroy the whole Community. Learn to understand what racism is and how to stop it from occurring in our Communities. Learn to use Tribal Traditions by offering Blessings from Elders, use Blessing on Opening Meetings, Ceremonies before business Meetings, and use ceremonies for treatment of illnesses. Learn about History of Tribal Peoples who ran the Tribe in the past. Teach what a tribal resolution is." - M.M.

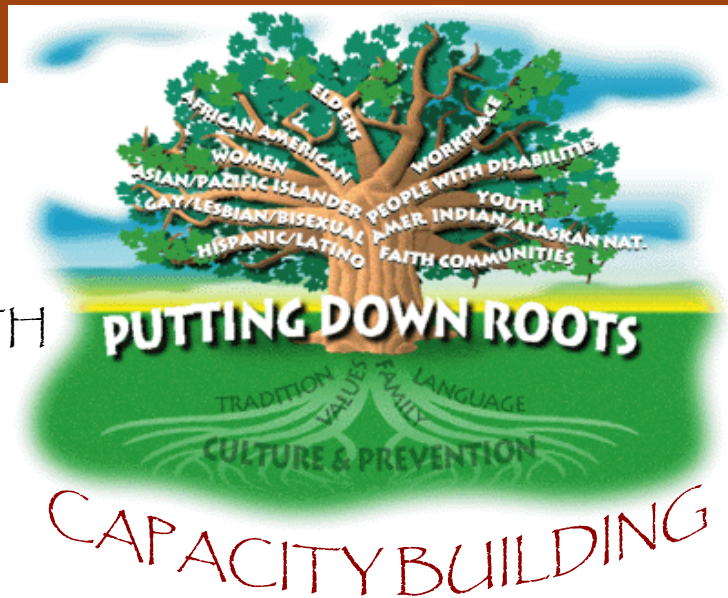
"The tribal constitution, fairness, equality." - J.V.

"Everything possible that will help make our tribes better." - S.R.

"They should ask the elders of the tribe questions about the past." - S.G.



HOW WE CAN HELP OURSELVES TO HELP NATIVE YOUTH



Capacity building can be defined as activities that increase an individual's, organization's, population's or community's ability for growth, development, or accomplishment. In our case, the partner organizations of Activating Native Youth Assets aim to grow and develop in our individual and mutual organizational capacity to serve Native youth in Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino Counties.

Under our project, we are addressing four areas of organizational capacity building: Leadership Development, Organizational Development, Program Development, Community Engagement. The following findings from our community assessment describe what we can do collectively, as a partnership and with other organizations, to elevate existing assets in the wider community--and create new ones.



Tribal governments are sovereign entities that develop programs at the local level using grant funds, monies generated from tribal enterprises and Public Law 93-638 funds. It's difficult for small tribes to maintain programs alone as tribes are often competing for the same pool of federal and other funds. Opportunities for youth can be expanded through cooperative programming, or regional marketing of existing programs to attract youth from multiple communities. From our partners we learned that youth and adults in the community have ideas about how to address the social service priority areas through programs. There is a desire for more youth programs but time, human and financial resources, facilities and other assets are not always available at the tribal level alone. The CEY partners each bring different resources and networks to encourage inter-tribal collaboration and sharing of effective program models and practices.



The partners can develop distance learning resources and provide other virtual community engagement mechanisms to encourage capacity building among existing tribal and community- and faith-based programs and to share with tribal and non-tribal policy makers.





Non-Native service providers would like to help Native youth, but they lack knowledge about Native cultures and culturally-appropriate approaches for the target population. It is important to build capacity in the non-Native community to serve the needs of Native youth. Peer-to-peer communication between tribal programs and non-tribal programs as facilitated through the mechanism of the partners' annual capacity building mini-conference can give non-tribal community- and faith-based organizations insights into culturally appropriate Native youth services and programs. Our mini-conferences will be designed and implemented with this need in mind.



The Sonoma Community Action Partnership was awarded a Compassion Capital Fund Demonstration Grant in 2007, and will be making capacity building sub-grants to Sonoma organizations over a three-year period. Recipients of the sub-grants are eligible to receive individualized capacity building technical assistance from the Sonoma CAP program. The partners can make Sonoma tribal governments and tribal community- and faith-based organizations aware of this resource so that they can benefit from Sonoma CAP's program. Also, staff from the CEY partner organizations can serve as presenters and consultants for that program. Establishing channels of communication is important for leveraging the impact of federal funds and serving more organizations through both efforts and avoiding duplication of services.



The inter-tribal drug courts and other inter-tribal youth services within the project target region can be encouraged to share their models, best practices and successes with other tribal and non-tribal project stakeholders at our annual capacity building mini-conference. Programs, such as inter-tribal courts can benefit from a youth perspective and youth notions of justice. Our partnership can use its collective expertise in justice systems development, Native culture and health and wellness to provide training to youth to be more actively involved in the inter-tribal court as advocates or judges.



The project partners can together and individually create or reinforce opportunities for Native youth, their families and their tribal communities to message to the wider community about the positive aspects and values of their Native heritage to counteract existing stereotypes, mascotting and misinformation about Native cultures.



We can use the existing mechanism of the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center newsletter to provide a "Youth Speaks Out" column with commentary provided by different youth from different local communities each issue.



We can use our combined audio-visual production equipment and production knowledge to mentor youth to be producers of their own multi-media messages. These messages can be posted to community websites, or to document their family oral histories. They can be shared with educators to encourage their understanding of local Native cultures.





We can involve youth in creating “living exhibits” on their histories and cultures to be shared among our facilities or to travel to other local venues. We can create a youth ambassadors program or speakers bureau to communicate to the wider community about local Native culture. We can engage greater non-Native community participation in our existing exhibits and special events through more aggressive marketing.



Youth need to be supported to stay in school through the introduction of accurate information about their tribal cultures and history into the school curricula. They are often thwarted by stereotyping of Native cultures in the curricula and teachers who do not know enough about their cultures to support them. It is important for the partners to be able to disseminate their existing knowledge and instructional resources to teachers for professional and curricula development purposes. The partners can work on having their facilities become Node Sites in the California K-12 High-speed Network. As part of the K12HSN, they would be able to participate in the California Research and Education Network. As Node Sites, the partners could receive free support and high bandwidth connectivity for video-conferencing and other services that would allow them to reach K-12 students and teachers and college and university students and teachers at their computer desktops with synchronous and asynchronous educational products on California Indian histories, cultures and contemporary issues. Participation in K12HSN would also enhance instruction in the NIJC/CIMCC computer lab by connecting this classroom to other classrooms throughout the state, including those in Indian Education Centers. There are at least two Indian Education Centers in the target region.



Most tribes in the service area have broadband Internet connectivity. They also have access to other technology infrastructure through community computer labs, Indian Education Centers or the local California Tribal TANF facility to participate in distance education. SCIHP and Round Valley Indian Health Service facilities have the ability to talk to each other through video-conferencing. These telecommunications assets can be leveraged through the development of distance learning content around health and wellness, cultural topics, family communication skills and other protective factors for violence prevention.



The project partners can continue to reinforce and expand on their family programming and inter-generational activities to nurture the primary asset of close, positive relationships between youth and their supportive family members.



Youth who have already taken the initiative to address local needs can be encouraged to mentor youth in other counties in the target area. We can provide forums to make this happen. For example, the existing Youth Leadership Council at SCIHP can be invited to present their ideas at the CIMCC Tillie Hardwick Lecture Series. Youth can be engaged as mentors in our existing youth programs.



HOW OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WANT TO BUILD CAPACITY:

Respondents to the Activating Native Youth Assets survey were asked to identify the capacity building needs of their tribal programs and community- and faith-based organizations to increase their ability to serve Native youth. The three most highly rated capacity building activities for the four capacity building areas addressed by the project are illustrated below.



HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE



Call 707-579-5507 and ask to be put on our Activating Native Youth Assets mailing list so you can receive regular updates about all of our project activities.

Visit our Activating Native Youth Assets project web-page at www.nijc.org/CEY.html to see our events calendar, download content and view distance learning resources.

NATIVE YOUTH--tell us what programs and activities you want and let your voices be heard on the Activating Native Youth Assets project web-page YOUTH BLOG.

Help support our ongoing data collection on risks and protective factors and assets for Native youth by responding to our online survey at

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=K0agbFCqW2YMBZKueoJ_2bFQ_3d_3d

Attend one of our FREE quarterly capacity-building networking lunches featuring speakers on leadership development, organizational development, program development and community engagement.

Share your best-practices for supporting positive development among Native youth by being a network lunch presenter or contributing content to our project web-page at www.nijc.org.

Attend one of our FREE annual, three-day capacity building mini-conferences to be held at the National Indian Justice Center facility in Santa Rosa.

Tell us about other capacity building events in Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino Counties so we can add them to our events calendar.

Share this report with other Native and non-Native community- and faith-based organizations.

Call us if you need training and technical assistance to develop programs and activities for Native youth.





**Activating Native Youth Assets
is a joint project of the
National Indian Justice Center,
Sonoma County Indian Health Project &
California Indian Museum and Cultural Center.
It is funded by a three-year grant from the
Administration for Children and Families
Compassion Capital Fund
Communities Empowering Youth Program.**



Together we can build sustainable community assets that respond to the unique needs of our Native Youth and reflect community cultural values.

The Activating Native Youth Assets Project takes a strengths-based approach to fostering positive youth development. There are 22 federally-recognized tribes and several non-recognized tribes in our tri-county service area. These sovereign entities possess significant assets for positive youth development. Additionally, there are many community- and faith-based organizations whose missions include service to Native youth

Our project focuses on building our individual and mutual organizational capacity so that we may serve as resources to help strengthen existing Native and non-Native assets for positive youth development in our region.

If you have questions about the Activating Native Youth Assets Project or wish to take part in our capacity building activities, contact 707-579-5507 or visit our website at www.nijc.org