



NATIONAL INDIAN HEAD START
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Standing Strong for American Indian and Alaska Native Children



INDIAN CHILD AND FAMILY ADVOCACY FUND

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We are asking that you make a commitment of \$3.00 or more per child to help support NIHSDA's Indian Child and Family Advocacy Fund.

WHAT IS NIHSDA?

The National Indian Head Start Directors Association (NIHSDA) is a membership organization established in 1979 open to American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Head Start and Early Head Start Directors. AIAN Head Start is the most important and successful Federal program focused on the dire circumstances faced by all too many Native children, principally by addressing health, education, family and community needs in a holistic manner that is akin to traditional Native learning styles and cultural practices. AIAN Head Start's family- and community-centered model is one of the few programs providing resources to address the special needs of young Native children, who on a daily basis must deal with the depression-era economics, terrible crime, and poor health outcomes that make Native youth the most at-risk population in the United States.

NIHSDA was established with the purpose of creating an organized voice for AIAN Head Start programs and the children and families they serve. NIHSDA provides management training opportunities for program directors and management staff for building the leadership capacity of AIAN Head Start programs. It also advocates for federal legislative and regulatory improvements to ensure that early childhood development and education services are culturally appropriate and relevant, that the government-to-government relationship between Tribes and the United States is preserved, and that funds are specifically designated for AIAN programs.

WHAT IS THE INDIAN CHILD AND FAMILY ADVOCACY FUND?

The National Indian Head Start Directors Association established the Indian Child and Family Advocacy Fund in 2004 to support the Association's education and advocacy efforts on improving federal legislation and developing effective regulations benefiting over 24,000 American Indian and Alaska Native children and their families. These efforts focus on regulatory reform, expanding services, culturally appropriate instruction, and funding for facilities.

AIAN programs are required to comply with approximately 1,900 program standards. Our efforts at the national level have contributed to keeping AIAN Head Start and Early Head Start issues and concerns in the forefront of Congress and the Office of Head Start. We were highly successful in having 40 provisions for AIAN Head Start and Early Head Start programs included in the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007. With upcoming reauthorization it is critical to have a strong voice.

Strengthening and expanding programs is important to AIAN Head Start's continued success. AIAN Head Start programs provide critical services, often in extremely difficult circumstances. Despite the critical services that Indian Head Start provides to tribal communities, only about 16 percent of the age-eligible Indian child population is enrolled in Indian Head Start. Of the approximately 566 federally recognized Tribes, only about 188 have Head Start programs funded through 152 grantees in 26 states. That means approximately 378 Tribes do not have Head start available.

AIAN Head Start is on the frontline in the preservation of Native language and culture, which have proven to be key elements in Native student confidence and success in later years. AIAN Head Start is deeply committed to providing excellent programs. However, there needs to be further dialogue about developing reliable measurements of program quality in culturally diverse environments.

Many AIAN Head Start programs operate out of the oldest buildings on their reservations. Lack of adequate physical facilities hinders the ability of these programs to meet the very specific health and safety needs of young children. Many

programs are unable to apply for expansion funds due to the limited availability of facilities in tribal communities. Without the necessary physical infrastructure, programs struggle to furnish the foundation for success that AIAN Head Start seeks to provide.

HOW MUCH IS NEEDED?

NIHSDA's annual goal is \$50,000 – **you only need to donate \$3.00 for each child you serve.** Your support will allow NIHSDA to:

- Research and draft briefing documents, including background materials, letters and testimony and, when appropriate, legislative language
- Educate decision makers on the issues of important to AIAN Head Start
- Review legal, legislative and administrative developments for their impact on AIAN programs and respond with appropriate comments
- Respond to Congressional and Administration requests for information and for policy views and issues
- Prepare for and meet with government officials
- Hold webinars, briefings and other events intended to educate the NIHSDA membership as well as others on AIAN Head Start issues
- Expand outreach to National Council of Urban Indian Health membership for consultation on policy matters
- Develop policy positions
- Attend hearings
- Coordinate with other Early Childhood Education partners

Every dollar donated makes a difference in our struggle to improve and expand Head Start services for Indian children and families.

WAYS YOU CAN DONATE:

The support and contributions of the AIAN Head Start network have helped to carry forth our education and advocacy efforts. We must continue to keep our issues and concerns in front of the Administration for Children and Families, the Office of Head Start, and the U.S. Congress. Remember that while federal funds cannot be used to support lobbying efforts, unrestricted Tribal dollars and fundraising dollars can be used.

This packet can be presented to your tribe asking them to support AIAN Head Start by pledging at least \$3 for every child your program serves, or you can hold a fundraising event to raise your donation. Included in this packet is a form to use when sending in your support.

FUNDRAISING GUIDANCE

Because fundraising activities cannot be supported financially by any Head Start funds, some programs are unsure of how they can donate to the Indian Child and Family Advocacy Fund and how they can track funds raised. It is important to remember that staff time, program funds and program resources cannot be used for fundraising events or activities which do not supplement Head Start program funds.

There are many misperceptions about what Head Start and Early Head Start agencies can and cannot do when it comes to fundraising. Agencies can legitimately engage in various types of fundraising activities without violating federal law or the terms of federal grant awards.

Very importantly, however, no federal grant funds can be used to support the cost of fundraising activities.

This information is a general guideline. All programs and parents should check their respective organization's policies, procedures and regulations to ensure compliance prior to conducting a fundraising event or activity.

HOW STAFF CAN BE INVOLVED

Staff can participate as long as they are volunteering their time after program hours of operation. It is important that staff members are not required to participate and only do so if they wish to volunteer.

HOW TO KEEP TRACK OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS

Programs can keep track of funds raised for the Indian Child and Family Advocacy Fund as long as they are put into an unrestricted budget account and ensured they are sent as contributions for the Indian Child and Family Advocacy Fund. **They may not be co-mingled with restricted federal funds.** Programs should check with their organization's financial policies and operating regulations to ensure compliance.

All donations to the Indian Child and Family Advocacy Fund are **tax deductible**, because the recipient, NIHSDA, is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. This should be communicated to all contributors for their donations of funds or resources for campaign events and activities.

FUNDRAISING FEDERAL POLICIES

Fund-raising activities occur occasionally under Head Start auspices. Parents also engage in fund-raising as part of parent involvement activities in Head Start. These activities allow the programs to generate additional resources programs would not otherwise receive.

However, since the Indian Child and Family Advocacy Fund is not intended to supplement Head Start program funds, campaign fund-raising activities are permissible, provided that:

- No Head Start funds are used for fund-raising activities. Costs for such activities are unallowable.
- No Head Start staff members are engaged in these activities during the hours when such staff members are working. Funds may not be solicited, collected or tabulated during work hours. Head Start staff members may, however, volunteer during non-work time.
- No Head Start resources (e.g., facilities, equipment, etc.) can be used at any time, including when the Head Start program is closed, A noted exception is the de minimus use of office equipment to tabulate, record and track the donations by staff during non-working hours.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

There are many ways that funds can be raised for the Indian Child and Family Advocacy Fund from large fundraising events to simply passing around the hat. No effort is too big or too small but all contributes to the effort to provide the Window of Opportunity to our children. It is up to individual organizations to decide what works best and what they can do to participate. Most importantly, this is an opportunity for your children, families and communities to work together as a team to achieve a common goal.

WHO IS IN CHARGE?

Parents should be the lead force in creating any fundraising event or activity and staff, during non-work hours, should take a supporting role. Therefore, it is important that parents come together to make their campaign happen. Staff representatives from the agencies can participate by volunteering their time after program hours.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Indian Child and Family Advocacy Fund is also a great opportunity to involve the community. Connecting with local businesses, agencies, and community groups not only helps to strengthen an event, but can be a great way to reach out and send the message of the importance of Head Start and Early Head Start programs in the community. Reaching out to local high schools and universities is a great way to get additional volunteers for your fundraisers.

WHAT KINDS OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES ARE EFFECTIVE?

Parents can be creative to come up with ideas that can raise funds. The following is an A to Z list of examples of different events and activities that can be used by parents to raise funds for the Indian Child and Family Advocacy Fund.

A - Z Fundraising

A Art Show 	Jump Rope A-thon 	J	R Raffle Rent a worker Recycling
Bake Sale Bingo Box Car Derby B	K Karaoke Night 		S Sales Silent Auction Spaghetti Dinner
C Car Wash Children's Cookbook Crock Pot Cook Off 	L Loose Change Day	T Talent Show Teacher Torture Treasure Chest 	
Dinner Party Derby Day D	Movie Night 	M	Urban Games Unicycle Racing University Challenge U
E Eat for a Cause Email Campaign 	 N No Smoking Challenge Nacho Sale NBA Shoot Out		V Video Game Tournament
 F Fashion Show Fantasy Football	O Open Mic Night 		 W Walk-a-thon Wishing Well
G Garage Sale Game Night  Golf Tournament		X X-Box X-treme Sports 	
 H Holiday Baskets	P Pot Luck Lunch Parents Night Out Penny Drive	Y Yard Sale Yoga Class 	
I Indian Tacos 	Q Quilt Raffle Quiz Night 	 Z Zumba Class Zzzzzz- Pajama Party	



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_____ values the quality early childhood services provided by Head Start to American Indian and Alaska Native children and families, and we want to show our support of NIHSDA's education and advocacy efforts by making a donation to the NIHSDA Indian Child and Family Advocacy Fund.

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES:

- We pledge \$3.00 per child x #_____ of federally funded children = \$_____
- We support NIHSDA's advocacy efforts. Please accept our donation of \$_____

WAYS TO PAY:

- Check payable to NIHSDA
- Credit Card (VISA, MC, AMEX, DISCOVER)
 - Name as it appears on card: _____
 - Number: _____
 - Exp date: _____ Security Code: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____
- Visit www.nihgsda.org to donate online

May we publish your name in our donor list? Yes No

Please return this form with your donation to:
NIHSDA: Indian Child and Family Advocacy Fund
P.O. Box 6058, Norman, OK 73070

Your donation to NIHSDA is tax deductible. (EIN 73-1388267)

Remember that while federal funds cannot be used to support lobbying efforts, unrestricted Tribal dollars and fundraising dollars can be used.