Engaging and Supporting Native Fathers

Targeted Resources for Tribal Child Welfare, October 2016

"We could be the turn-around generation": Harnessing Aboriginal fathers’ potential to contribute to their children’s well-being
This 2012 article highlights the importance of a father’s involvement, noting regular contact with a positively involved father improves health outcomes and is associated with good development.

The Good Road of Life
Offered by Native P.R.I.D.E., these culture-based programs help keep Native families together by assisting with how to address unresolved conflicts in relationships and improve communication skills.

Wicasa Was’aka: Restoring the Traditional Strength of American Indian Boys and Men
This article uses a historical trauma lens to examine health disparities among Native men and boys. Sharing insights from historical trauma-informed interventions that were used with Lakota men and Southwestern American Indian boys, the authors offer public health implications and strategy recommendations.

Celebrating and Supporting Native Fathers
This 2013 blog post from ACF highlights work being done by the Administration for Native Americans on supporting communities for Native fatherhood initiatives.

Indigenous Fathers’ Involvement in Reconstituting “Circles of Care”
This 2010 study with indigenous fathers illuminates the historical factors that have shaped their current experiences.

Indian Fathering in the Dakota Nation: Use of Akicita as a Fatherhood Standard
This paper explores fathering in the Dakota nation. Using historical Akicita (male worrier societies) standards, authors discuss how Native men who wish to provide effective parenting can incorporate Akicita standards in their paternal responsibilities.

Positive Indian Parenting
This training is designed to help prepare staff to use a culturally specific approach to train Indian parents.

Resource Directory for Fatherhood Programs
This resource directory, created by NICWA, includes a listing of fatherhood programs that tribes can utilize when searching for funding resources.

Understanding Fathering among Urban Native American Men
This 2011 article uses existing data to examine fathering perceptions among Native men.

A Guide for Father Involvement in Systems of Care
This 2013 guide includes strategies to help fathers become involved, and information on the importance of doing so.

San Antonio Fatherhood Campaign
An initiative of the American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Mission initiative aims to promote responsible fatherhood

Learn More:
Father Involvement Research Alliance