

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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COMMISSION ON NATIVE CHILDREN TO HOLD NORTHWEST AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL HEARING IN SEATTLE, WA, APRIL 19–20

The Commission will hear from expert witnesses and the public on the successes, challenges, and needs for supporting Native children.

SEATTLE, WA — The Commission on Native Children will hold its Northwest and Rocky Mountain Regional Hearing in Seattle, WA, April 19–20, 2023 at Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center. The prior regional hearing was held in Honolulu, HI in February 2023.

The Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children was established by Congress as an independent federal entity charged with conducting a comprehensive study of federal, state, local, and tribal, Native programs and developing recommendations on solutions that would improve the health, safety, and well-being of Native Children.

The Commission will examine the unique challenges Native children face and make recommendations on improving the current system by building on the strengths and leadership of Native communities, with the goal of developing a sustainable system that delivers effective, culturally appropriate, meaningful wrap-around services to Native children.

“For too long, in spite of their resilience and rich heritage, the life experiences of Native children have been disproportionately marred by poverty, child abuse, domestic violence, crime, and substance abuse; it is our

job, as Commissioners, to do all we can to change those circumstances for our youngest and most vulnerable Native people,” said Commission Carlyle Begay.

The Northwest and Rocky Mountain Regional Hearing is currently scheduled to be held simultaneously in-person and virtually on April 19 and 20. During the two days of the Regional Hearing, the Commission will hear from respected researchers and experts in the region on the successes and challenges in supporting Native children on four key topics:

1. Physical, mental, and behavioral health;
2. Education and early childhood development;
3. Child welfare, juvenile justice, and violence; and
4. Systems innovations and best practices in Native communities.

The Commission also invites Native children, their families, community leaders, and community members to share their thoughts on issues that are important to protecting Native children served in the various communities on April 20 at 11:15 a.m., PDT.

Register Today

Please register for each day’s proceedings with the links below. Once registered, you will receive information on how to participate virtually and in-person.

- April 19, 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m. PDT
 - https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpc-2tqj4uGtTa7rdOv9aYz_7kuDXG-aMF
- April 20, 9:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m. PDT
 - <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrf--rpi0pHdH4pioPkwx9LytnXyVpB-C3>

In person hearing location:

Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center
5011 Bernie Whitebear Way
Seattle, WA

COVID-19 Considerations

CDC guidance related to COVID-19 will be encouraged and followed. While the hearing is currently scheduled to be held both in-person and virtually, the Commission may decide to hold the Regional Hearing virtual-only due to COVID-19 developments.

To learn more, please visit <https://commissiononnativechildren.org>. For media inquiries, contact Regina Gilbert: regina.gilbert@bia.gov. The public can submit oral and written testimony, as well as questions, at any time to email@commissiononnativechildren.org. Follow the Commission on Facebook at: [Alyce Spotted Bear & Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children](#), or on Twitter: [@asbwscnc](#).

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