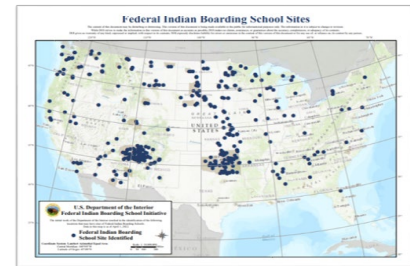




Boarding Schools: Healing Lessons for Tomorrow

Boarding School History

- Civilization Fund Act of 1819
- Peace Policy of 1869
- Carlisle Indian School founded in 1879
- 1891, Congress authorized Commissioner of Indian Affairs to make rules to ensure attendance, and provided funding for the transportation of children from reservations to boarding schools
- By 1926, nearly 83 percent of AI/AN school-age children were enrolled in Indian boarding schools
- 1968, President Johnson ends federal Indian boarding school practice
- 1972, Congress passed the Indian Education Act



[Map of Federal Indian Boarding School Sites \(AZ & HI not listed\)](#)

Present Day

- [Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act](#)
 - Bipartisan Introduction on 9/30/2021
 - Representative Sharice Davids
 - Senator Elizabeth Warren
 - Created a commission tasked with:
 - Investigating and documenting Indian boarding school policies
 - Understanding the resulting historical and ongoing trauma
- [Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Memorandum](#)
 - Interior Secretary Deb Haaland issued June 2021
 - [Published Volume 1 of the Investigative Report](#)

Boarding School Consequences

- Discouragement or forbiddance of Native language, cultural practices, and religion
- Harsh punishment for failure to follow strict rules.
- Physical, sexual, and emotional abuse
- Malnourishment
- Over crowding
- Lack of adequate healthcare

Services UIOs Provide to Address Intergenerational Trauma

Behavioral Health Services:

- Mental health counseling
- Psychiatry
- Substance abuse counseling
- Education and prevention services
- Anger management
- Domestic violence counseling

Social & Community Services:

- Youth camps and programs
- Elder services
- Domestic violence services and classes
- Prevention and education services
- Job placement
- Traditional diet and nutrition services and classes

Traditional Medicine:

- Sweat lodge and smudging ceremonies.
- Men's, women's, and elder's talking circles
- Prayer ceremonies
- Relationship gatherings





NCUIH's Role and Recommendations

NCUIH has urged the DOI and the Administration to address the ongoing effects of Indian boarding schools on AI/AN health and to partner with AI/AN organizations, including UIOs. These are a few of the recommendations NCUIH has submitted via comments:

- Partner with AI/AN organizations, including UIOs, to fully study and understand the impact of boarding school trauma and assist survivors in healing from this trauma.
- Study the lasting impact of boarding school policies, including intergenerational trauma, on the social determinants of health of contemporary AI/AN communities, including those in urban areas.
- Include the UIOs in DOI's process through urban confer.
- Ensure a comprehensive assimilation of data by making all AI/AN community's true partners in the Initiative.

What You Can Do

- Contact your Representative to ask them to support this legislation: Find your Representative at [House.Gov](https://www.house.gov)

Definitions to Know

- Congruency: is an agreement or harmony; compatibility.
- Trauma: Trauma is an event. It can be any event that causes psychological, physical, emotional or mental harm, such as a death or abuse. A traumatic event can also be called a loss. If someone dies, that's a loss. If someone was abused, that is a loss. A loss of trust. Whether you want to call the event a trauma or a loss is okay, BUT THE RESULT OF THE TRAUMATIC EVENT IS GRIEF.
- Grief: Grief is the normal and natural response to loss. It's the conflicting emotions that result in the end of, or change in, a familiar pattern or behavior. Grief is the feeling of wishing things would have ended differently, better, or more. Grief is the normal and natural feeling after trauma.

Healing Helps

- Sense of Safety
- Everyone has a Purpose.
- Helpers helping helpers.
- Understanding
- Compassion
- Love
- Uniqueness
- Sense of Belonging
- Accepting
- Hope
- Openness
- Solution Thinking
- Healthy Relationship
- Red Road Recovery
- Mental Health
- Women Leading
- Men Supportive
- Freedom
- Identity

