



ATNI 2025 Winter Convention

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Committee Report

Business of the Committee

The ICWA Committee met on Tuesday, January 28 and Wednesday, January 29 during the convention. There were no resolutions presented or acted upon.

The committee held a vote during the Wednesday meeting regarding the confirmation of Vice-Chair Loni Greninger (Jamestown S’Klallam) as the new chair for the committee. The vote was unanimous in favor of confirming Vice-Chair Greninger as the new ICWA Committee Chair.

Other business of the committee included discussing the transition to the new presidential administration and 119th Congress. The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) provided an overview of the new administration, their policy priorities, and potential impacts for tribal nations in human services. This included new executive orders such as the freeze on federal funding. NICWA also provided an overview of the new Congress and changes in committee leadership, including upcoming priorities such as cutting funding for numerous human service programs through the budget reconciliation process to pay for tax cuts for wealthy individuals and corporations. NICWA is developing summaries of the executive orders that are relevant to tribal human services programming and will be sending those to tribal nations in the next two weeks. They are also asking for help retrieving information on potential impacts to tribal human services programming from these executive orders and will be sending out a short survey on this by the end of the week.

Other discussions included legislative victories in the previous Congress and regulation changes that became law before the end of 2024. There were two major pieces of child welfare legislation that passed Congress with tribal support and several final rules that were published. NICWA provided copies of their February [Child and Family Policy Update](#) that includes details on the legislation and regulations discussed.

NICWA also provided an update on the ICWA 2050 initiative that contains several policy change goals for the next 25 years to improve implementation of ICWA, improve tribal capacity in child welfare, and support tribal sovereignty. In 2025, NICWA will be performing an environmental scan to learn more about what tribes and states are doing in these areas and explore tribal interest and capacity to partner on goals in the plan. The intention is to

create a list of policy priorities for the first 3-5 years that can be a starting place for implementation of the plan and develop partnerships with tribes and other allies to achieve these goals.

Lastly, NICWA introduced Joshua Franks, the Director for the Native Children & Youth Funding Project. Joshua described the purpose and goals of the project and his vision for working with tribal nations. The project will be releasing a report soon that will provide baseline information on the state of federal funding for tribal programs that provide services to Native children and youth. Joshua provided his contact information and asked committee participants to contact him to discuss the project and opportunities for engagement.