Programs for American Indians

Block and formula grants to states for funding major programs that include American Indians, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians as state beneficiaries of services include

- Medicare and Medicaid programs,
- Child Abuse and Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State Grants,
- Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Grants,
- Title XX Social Services Block Grants,
- Block Grants for Community Mental Health Services,
- Developmental Disabilities Councils,
- HIV Care Formula Grants,
- Supplemental Security Income, and
- Supportive Services to Better Serve People with Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders.

Most other grant programs that cover respite care that list state agencies as the eligible entity are also open to federally recognized Tribes, and some are open to Tribes that are not federally recognized, including the following programs discussed previously in this Guide:

- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Discretionary Activities Grants;
- Title IV-B Child Welfare Services Grants;
- Title IV-E Adoption Assistance;
- Promoting Safe and Stable Families;
- Targeted Grants to Increase the Well-Being of, and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for, Children Affected by Methamphetamine or Other Substance Abuse;
- Abandoned Infants Assistance;
- Adoptions Opportunities;
- Developmental Disabilities Projects of National Significance;
- Centers for Independent Living;
- HIV Emergency Relief Project Grants;
- National Family Caregiver Support Program (under separate authorizing legislation; see National Family Caregiver Support Program);
- Senior Companion Program; and
- Community Living Program Grants.

In addition, several programs are funded solely for individuals who are American Indians, Native Alaskans, Native Hawaiians, and other Native American Pacific Islanders. These programs, which are discussed in this section, are

- Indian Child Welfare Act Title II Grants,
- Native American Programs Act Social and Economic Development Strategies Programs, and
- Grants for Native Americans under Title VI of the Older Americans Act.
**Indian Child Welfare Act Grants**

*Authorizing legislation:*  

*Program purpose:*  
To support safe and stable American Indian Tribes and families through providing child protection, preventing the separation of families, and assisting in the operation of child and family service programs.

*Beneficiaries:*  
American Indian children and families.

*Funding:*  
Project grants are awarded on approval of application by the Tribe. Grants may be renewed indefinitely upon satisfactory performance by the grantee. The amount of a grant depends on the amount prioritized by the Indian Tribe through the budget formulation process.

*Activities supported by the funding:*  
Uses of the funding, for both on- and off-reservation programs, include

- counseling facilities;
- family assistance, including homemaker and home counselors, day care and after school care, recreational activities, respite care, and employment;
- employment of professionals to assist Tribal courts personnel;
- education and training;
- foster care subsidy programs;
- legal advice and representation;
- home improvement programs with the primary emphasis of upgrading unsafe home environments;
- preparation and implementation of child welfare codes; and
- providing matching shares for other federal programs.

*Respite connection:*  
Respite is a core service of the funding.

*Federal funding agency:*  
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs

*Eligible entity:*  
Federally recognized Indian Tribal governments

*Points of contact:*  
A list of Tribal entities eligible to receive services can be found on the Bureau of Indian Affairs website.  
Related links:
https://www.cfda.gov/?s=program&mode=form&tab=step1&id=d550bfa7c5938e31b09ea79a9bbc0daf

Bureau of Indian Affairs.
http://www.bia.gov/

References:
Social and Economic Development Strategies (SEDS) Program for American Indians

Authorizing legislation:

Currently authorized through:
September 30, 2002. Congress has continued to appropriate funding for this program.

Program purpose:
To promote economic and social self-sufficiency, support the interests of children and families, and strengthen communities for American Indians, Native Alaskans, Native Hawaiians, and other Native American Pacific Islanders from American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Beneficiaries:
American Indians, Native Alaskans, Native Hawaiians, and Native American Pacific Islanders.

Funding:
Competitive project grants of 1 to 3 years are awarded directly to the grantee. Grantees must supply a 20% match.

Activities supported by the funding:
Grants are made in four general program areas:

- Tribal governance projects,
- Economic development projects,
- Strengthening families projects, and
- Social development projects.

Grant announcements may be very general in nature, with little limitation on allowable activities.

Respite connection:
While respite care is not specifically identified as a service under this program, it could be considered in one of several identified areas, including

- improving the delivery of social services,
- developing and implementing projects that enlist community members in volunteer capacities to support community goals,
- developing and coordinating services to people with disabilities so they can live independently within the community,
- supporting early childhood programs to address the needs of young children and families;
- offering culturally relevant family preservation activities, and
- providing resources for grandparents raising grandchildren.
Federal funding agency:
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration for Native Americans.

Eligible entity:
Public and private nonprofit agencies serving American Indians, Native Alaskans, Native Hawaiians, and Native American Pacific Islanders.

Points of contact:
Information about current grants is available on the Administration for Native Americans website. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana/current-grantees

Related links:
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: Native American Programs. https://www.cfda.gov/index?s=program&mode=form&tab=core&id=0080278b35623bbd776b8497a2a22f11


References:
Special Programs for Aging American Indians

Authorizing legislation:
Title VI of the Older Americans Act of 1965.

Currently authorized through:
September 30, 2011.

Program purpose:
To promote the delivery of supportive services (comparable to those provided under Title III of the Older Americans Act) to older Indians, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians.

Beneficiaries:
Indians who are 60 or older, and in the case of nutrition services, their spouses. Tribes also have the authority to define Indians under age 60 as “older Indians” making them eligible for services.

Funding:
One-year noncompetitive project grants, awarded on the basis of a formula that considers the number of eligible individuals age 60 or older represented by the Tribal Organization.

Activities supported by the funding:
Supportive services comparable to those provided under Title III of the Older Americans Act include

- health, mental health, education and training, welfare, information, recreation, homemaker, counseling, or referral services;
- services that help older individuals avoid institutionalization and return to their communities, through
  - client assessment, case management, and development and coordination of community services;
  - supportive activities to meet the needs of caregivers;
  - in-home and community services, including home health, homemaker, shopping, escort, reader and letter-writing services;
- maintenance of physical and mental well-being through physical activity, music, art, and dance-movement therapy;
- a coordinated system of support services designed to enable mentally impaired older individuals attain and maintain emotional well-being and independence;
- services designed to support family members and other persons providing voluntary care to older individuals who need long-term care;
- services to encourage and facilitate regular interaction between students and older individuals;
- in-home services for frail older individuals, including individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and related neurological and organic brain dysfunction, and their families; and
- “any other services necessary for the general welfare of older individuals; if such services meet standards prescribed by the Assistant Secretary and are necessary for the general welfare of older individuals.”
Respite connection:
While respite care is not specifically listed in the authorizing legislation, a case could be made for including respite services under any of the services listed above.

Issues for consumers, providers, and advocates:
Tribes have the authority to define Indians under age 60 as “older Indians” thus making them eligible for benefits.

Federal funding agency:
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Administration on Aging.

Eligible entity:
Tribal organizations and public or nonprofit private organizations that serve Native Hawaiian elders, which represent at least 50 individuals age 60 or older.

Points of contact:
Links to Title VI programs for Native Americans can be found by state on the National Resource Center on Native American Aging website. [http://olderindians.aoa.gov/directors.html](http://olderindians.aoa.gov/directors.html)

Related links:
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: Special Programs for the Aging. [https://www.cfda.gov/index?s=program&mode=form&tab=core&id=7b3b8abe5929b14bc79787f3d043bf3](https://www.cfda.gov/index?s=program&mode=form&tab=core&id=7b3b8abe5929b14bc79787f3d043bf3)

References:
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Administration on Aging. Services for Native Americans (OAA Title VI). [http://www.aoa.acl.gov/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/Native_Americans/index.aspx#data](http://www.aoa.acl.gov/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/Native_Americans/index.aspx#data)
