



### THINGS TO AVOID:

- Do not dishonor, disrespect Elders, Indigenous leaders in the community.
- **Do NOT use these statements: Low Income, Minority, UNDERSERVED Community**
- Refusing Hospitality: If offered a beverage, food, do accept as a sign of respect
- Do not dishonor their cultural practices or beliefs
- Do NOT TOUCH sacred, personal, or cultural items
- **Do NOT make promises you cannot keep**
- Avoid Stereotyping and judgement based on lifestyle, outward appearances and material possessions.
- Rushing – including frequent looks at the time
- Pressuring individuals to participate in events, interviews, discussions
- Taking pictures without permission

### Things to DO:

- Do Respect personal space, try too not be intrusive
- Be Humble, show humility.
- Understand the role and importance of Tribal leadership and Elders.

- Leadership may play a part in whether a tribal member can access outside supports and services.
- Show respect, humility, and confidentiality to tribes and their culture.
- It is disrespectful to interrupt, question or disagree, with anyone, but particularly with an authority figure.
- Ask questions always, never assume.

### Connecting: It's all about the Relationship

- **Relationship building: Priority # 1**. Can take years to cultivate. **SUPER** important to **LISTEN** and help as it fits the needs.
- **Research:** Each tribal land is a **sovereign** nation. Proper **etiquette** varies. **Respect** is crucial! It is okay to not know it all, ask questions!
- **Appreciate & Remember the History:** The effects of **historical trauma** may impact ability to provide services until trust is established.
- **Customize:** Meet needs individually, approach may need to be more creative.
- **Consistency:** Show support through emails, voicemails, visits and attending meetings and events. Be present. Other agencies have come and gone. Builds **TRUST!**
- **Don't Assume:** Don't assume all native communities are the same, and that all natives know each other.
- **Be Respectful:** Often times, a native person to speak with is first wanted, and often times who they want to bring in only for the time being is a native person.

### Indigenous American Connecting Resources:

Attend Indigenous Community events and gatherings open to the public.

### Contacts in The Native Community:

- **Local Tribal Communities**
  - Elders
  - Tribal Council Members
  - Chair, Secretary
  
- **Family Activity Department (FAD)**
  - Program Director
  
- **Indian Education Programs in school**
  
- **Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)**
  - ICWA Representative
  
- **Temporary Assistance for Native Families (TANF)**
  - Director
  - Project Coordinator
  
- **Indian Health Services (IHS)**
  - Community Education Representative
  - Patient Rights Representative
  
- **Indian Health Project Offices**
  - Directors
  - Teachers
  
- Indigenous Organizations
  
- **Social Platforms**
  - Facebook
  - Whatsapp
  - X (twitter)
  - LinkedIn

### **Indigenous Mexican, Central and South American:**

- **Avoid referring to language as “dialect.”**
  - Mistaken and harmful impression that Indigenous languages are a sub-type of Spanish.

Mixteco: Spanish: Navajo: English

- Languages vary beyond what English speakers understand as a regional accent. Do not rely on people self-reporting the language that they speak.
  - Don't expect most US based language lines to have an interpreter available.
  - Most reliable way to get the appropriate interpreter is to find someone from the same town or pueblo as the person you are speaking to.
- **Do not expect understandings of US Native peoples to easily relate to Mexican, Central and South American groups.**
    - There are as many things in common as there are differences. Be respectful and avoid pre-conceived notions of what it means to be *Indigena* or Native.
    - The most common descriptor that people use is "pueblo," which is an expansive concept that is used by indigenous and non-indigenous people.
    - Appreciate the complexities and human impact of what it means to be an immigrant.
  - **Begin with Grassroots efforts**
    - Church-Both Catholic, Christian, and Evangelical.
    - Indigenous Community events and gatherings open to the public.
  - **Agricultural Industry**
    - Any organizations involved in the agricultural labor rights movements (legal aid, unions/solidarity groups, environmental advocacy organizations)
    - An inherently dangerous industry made worse by language access issues
  - **Cross border Solidarity and Immigrant Justice Movements**
  - **Social Platforms**
    - Facebook
    - Whatsapp

## Website Resources:

<https://caltribalfamilies.org/resources/>

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-01-12/pdf/2023-00504.pdf>

<https://www.census.gov/about/cong-gov-affairs/intergovernmental-affairs/tribal-aian.html>

<https://www.nicoa.org/programs/technical-assistance-and-resource-center/disabilities/>

<https://www.bia.gov/>

## Mexican Indigenous Advocacy Groups in California

<https://mycielo.org/>

<https://mixteco.org/>

<https://www.fiob.online/>

<https://www.centrobinacional.org/>