

Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)

Missing & Murdered Indigenous People



Service Delivery Guide

May 2022

Guide Made Possible Through the *Tiwahe* Initiative

We envision a future with dramatically reduced statistics of violence against our people as we heal ourselves with our cultures and share our indigenous knowledge for solutions.



Cultural Teaching

INERQUTET ATURLUKI
YUUKUMTA UTUMAURLUTA
YUUCIQUKUT

When we respect others and follow the traditional teachings, our lives will be in harmony.

AVCP takes this holistic approach not just to end the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) in our region, but to take claim for the wellness of all the people of our region by:

offering programs and services that support healthy families and communities to help prevent tragedies from occurring;

advocating for increased public safety resources in rural Alaska to solve cases and protect communities;

and collaborating with tribes, government agencies, and local organizations to support individuals and families who are impacted.

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AVCP MMIP Taskforce

Indigenous women are disappearing and being murdered at disproportionately high rates throughout the United States and Canada. The percentage of missing persons identified as American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) is more than three times their percentage of the population.¹

Alaska Native women are over-represented by 250% among domestic violence victims.² Alaska was number one in females murdered by males in single victim murder incidents in 2016.³ The number of AI/AN homicide victims has doubled since 2018.⁴ And these numbers are likely significantly under-reported. AVCP approaches the crisis of MMIP with culturally relevant strategies, which are more effective than the traditional Western approach. Helping families remain supported and healthy before violence can occur is the backbone of AVCP's service delivery.

In 2020 AVCP formed its MMIP Taskforce to help raise awareness in the YK-Delta region about the MMIP crisis, and work across AVCP programs on solutions. The group chose 'P' for people in the name

of the group to recognize that boys and men are also victims and they and their families also deserve advocacy.

The goals of the AVCP MMIP Taskforce include:

- ▶ Sharing how AVCP's 'braided' services can prevent or reduce the likelihood of MMIP;
- ▶ Providing information on how individuals and tribes can obtain these services;
- ▶ Offering additional regional – statewide – federal resources for addressing MMIP;
- ▶ Advocating for equitable public safety and law enforcement resources in Rural Alaska; and
- ▶ Collaborating on MMIP opportunities between AVCP, tribes and other organizations

Healthy and resilient communities are the best way to prevent MMIP.

Please send any ideas and questions about MMIP to mmip@avcp.org

¹ Congressional Research Service 2022 • ² ILOC Report 2013 • ³ Violence Policy Center • ⁴ Federal Bureau of Investigation

Ashley Johnson-Barr Day

March 12



March 12 is Ashley Johnson-Barr Day in Alaska, a time to remember the life and memory of a young girl taken too soon. Ashley went missing on September 8, 2018 in the Iñupiat town of Kotzebue, Alaska. Her body was found eight days later.

AVCP's MMIP Taskforce encourages you to take action every year over the eight days prior to March 12 to honor the eight days that Ashley was missing.

Starting on March 5 and running up to March 12, AVCP shared on social media some tips for the principles of Elluarrluteng Ilakutellriit for healthy living, as well as resources in our region and state that can help keep our families safe.

Offer tribute to Ashley's memory by taking action to protect children like her. Children are our most precious resource and each of us has a part to play in ensuring they can live and grow in safe and healthy communities.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE: Wear purple on March 12 in Alaska to honor Ashley Johnson-Barr and the countless other Missing and Murdered Indigenous People. Commit to doing what you can to create and maintain a safe and healthy home and community. Use traditional customs and values to guide you each day in practicing and teaching about living well.

AVCP Service Delivery Model

Mission: Working together with Tribes to enhance sovereignty, self-sufficiency, and Our Way of Life.

Yuput calillgutekluki elluarrluta yuulualerkamtenun.

AVCP delivers services to a geographic area that spans 56 Tribes, 48 communities, and 55,000 square miles which is roughly the size of the State of New York.

Our region is “off the road system” meaning the only way into our region is by plane or barge. The communities in the region are not connected by roads to each other, only by the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. The only modes of

transportation available between towns are small aircraft year-round; boats when the rivers are flowing; and vehicles, snow machines, or four-wheelers when the river is frozen.

Our region’s population is 85% Alaska Native, primarily Yup’ik, Cup’ik, and Athabascan, and very young with a median age of 25.



Regional Tribal Priorities

AVCP is the tribal consortium that represents 56 different Tribes in the region across 48 communities. The Tribes have established three top priorities to be consistently addressed region-wide.

Every one of these priorities contributes to a holistic approach to healthy communities that prevents harm to tribal citizens. They set the course for all of AVCP's programs and services.



This wrap-around approach is key to addressing the MMIP crisis.

Public Safety

AVCP has done focused work to assess, summarize and identify a public safety service delivery model that will work for our communities. See our white paper on AVCP's website - [Public Safety in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta: Solutions for Making Tribal Communities Safer](#).

Economic Development

Our economic vision for our region is a strong, innovative, self-reliant YK-Delta economy supported by our resilient culture and regional collaboration. To support this vision, we coordinate the development of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#) (YK-CEDS), available on the AVCP website.

Community Wellness

[Healthy Families](#) are the backbone of thriving communities. AVCP strengthens families holistically, informed by our cultural values that guide the entire life journey of our people. This reinforcement comes via AVCP's Family Services Center through the three divisions that provide direct client assistance: **1) Benefits, 2) Family Services, and 3) Workforce Development**. AVCP's Tribal Resources Center delivers resources to communities through their three divisions: **1) Community Development, 2) Community Services, and 3) Lands & Cultural Resources**.

Healthy Families Approach to the MMIP Crisis

Strengthening Our Families

AVCP strives to support 'whole health' of every tribal citizen through the sharing, teaching, and practice of our traditional values. These values are shared along the entire life cycle.

AVCP's Healthy Families programs and workshops advance a lifestyle that is connected to all things and illustrates traditional practices, values and beliefs as told by Elders from around the region. The workshops are also a resource for first responders and law enforcement in our villages, as well as Tribal Court judges and staff.

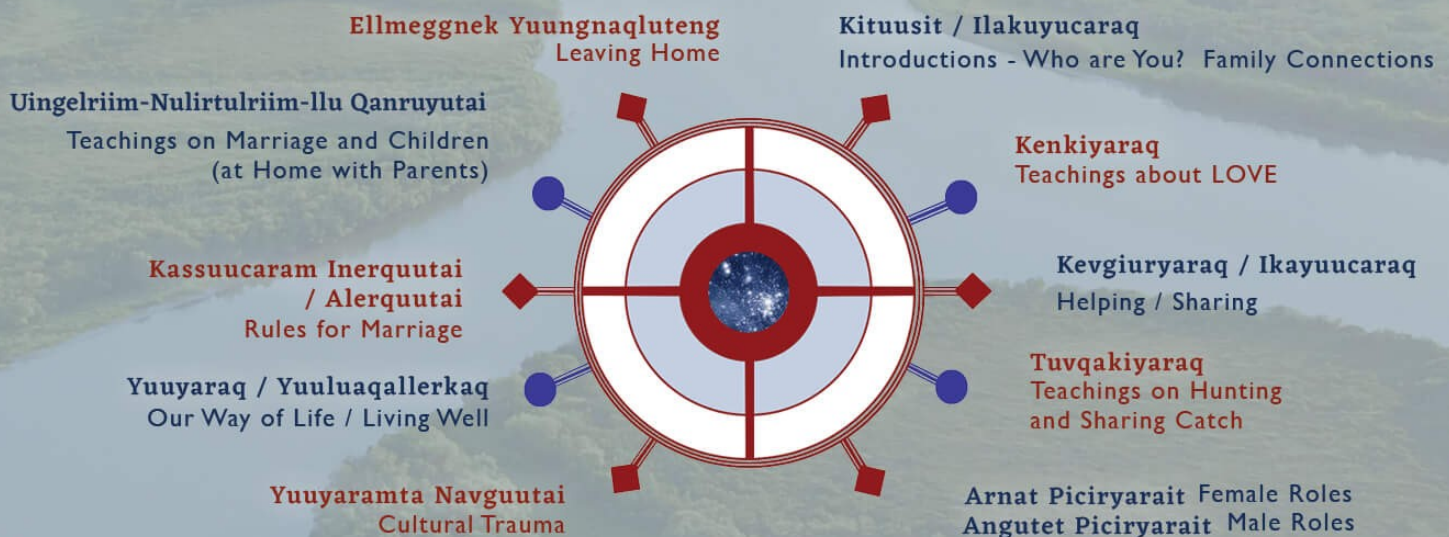
This wrap-around approach to case management for families and training for service providers is the best strategy to keep our people on a path to support, healing, and success.

Cultural Value

YUUYARAQ/YUULUAQALLERKAQ **Our Way of Life, Living Well**

Everything continues as a cycle in our families and communities. We must strive to understand that taking care of ourselves physically, emotionally, spiritually, and mentally helps to maintain balance not just individually, but as a larger society. This is important to practice continually throughout life, not just when hardship or trauma occurs. Our teachings are truly our medicine.

Elluarrluteng Ilakutellriit



PUT IT INTO PRACTICE: Commit to doing what you can to create and maintain a safe and healthy home and community. Use traditional teachings and values to guide you each day in practicing and teaching living well.

Service Delivery Under *Tiwahe*

Tiwahe is a Lakota word that refers to “family” or those living together in one home or dwelling.

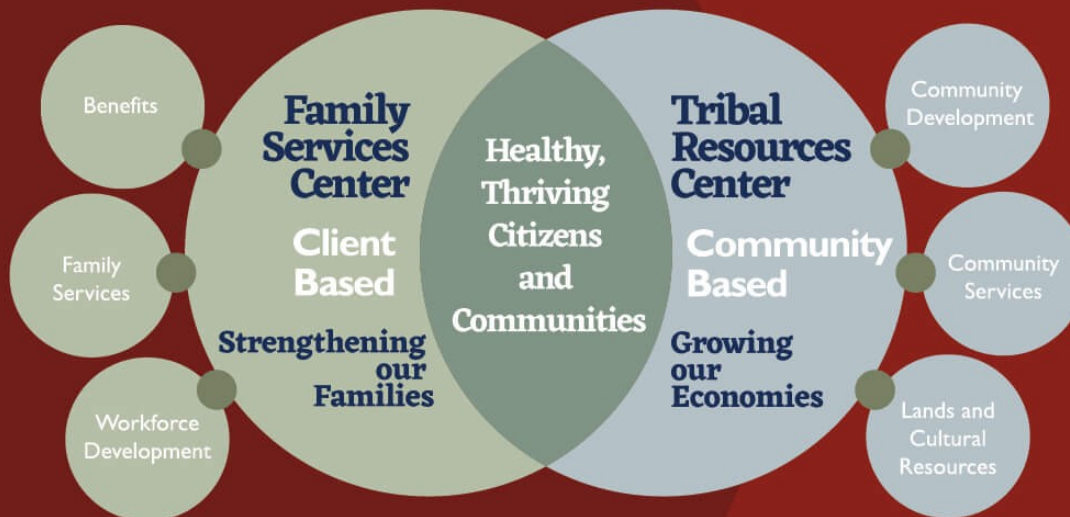
In 2015 the federal government approved the tribal *Tiwahe* project to ‘braid’ services of a region together in a way that makes client interaction easier and program delivery to Tribes more efficient. Currently, there are six *Tiwahe* demonstration sites in

the U.S. and AVCP is the only *Tiwahe* site in Alaska.

This wrap-around approach offers a larger holistic view to support the whole person, because we know that all things are connected. It moves away from more rigid, linear, siloed funding models.

Client and Community Based Services

Thanks to the *Tiwahe* project, AVCP was able to envision and create two main centers that flow AVCP’s grants, programs, and services to our citizens and Tribes:



Family Services Center (FSC) – Client Based Services to Strengthen Our Families

- ▶ This center houses programs that offer resources directly to individual clients.
- ▶ The FSC includes the Benefits, Family Services, and Workforce Development divisions.

Tribal Resources Center (TRC) – Community Based Programs to Grow Our Economies

- ▶ This center houses grant and compacted services that are focused on growth and development of communities.
- ▶ The TRC includes the Community Development, Community Services, and Lands & Cultural Resources divisions.

Family Services Center

Strengthening Our Families

Healthy families are the fabric of thriving communities. When raised according to our heritage, we have the traditional safety nets of the structure, roles and responsibilities that our values guide us to fulfill.

AVCP's services weave together for the best possible outcome for a family. We strengthen families holistically through three divisions within our Family Services Center: Benefits, Family Services, and Workforce Development.

Each division offers programs to directly support individuals.

- ▶ **Benefits Division:** Burial Assistance, Elders Meals, General Assistance, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- ▶ **Family Services:** Prevention Unit, Tribal Child Welfare (ICWA), Youth and Child Unit (Head Start and possibly soon Child Care)
- ▶ **Workforce Development:** Child Care, Tribal Workforce Development, Vocational Rehabilitation

Cultural Teaching

KITUUSIT/ILAKUYUCARAQ Identity and Family Connections

Our Yup'ik/Cup'ik/Athabaskan name is a good start to reestablish belonging and a healthy self-identity. Learning our ancestral worldview, values, and beliefs will help us strengthen our sense of identity and feel proud of who we are and where we come from.



100%

Number of enrolled tribal members in the AVCP region who are welcome to attend Healthy Families workshops

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE: The next time you introduce yourself to someone, include your Yup'ik/Cup'ik/Athabaskan name, where you were born and raised, who your grandparents were/are, who your parents were/are, how many in your immediate family, where you live now, who your spouse is, and how many children/grandchildren you have. This form of introducing yourself allows natural and positive connections to take place almost immediately.

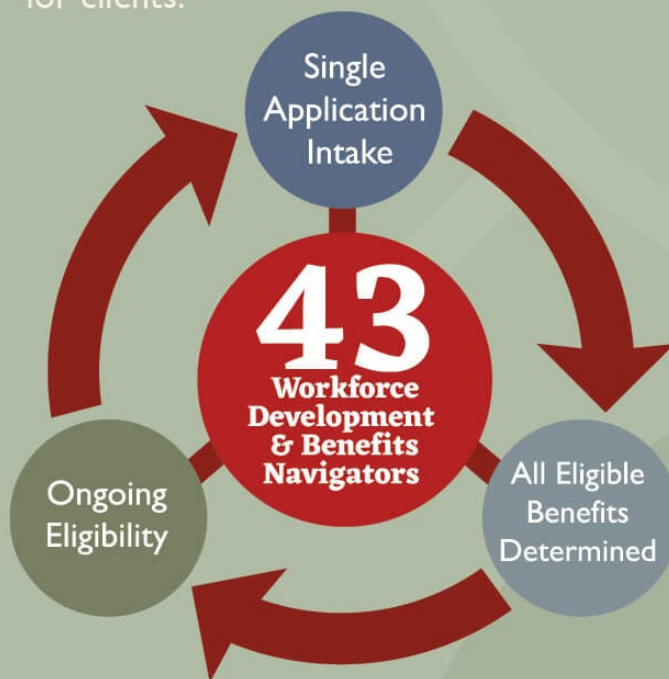
Benefits Division

Sometimes we need a little help. The Benefits Division assists families in meeting their basic needs through direct cash assistance. This may curb the need to engage in potentially criminal activity to help make ends meet.

Benefits combined the two former AVCP programs of TANF and Social Services into one streamlined division. Benefits also streamlined the application process to create a single point of entry for clients.

Current Benefits programs include Burial Assistance, Elders Meals, General Assistance, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

There are currently 43 Workforce and Benefits Navigators in the 48 communities throughout the region. These Navigators can assess total needs of an applicant and guide them to relevant programs. This **one-stop-shop, wrap-around** approach allows for more overall support.



Cultural Teaching

KEVGUARYARAQ/IKAYUUCARAQ

Helping and Sharing

Teaching to help and share should begin at a very young age. Praise for helping and sharing is showered on a young child as encouragement. Once it is learned, the desire to be helpful is never lost. It is up to the adults to help instill that value and keep it within children as they grow. When a person feels gratefulness, it becomes a lifetime memory. Children will never forget their experiences of lifting others up.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE: Take your child or grandchild with you to do a chore for an Elder. Teach them how they can help by shoveling snow off their pathways, dumping trash, sweeping their floors or washing dishes. Teach them not to expect payment from Elders for doing chores; instead, Elders will wish them good fortune in all that they do in their lives.

Family Services Division

AVCP recognizes that parents are the first and most important teachers in their children's lives. We make every effort to let parents know which services are available to them, to help keep stress from running through the parents into the children.

Current Family Services programs include the Prevention Unit, Tribal Child Welfare (ICWA), and the Youth & Child Unit (Head Start and Child Care). Child Care is currently under Workforce Development but AVCP is considering moving this program to the Youth & Child Unit to work closely with the Head Start program.

Service providers in the Family Services Division programs that deal with our precious little ones are also front-line educators, and often the first reporters of children in distress.

The Prevention Unit has a particular focus on early solutions and interventions based on the cultural value of *Qaruyun*, working with people in a gentle, comforting way.

The goal is to avoid:

- ▶ Children from being taken away
- ▶ Escalation of alcohol and drug use
- ▶ Likelihood of violence in the home.

I tell you
because
I love you.



Family Services relies on the four-tier service delivery model in the AVCP region to maintain close contact and reporting of their vital advocacy. With the support of *Tiwahe* funding, the ICWA team has Mid-level Supervisors in all seven sub-regions overseeing the 24 current village-based Community and Family Support Specialists (formerly referred to as 'ICWA Workers').

Cultural Teaching

KENKIYARAQ

First and Foremost Love

Our ancestors recognized that trust and attachment begin to develop as an infant and if trust or attachment is broken or not developed, the effects may carry on into adulthood. They also recognized that a baby's brain grows very fast. Infancy is an important time and their experiences from the very beginning of their lives are their building blocks for continued health.

434
children and
178

families were served in 2020
by the Family Services
Division

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE: Talk to your children no matter what age they are. Start when they are growing in the belly. Talk to young children every morning before school, instructing them "*ilaten at'a ernerpak kenkurqiki*" (be kind to other children today). Talk to them with 'tough love' when you need to. This will help children to adapt to safer boundaries. Talk to adult children about being respectful to their spouse and raising their children with love.

Workforce Development

The Workforce Development Division works with tribal members across AVCP's region to identify and remove employment barriers and gain the skills to be self-sufficient. The division's programs include Child Care, Tribal Workforce Development (TWD) and Vocational Rehabilitation.

With 33 Tribal Job Centers in the AVCP region, TWD training is "just a boardwalk away" for tribal members wanting to build skills for employment and longer-term job success. AVCP's 43 Workforce and Benefits Navigators are on the ground in our villages as resources not just for employment, but to refer people to all of AVCP's programs.

Employment assistance can help tribal members transition to new employment, travel to a new job, purchase new work clothing, and even provide up to \$2,000 for first month's rent.

Vocational Rehabilitation assists tribal members with disabilities return to the workforce, maintain their jobs, and actively participate in subsistence activities.

Child Care provides a unique solution to the challenges of finding and paying for childcare. Child Care's tribal member support is dually

Cultural Teaching



ARNAT/ANGUTET PICIRYARAIT Roles and Responsibilities

Our ancestors recognized that there are physical, social, and emotional differences in the way boys and girls learn and do things. While specific roles and skills are still taught to boys and girls, it is known that everything is important and contributes to learning how to create and maintain a safe and healthy home. As children, we observed and learned from our adult role models. As adults, our children are observing and learning from us.

beneficial, offering both an employment opportunity for childcare providers and financial assistance for families needing childcare.

It was through the Workforce Development Division that AVCP was able to purchase water for the community of Tuluksak when its water facility burned down in 2021.

AVCP Child Care was able to provide Covid care packages to AVCP clients that included masks, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies.

A trained and available workforce is critical for economic development in the region, which is one of the top three priorities of our region's Tribes.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE: Work on a chore together with a young person, such as fixing the snow machine, chopping wood, cooking a meal, or cleaning the house. Thank them for their time and let them know that you are proud of them for helping take care of the family and home.

Tribal Resources Center

Growing Our Economies

AVCP has an economic vision for a strong, innovative, self-reliant YK-Delta economy supported by resilient and prepared communities.

The Tribal Resources Center delivers grant and compacted services that are focused on growth and development of communities. While the Family Services Center offers assistance to individuals, the Tribal Resources Center supports tribal initiatives for thriving communities.

Tribes in the AVCP region can also compact with AVCP for eligible services funded from the BIA Office of Self-Governance. This allows participating Tribes to leverage AVCP's administrative support of those services to meet Tribal priorities, which offers Tribes longer-term financial stability.

The Tribal Resources Center encompasses three divisions of Community Development, Community Services, and Lands & Cultural Resources.

Each division offers programs to braid services for entire communities.

- ▶ **Community Development:** Economic Development, Home/Client Construction & Renovation, Housing Improvement Plan (HIP), and the Tribal Transportation Program
- ▶ **Community Services:** Tribal Justice, Tribal Services, Village Public Safety Officer Program
- ▶ **Lands & Cultural Resources:** Cultural Program, Environmental Program, Natural Resources, Realty





Community Development

The mission of the Community Development Division is to promote safe and healthy communities by providing economic development opportunities, community planning, and infrastructure development.

The programs within this division include Economic Development, Home/Client Construction & Renovation, Housing Improvement Plan (HIP), and the Tribal Transportation Program.

Available, affordable housing is the key component for the success of many of AVCP's services and programs. AVCP is tackling this one village at a time through an assessment tool to prioritize construction, renovation and weatherization projects. Shelter is one of the primary needs for the wellbeing of people living in our towns. The Community Development Division battles homelessness and promotes healthy mental states.

The Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program is a perfect example. To have a VPSO, a village must be able to provide housing and a jail facility. Through a 2018 public safety assessment, AVCP knows very few villages have this housing infrastructure. This division is the answer to solve issues across many AVCP braided programs.

Community Development can achieve better economies of scale when procuring materials across all construction programs, including road and infrastructure projects.

Community Services

The exercise of Tribal sovereignty is the heart of AVCP's purpose to be the service provider to the 56 Tribes of the region. The Community Services Division supports tribal sovereignty by helping Tribes function at their highest capacity as sovereign tribal governments.

The programs within this Community Services Division include Tribal Services,

Tribal Justice, and the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program.

Their core services are training and technical assistance to Aid to Tribal Government (ATG) compacted tribes on administration and operations; developing and maintaining Tribal Courts; and providing public safety services.

Tribal Services is a lifeline of information and technical help to our Tribes. Training is offered to help council members and staff successfully perform their duties. They recommend and help Tribes complete the Small Community Emergency Response Plan (SCERP) for critical actions in response to emergencies. They can also support development of the **Tribal Community Response Plan (TCRP) for MMIP** in our villages.

Tribal Justice supports tribal judicial sovereignty by enhancing, developing, implementing, and re-establishing functional Tribal Court systems. Tribes have the jurisdiction over tribal members within their village boundaries, and Tribal Courts need infrastructure to be effective.

AVCP has spent years helping Tribal Courts with the procedures and definitions of the Children's Code, Elders Code, certain forms for Adoption, Children's Processes, working on Criminal Code with new provisions for Violence Against Women Act, Juvenile Justice, Restorative Justice, and other code drafting. Tribal Justice also helps build out Tribal Clerk manuals as a quick guide for case and hearing processes, and court transactions.

Sovereignty empowers Tribes through their Tribal Courts to handle cases involving their own citizens in culturally relevant ways. Court can be conducted in their traditional languages with Elders that are known and respected by offenders. Cultural practices have been shown to have a larger impact on offenders, petitioners, and respondents. Holistic, restorative courts make for lower recidivism and a more healthy, connected community.



The importance of Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs) cannot be overstated. VPSOs are funded by the State of Alaska and work in the villages. Their presence has a significant impact on improving the quality of life in the participating villages.

VPSOs are often the first responders in domestic violence incidents, hand in hand with our Community Health Aides. In some cases the VPSO is in their home village arresting people they know, possibly even members of their family. They need support and resources for a very difficult job.

AVCP has a vision for building out the Public Safety arm of its services, according to its four-tier service delivery model.

This includes:

- ▶ A VPSO in every village.
- ▶ A Public Safety and Wellness facility in the seven Sub-regional communities.
- ▶ A Public Safety Coordinator in each of the seven Sub-regional communities.
- ▶ Creating a pilot project to cross-deputize non-tribal law enforcement.

The programs of the Community Services Division work together to deliver braided services for the best public safety possible. AVCP asks for the funding and flexibility to offer the same level of security in our region as citizens have in the rest of the state and nation: no more, and no less.

AVCP’s long-term goal in the YK-Delta is to provide full time comprehensive public safety and access to justice in the Tribal Court system for all tribal communities.

Lands & Cultural Resources

Keeping people connected to the land is a way of avoiding unhealthy relationships and violence.

The Lands & Cultural Resources Division promotes sovereignty of our Tribes through self-determination of our land use and cultural practices. This division includes programs for the Cultural Program, Realty, Natural Resources, and Environmental Program.

AVCP's holistic management plan for our lands and cultures encompasses more than 10,000 years of traditional indigenous knowledge. For example, AVCP was the first in the nation to use traditional language to train its villages in how to manage funds from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Whole health of Alaska Natives includes a physical and spiritual connection to our lands. Any plans for healthy communities and safe tribal citizens must include access to subsistence activities and foods. That is why subsistence tools, equipment, clothing and practices are eligible for support through AVCP's programs. Our culture is our medicine.

Subsistence is our way of life. It is one of the ways we maintain our traditional relationship between people, land and animals. Subsistence foods have long shelf lives, and so they replace imported goods that are often far more expensive and less healthy to rural Alaskans. AVCP's advocacy for subsistence policy is a protection of our fundamental lifeways and food security.



PUT IT INTO PRACTICE: Have your child, grandchild, niece, nephew bring a freshly caught fish or ptarmigan to an Elder or family in need. Explain to them that providing freshly caught food is the best thing to share. Also consider teaching the children in your home to make akutaq and fresh bread. Have them deliver some to an Elder or family in need, while they are fresh or still warm.

Lands & Cultural Resources

Continued

Subsistence activity is heavily impacted by climate change. The YK-Delta is experiencing a salmon disaster with fisheries harvest levels close to zero in recent years. While many communities in the U.S. plan for how to mitigate climate change effects, those effects have already deeply impacted Alaska communities. Aggressive erosion, flooding, and permafrost thaw have caused buildings, families, and entire communities to be relocated.

AVCP's Realty program administers the estates of deceased restricted landowners in the region. Covid put an especially heavy burden on this program as it provided Trust and probate services to uphold the important chain of tribal member land ownership.



Cultural Teaching

TUVQAKIYARAQ

Hunting and Sharing Our Catch

Our culture is defined by our subsistence lifestyle. The passing on of our practices of hunting and gathering is an important rite of passage for our youth and young adults. While hunting and gathering provide our bodies with nutrition, other very important values are learned and practiced, such as gratitude, respect, sharing, living with others, and conservation.

**“Because all things are connected,
Environmental Justice IS Criminal Justice”**

Going Missing in the AVCP Region

Sometimes people go missing from hunting, fishing, going on the ice road, or even just traveling in and out of the region. Our values teach us how to be careful on the land and water. We must use what we are taught and our own common sense when handling firearms, getting back and forth on vehicles, watching weather conditions, reading the land, collecting our subsistence foods, being at fish camp, going logging, and going in and out from our own communities.

Bethel Search and Rescue (BSAR) is a pivotal partner when a person goes missing, responding to calls for help with their all-volunteer group of people. When requested, BSAR also helps the Alaska State Troopers, Civil Air Patrol, VPSOs, and other search and rescue teams in villages in the AVCP region. BSAR has excellent [Survival Tips and Techniques](#) on their website.

The Covid-19 pandemic took many loved ones from our families and communities. Covid disrupted the ceremonial aspect of saying goodbye to our loved ones, which is very important to our cultures. In this sense, Covid has been another significant way of going missing from the family.

Suicide is another form of going missing from your family. Economic inequality and childhood trauma have driven suicide rates that make Alaska the highest in the country. AVCP **wrap-around services** offer many sources of aid and support to prevent this outcome.

AVCP's [Healthy Families workshops](#) can help all tribal citizens through their grief and feelings of loss.

AVCP also works with many partners to recognize distress in children and young adults, to understand signs of human trafficking, and offer interventions and alternative behaviors to abuse and violence. We are expanding our resources to battle the crisis of MMIP.

We are always getting ready.
This cultural value highlights safety and planning.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE: Talk about a cultural value with your grandchild(ren), child(ren), younger sibling, or a niece or nephew today. Explain to them how that value keeps them healthy and safe. Be aware of how cultural teachings can be misunderstood or sometimes confusing when translated into the English language or western way of life. If you don't understand how a teaching is meant to promote health or safety, talk to someone about it. Our cultural values and teachings are always centered around prevention.

Direct AVCP Services in case of an MMIP Event

If a family finds itself impacted by the tragic loss of a missing or murdered loved one, there are AVCP programs that may directly assist – particularly if the person was a source of income for the family.

Even if you think you might not be eligible for a program, contact AVCP and we will help you find services you do qualify for.

Burial Assistance

This program can provide up to \$2,500 in support to assist with burial costs.

- ▶ Email social-services@avcp.org
- ▶ or call 907-543-8717

Child Care

This program can help pay for a qualified child care provider while you are at school or work.

- ▶ Email eetccbethelstaff@avcp.org
- ▶ or call 907-543-8717

General Assistance

Temporary assistance is available for eligible families for essentials like food, clothing, shelter and utilities.

- ▶ Email social-services@avcp.org
- ▶ or call 907-543-8717

Healthy Families Workshops

Losing a family member can be a challenging and stressful time for the family and community. These workshops help people process the emotions and behaviors related to loss and encourage positive pathways for life.

- ▶ Email HealthyFamilies@avcp.org
- ▶ or call 907-543-8680

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

ICWA can help protect tribal rights of children and keep families as intact as possible if there is a potential child removal.

- ▶ Email ICWABethelStaff@avcp.org
- ▶ or call 907-543-8690

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Qualifying families in the AVCP region are given monthly cash assistance.

- ▶ Email social-services@avcp.org
- ▶ or call 907-543-8717

Tribal Justice

This program supports tribal sovereignty by helping establish and enhance Tribal Courts. They may help connect you with the appropriate court contacts for your community.

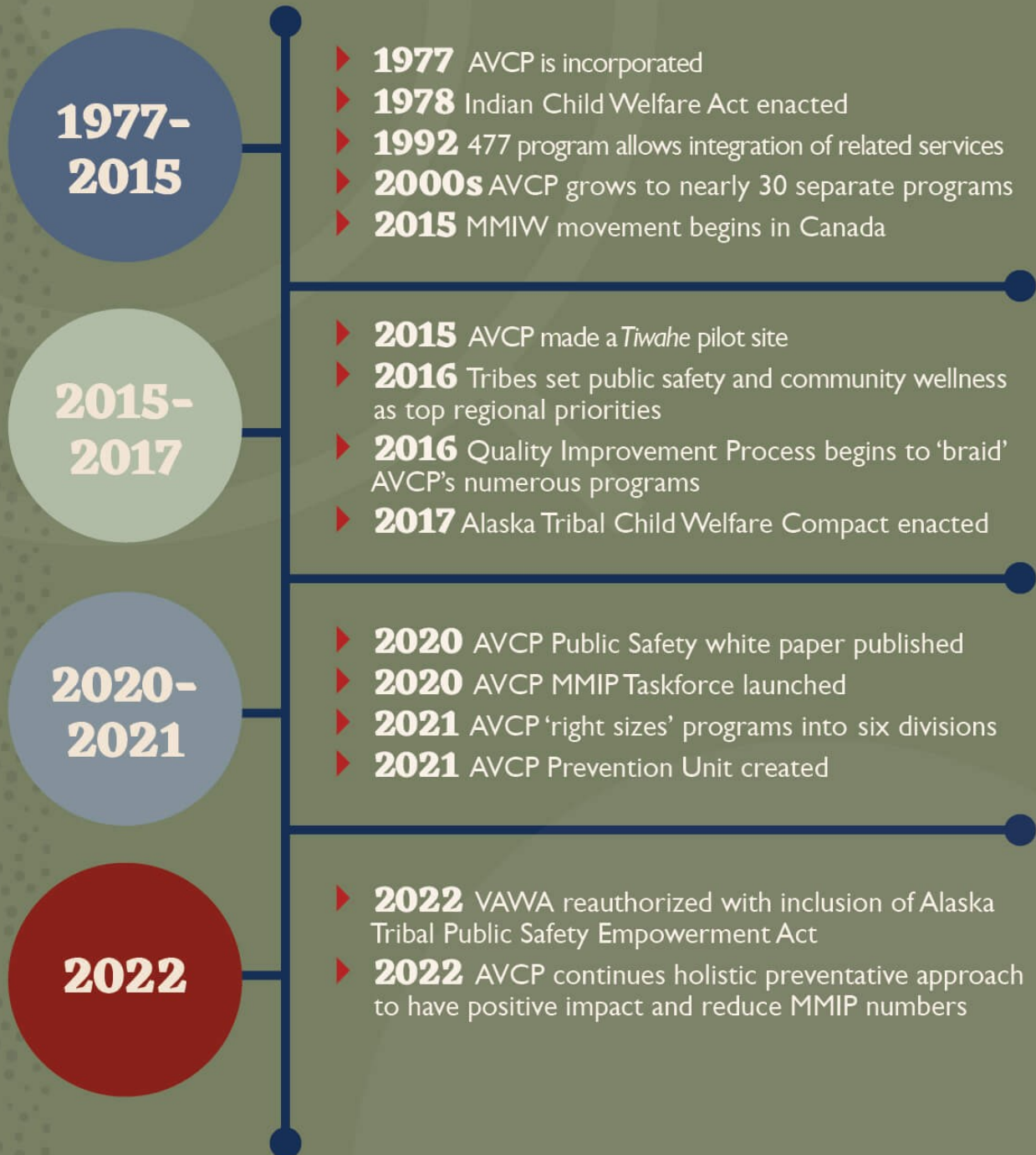
- ▶ Email tribal-justice@avcp.org
- ▶ or call 907-543-8550

Tribal Services

All MMIP incidents should be reported to your Tribal Council. Contact us if you need help connecting to your Tribal Administrator or other relevant contacts.

- ▶ Email tsd@avcp.org
- ▶ or call 907-543-7380

Timeline of AVCP MMIP Solutions



Partners in AVCP MMIP Work



There are many agencies, organizations, coalitions and groups who partner with AVCP for effective program delivery.

For MMIP work, AVCP collaborates in particular with the following:

- ❖ **Across all AVCP Divisions**
- ❖ **Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center**
- ❖ **Bethel Search and Rescue**
- ❖ **Bureau of Indian Affairs**
 - ▶ Office of Justice Services
- ❖ **Department of Justice**
 - ▶ Office of Victims Services
 - ▶ MMIP Coordinator, Alaska U.S. Attorney’s Office
- ❖ **Elders of the region**
- ❖ **Emmonak Women’s Shelter**
- ❖ **National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center**
- ❖ **State of Alaska**
 - ▶ Department of Public Assistance
 - ▶ Department of Transportation Tribal Liaison
 - ▶ Office of Child Services
 - ▶ State Troopers
- ❖ **School Districts in the region**
- ❖ **Tribal Councils**
- ❖ **Tribal Courts**
- ❖ **Tundra Women’s Coalition**
- ❖ **University of Alaska**
- ❖ **Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation**
- ❖ **Yup’ik Women’s Coalition**



May 5th is National Awareness Day for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People.

Join us for a week of action leading to May 5 calling the nation and the world to honor and remember our stolen relatives.

You can join in this annual day of awareness by posting a photo of yourself and others wearing red and/or your traditional attire. Use social media hashtags
#MMIWActionNow #MMIW #NoMoreStolenSisters

AVCP Coordinated on the Following MMIP Activities

April 29 | Traditional Launch of the National Week of Action Webinar
hosted by the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center

National Briefing: Addressing the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Webinar
hosted by the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center

May 2 | **Voices Rising: Uplifting Native Hawaiian Women Survivors and Victims Missing or Murdered Webinar** hosted by the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center

May 3 | **Spotlight Alaska and the Crisis of MMIWG 2022**
Webinar featuring the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center

May 4 | **March for Justice**
Sponsored by AVCP and Tundra Women's Coalition

May 5 | **Alaska Tribal Public Safety Empowerment Act and VAWA 2022 Webinar**
co-hosted by AVCP and Tanana Chiefs Conference

MMIP Resources

MMIP Toolkits



Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women:
An Action Plan for Alaska Native Communities



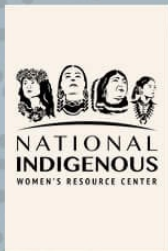
NWIRC Special Collection:
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls



Missing and Murdered Native Americans: A Public Health Framework for Action



We Are Calling to You:
Alaska's Missing and Murdered Womxn and Girls



MMIW Toolkit for Families and Communities



When a Loved One Goes Missing: Resources for Families of Missing American Indian and Alaska Native Adults (usdoj.gov)



MMIWG: We Demand More
Urban Indian Health Institute



When a Loved One Goes Missing: Understanding and Responding to the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women



MMIWG2 & MMIP Organizing Toolkit

Regional – State – National Resources

AVCP REGION

⌘ Association of Village Council Presidents

- ▶ www.avcp.org
- ▶ 907-543-7300
- ▶ info@avcp.org

Healthy Families Program

- ▶ www.avcp.org/healthy-families-workshops
- ▶ Prevention Unit 907-543-8677

⌘ Bethel Search and Rescue

- ▶ www.kusko.net/bsar/
- ▶ 907-545-HELP (907-545-4357)

⌘ Emmonak Women's Shelter

- ▶ www.emmonakshelter.org
- ▶ 907-949-1443
- ▶ info@emmonakshelter.org

⌘ Tundra Women's Coalition

- ▶ www.tundrapeace.org
- ▶ 907-543-3456 or 1-800-478-7799

⌘ Yup'ik Women's Coalition

- ▶ www.yupikwomen.org
- ▶ 907-949-6252
- ▶ Lynn_YWC@yahoo.com

STATE OF ALASKA

⌘ Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC)

– an Anchorage based nonprofit shelter

⌘ Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC)

- ▶ 907-279-9851

⌘ Alaska Bureau of Investigations Missing Persons Clearinghouse (MPC)

⌘ Missing Person - ABI - AST - Alaska Department of Public Safety

- ▶ 907-269-5038
- ▶ malia.miller@alaska.gov

⌘ Alaska's Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

- ▶ <https://dps.alaska.gov/cdvsa/home>
- ▶ 907-465-5503
- ▶ Diane.Casto@alaska.gov

⌘ Alaska Department of Justice MMIP Coordinator

⌘ Ingrid Cumberlidge

- ▶ www.justice.gov/usao-ak
- ▶ 907-271-3314
- ▶ ingrid.cumberlidge@usdoj.gov

⌘ Alaska Family Services Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services

- ▶ www.akafs.org
- ▶ 24-hour hotline 907-746-8026
- ▶ courtadvocate@akafs.org

⌘ Alaska Native Justice Center

- ▶ www.anjc.org
- ▶ 907-793-3550
- ▶ anjcinfo@anjc.net

Regional – State – National Resources

STATE OF ALASKA

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Domestic Violence Prevention

Domestic Violence Prevention | Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (anthc.org)

- ▶ 907-729-3795
- ▶ dvprevention@anthc.org

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Resources Relating to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons

Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center

- ▶ www.aknwrc.org
- ▶ 907-328-3990
- ▶ info@aknwrc.org

TOOLKIT: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women: An Action Plan for Alaska Native Communities

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

- ▶ www.andvsa.org
- ▶ 907-586-3650
- ▶ andvsa@andvsa.org

Alaska Office of Victim’s Rights

- ▶ www.ovr.akleg.gov
- ▶ 907-754-3460
- ▶ officeofvictimsrights@akleg.gov

Alaska State Troopers

- ▶ www.dps.alaska.gov/Home
- ▶ 907-269-5511

Data for Indigenous Justice

- ▶ www.dataforindigenousjustice.com
- ▶ info@dataforindigenousjustice.com

Report: We Are Calling to You: Alaska’s Missing and Murdered Womxn and Girls

MMIWG2S Alaska

- ▶ www.facebook.com/MMIWG2SAlaska

Native Peoples Action

- ▶ www.nativepeoplesaction.org
- ▶ 907-917-0854
- ▶ info@nativepeoplesaction.org

Native Movement

- ▶ www.nativemovement.org/gender-justice
- ▶ 907-328-0582

Priceless (Working with human trafficking victims and survivors in Alaska)

- ▶ www.pricelessalaska.org
- ▶ Survivor Hotline 907-250-2926

Sex Offender Registry – sex offenders required by law to register with the State of Alaska

- ▶ Sex Offender Registry
- ▶ 907-269-7384

Southcentral Foundation Family Wellness

Warriors Initiative

- ▶ www.southcentralfoundation.com/services/family-wellness-warriors/
- ▶ 907-729-5440

Victim Service Unit

Crime Victim Resources | Pretrial, Probation & Parole | Alaska Department of Corrections

- ▶ 907-269-7384
- ▶ victimsunit@alaska.gov

Violent Crimes Compensation Board

- ▶ 907-269-7384

Village Public Safety Officers

- ▶ <https://dps.alaska.gov/AST/VPSO/Home>
- ▶ 907-269-5511

VINE System (register to be notified if an inmate is released from jail)

- ▶ www.vinelink.com

Regional – State – National Resources

NATIONAL

⌘ **Administration for Children and Families**
Missing and Murdered Native Americans
(MMNA) – A Public Health Framework
for Action | The Administration for Children
and Families
▶ (hhs.gov)

⌘ **Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence**
(ATCEV)
▶ www.atcev.org
▶ 888-577-0940

⌘ **Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Office of Justice**
Services (OJS)
Missing and Murdered Unit
▶ www.bia.gov/bia/ojs/missing-murdered-unit
▶ ojs_mmu@bia.gov
▶ 833-560-2065

⌘ **Congressional Research Service**
2022 Report prepared for Members
and Committees of Congress
Missing and Murdered Indigenous People
(MMIP): Overview of Recent Research,
Legislation, and Selected Issues for Congress

⌘ **Data for Indigenous Justice**
▶ <https://dataforindigenousjustice.com/>

⌘ **Department of Justice Operation Lady Justice**
When a Loved One Goes Missing:
Resources for Families of Missing American
Indian and Alaska Native Adults
▶ (usdoj.gov)

⌘ **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women USA**
▶ Facebook

⌘ **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children**
▶ www.missingkids.org
▶ 800-THE-LOST (800-843-5678)

⌘ **National Center for Victims of Crime**
▶ www.victimsofcrime.org
▶ info@victimsofcrime.org
▶ 202-467-8700

⌘ **National Congress of American Indians**
State of the Data on Violence Against American
Indian and Alaska Native Women and Girls
▶ www.ncai.org
▶ 202-466-7767

⌘ **National Domestic Violence Hotline**
▶ www.thehotline.org
▶ 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

⌘ **National Human Trafficking Hotline**
▶ www.humantraffickinghotline.org
▶ 888-373-7888

⌘ **National Indigenous Women's Resource Center**
(NIWRC)
▶ <http://www.niwrc.org>

Special Collection: Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls | NIWRC

Missing Sisters Initiative Tools:
▶ [https://www.niwrc.org/sites/default/files/](https://www.niwrc.org/sites/default/files/documents/Resources/misti_full_workbook.pdf)
[documents/Resources/misti_full_workbook.pdf](https://www.niwrc.org/sites/default/files/documents/Resources/misti_full_workbook.pdf)

Regional – State – National Resources

NATIONAL

⌘ National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) for data collection:

- ▶ <https://www.namus.gov/>
- ▶ 833-872-5176

⌘ National Runaway Safeline

- ▶ www.1800runaway.org
- ▶ 800-786-2929

⌘ National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

- ▶ www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org
- ▶ 800-273-8255

⌘ Native Movement:

- ▶ <https://www.nativemovement.org/>

⌘ OVC Directory of Crime Victim Services

- ▶ www.ovc.ojp.gov/directory-crime-victim-services

⌘ Stop It Now – a national nonprofit dedicated to stopping child abuse

- ▶ Stop It Now

⌘ StrongHearts Native Helpline

- ▶ www.strongheartshelpline.org
- ▶ 844-7NATIVE (844-762-8483)

⌘ Sovereign Bodies Institute:

- ▶ <https://www.sovereign-bodies.org>

MMIWG2 & MMIP Organizing Toolkit:

Published by SBI with MMIWG2 families

⌘ The Tribal Resource Tool

A searchable directory of services available for all AI/AN survivors of crime and abuse in Indian Country

- ▶ www.tribalresourcetool.org

⌘ United Nations

Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Breaking the Silence of Violence Against Indigenous Girls, Adolescents, and Young Women

⌘ White House – Operation Lady Justice

Several fact sheets, data collection updates and law enforcement protocols

- ▶ <https://operationladyjustice.usdoj.gov/>

Recommendations for Improving MMIP Outcomes

AVCP is a tribally-driven organization that identifies and creates solutions for the YK-Delta region. We use our local culture and lifeways to encourage health and balance within individuals and society at large. We uphold tribal sovereignty in finding the answers to our most pressing issues.

AVCP offers the following recommendations to recognize, authorize and fund solutions for MMIP in our region and for other Alaska Tribes.

Recent Progress

- **The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA) passed in March 2022 and reauthorized VAWA programs until 2027.** It contains a new subtitle, Alaska Tribal Public Safety Empowerment, that makes it clear that Alaska Tribes do have inherent civil and criminal jurisdiction over all Indians present within their village boundaries. It also establishes a pilot project for a limited number of Alaska tribes to exercise special criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians for certain crimes occurring within their villages. The U.S. Attorney General will select up to 5 Alaska tribes per year to participate in the program.
- **Tribal Community Response Plan (TCRP) MMIP Pilot Project for Alaska.** Launched in 2021 through the Department of Justice, the TCRP is a guide for how a tribal community will respond to a report of a new missing or murdered persons case. Initially three Alaska Tribes were in the pilot project but it is open to any Tribe who wants to shape their own TCRP. Contact Ingrid Cumberland, Alaska's DOJ MMIP Coordinator, with the Alaska U.S. Attorney's Office.
- **Savannah's Act and the Not Invisible Act.** Both bills were passed into law in September 2020. Together they aim to increase transparency, data collection, and coordination efforts between Tribes and law enforcement agencies.
- **Tribal Court Protective Orders Recognized by Alaska Courts.** All protective orders issued by a Tribal Court with jurisdiction and through due process shall be enforced as if they were issued by an Alaska court. It is not a requirement to register a protective order with the state for law enforcement to serve and enforce it.

Recommendations for Improving MMIP Outcomes

Continuing Recommendations

- **Public Safety Presence in Each Community** – Tribes must be able to recruit, train and pay a competitive wage to officers so there is public safety in every village. We need more courts within our tribal judicial system. The Department of Justice should define and identify federal and state policies, regulations, and laws that must change to advance public safety in rural Alaska.
- **Direct, Non-Competitive Base Funding for Public Safety** – Federal funding is currently funneled through the State of Alaska. Tribes cannot build public safety infrastructure on cyclical, short term grant funding for which they must compete with each other. Funding must come to Tribes and tribal consortia directly, a process called compacting. The Department of Justice should explore necessary steps to obtain compacting authority and work with Congress to implement those changes.
- **Cost Leveling for Alaska** – There is a significantly higher cost of living in rural Alaska. Funding formulas for allowable living expenses and salaries needs to be adjusted to include this consideration.
- **Recognize Tribal Government Authority** – Alaska is a Public Law 280 (PL-280) state, which gives the state jurisdiction over criminal offenses and creates jurisdictional confusion with sovereign Tribes. State law enforcement is stretched too thin to adequately serve rural Alaska and BIA law enforcement has limitations with PL 280 states. The result is a level of public safety that falls far short of the security provided for other communities in the state and in the nation.
- **Funding for Technical Assistance for Tribal Courts** – The VAWA 2022 jurisdiction pilot must include funding that helps Alaska Tribal Courts build out their infrastructure of criminal codes, policies, regulations, and laws that help the courts run effectively. Existing tools like Civil Diversion allowing Tribes to take custody of certain offenders is not effective without adequate public safety knowledge and infrastructure within our Tribal Courts.

Recommendations for Improving MMIP Outcomes

Continuing Recommendations

- **More Accurate Data for MMIP** – Implement the provisions of Savannah’s Act and the Not Invisible Act to improve this data. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BOA) Office of Justice Services (OJS) collects monthly crime statistics for tribal and BIA programs to submit to the FBI. The information does not track missing persons or domestic violence statistics. This data should be added to the FBI Uniform Crime Report (UCR) for more accurate information on the impact of MMIP in Alaska and throughout Indian Country.
- **Greater Funding and Flexibility for Early Childhood Development** – Solid evidence shows the importance of the first six years for every child in their health and development. Every community should have a Head Start program through improved funding formulas, to include higher salary limits for Head Start employees. Allow flexibility for required credentials to be gained while working, to remove this barrier to entry to the Head Start workforce.



Even though trauma hurts, our Elders tell us not to keep our pain bottled up inside. Instead, we should let these hurtful things out by talking about them and acknowledging the pain they have caused us.

Keeping these experiences and feelings to ourselves will eventually affect our body. The feelings will pile up and our body will become sick.

Our Elders wisely counsel us to talk with others about our trauma in order to heal. Doing this makes more room in our hearts for forgiveness, love, compassion, and the ability to cope in healthy ways.

Yuilquq Iinruuguk

- being out and enjoying nature is medicine. Spend more time outside harvesting wood, greens, berries, fish, eggs, or just going for a walk.

We can ‘go missing’ culturally when we get disconnected from the teachings of our ancestors.

Cultural Teaching

YUULLEMTA CAKVIURUTAI

**Living and Healing through Hardships,
Being Resilient**

Every living person in the world experiences hardship or traumatic events. Alaska Native and American Indian people have lived through several traumas including new diseases, attempts to terminate tribes, and the forced assimilation of boarding schools and religion brought by the U.S. government. The way of life was very different just 100 years ago.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE: Turn your full attention to your child, or grandchild today when they are talking to you. Take time to listen to them when they want to share something with you, no matter what it is. This will ensure that they can trust you to talk about something that is bothering them or has caused them pain. Listen to them quietly without judgment or a quick reaction. Always thank them for talking to you and telling you about their day.



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AVCP MMIP Taskforce:

Joy Anderson, General Counsel
Melanie Fredericks, Family Services
Division Director
Tess Guinn, Contracts Manager
Leanna Isaac, Prevention Unit Manager
Vivian Korthuis, Chief Executive Officer
Winter Montgomery, Tribal Justice Attorney
Denise Nerby, Training & Technical
Assistance Manager
Maria Nicolai, Communications Specialist
Hilda Oscar, Healthy Families Interpreter
Liz Pederson, Chief Program Officer
Melony Urban, Associate General Counsel
Coralette Waite, Director of Legal Compliance
Nellie Wassilie, Tribal Justice Programs Coordinator

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#MMIWActionNow #MMIW #NoMoreStolenSisters



Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)

101 A Main Street • PO Box 219 • Bethel, Alaska 99559
(907) 543-7300 or Toll Free • 1 (800) 478-3521 • info@avcp.org