

Oneida Indian Child Welfare Program

The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 was enacted by the U.S. Congress in recognition of Tribal authority over their children. In response to the Act, the Indian Child Welfare (ICW) Program was established. The mission of the ICW Program is to strengthen the Oneida Tribe by preserving, stabilizing, and reuniting Oneida families through the use of cultural and traditional values.

The Indian Child Welfare Program will build on family strengths, address children's safety issues, focus on the family as a whole and as part of the community, involve families and community in identifying and responding to family's needs and connect families to other formal and informal resources.

Currently there are four Indian Child Welfare Case Managers who provide the following services:

- *Participate and/or monitor abuse and neglect investigations*
- *Arrange and supervise out of home placements*
- *Crisis intervention*
- *Attend court hearings and represent the Oneida Tribe in child protection hearings*
- *Coordinate services with county agencies*
- *Assist with visits between parents and children (when appropriate) who are placed outside of their home do to child protection actions*
- *Provide assistance and support to families*
- *Link individuals to other services as needed*
- *Assist in adoption services and guardianship cases*
- *Network with county and private sector agencies*

The ICW Program works with those children who are enrolled or eligible for enrollment with the Oneida Tribe of Indians in Wisconsin.

Indian Child Welfare staff and the Assistant Director of the Children and Family Services Department who oversees the ICW program, can be contacted at 490-3701.