



# Indigenizing Love: A Toolkit for Native Youth to Build Inclusion

June 9th, 2021, 10:00-11:30 am PST

# Let us Start with a Blessing

“You are the change your ancestors  
called for.”



# Yá'át'ééh! Keshi! Hello!



## **Josie Raphaelito, MPH**

Navajo (she/ her)

I love my wife and my cat Virgil.

From Ramah, NM

Living in Buffalo, NY

Queer Diné Woman

[jraphaelito@gmail.com](mailto:jraphaelito@gmail.com)

# Live Virtual Training Logistics

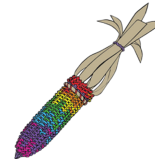
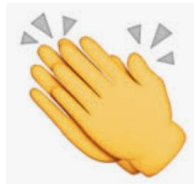


## Logistics

- You are muted
- If comfortable, share video

## Engagement

- Padlet Activity
- Chat box
- Icons (Zoom & More)

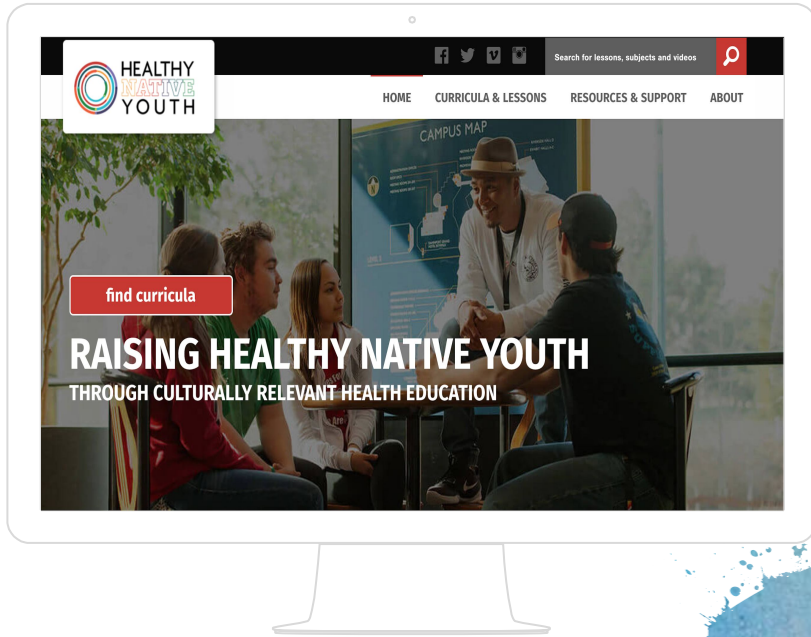




# Welcome, Welcome, Welcome!

Please introduce yourself in the chat box. Include your:

- ★ Name, Pronouns
- ★ Tribe/ Organization
- ★ Where are you from?
- ★ Maternal/ Paternal Relatives
- ★ Email address



# Group Agreements

- ★ **Participate Fully**
- ★ **Delay Distractions**
- ★ **Honor Different Experiences**
- ★ **Be Brave & Explore**
- ★ **Others? (Type in the chat)**



# Why are we here today?

- ★ **Reclaim** our cultural knowledge of supporting our Two-Spirit relatives
- ★ **Build** inclusion
- ★ **Spark** youth led discussions on identity & inclusiveness
- ★ **Implement Community Change**



"Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children."



# Where we are going

1. Two-Spirit Term - 5 min
2. Project Background - 5 min
3. Indigenizing Love Toolkit - 10 min
4. Engagement Activity - 10 min
5. Let's Talk About it!



# 1. Two-Spirit

Let's get some background here...



### **American Indian/Alaska Native Youth**

American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people under the age of 25 who are an enrolled citizen/member of a Tribal Nation or a descendant. This toolkit will interchangeably use American Indian/Alaska Native along with Native American, Indigenous, and Native for the dual purpose of recognizing and deferring to a Tribal Nation's right to determine who is/is not a member and being as inclusive as possible.

### **Inclusion**

The practice of actively acknowledging, respecting, and honoring Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQIA+ life experiences and perspectives.

### **Two-Spirit:**

Defining Two-Spirit is a challenge because the words carry multifaceted meanings in different AI/AN communities. For the purpose of this toolkit, we use the definition of the Two-Spirit Society of Denver: Two-Spirit refers to a gender role believed to be common among most, if not all, AI/AN communities and nations, one that had a proper and accepted place within our societies. This acceptance was rooted in the traditional teachings that say all life is sacred. Within a traditional setting, Two-Spirit is a Tribal Nation-specific understanding of gender, and not a sexual orientation. The term was established in 1990 to organize Native LGBTQIA+ relatives and directly challenge colonial kinship systems imposed on Indigenous peoples.

### **LGBTQIA+**

An acronym used to build community among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual people. These individual terms are further defined in the "Terms and Definitions" document (Appendix A).

### **Settler Colonialism**

A generational form of systemic oppression and discrimination rooted in the colonization of the original peoples of a territory. Settler colonialism is still being practiced today by the dominant society and through institutional racism.

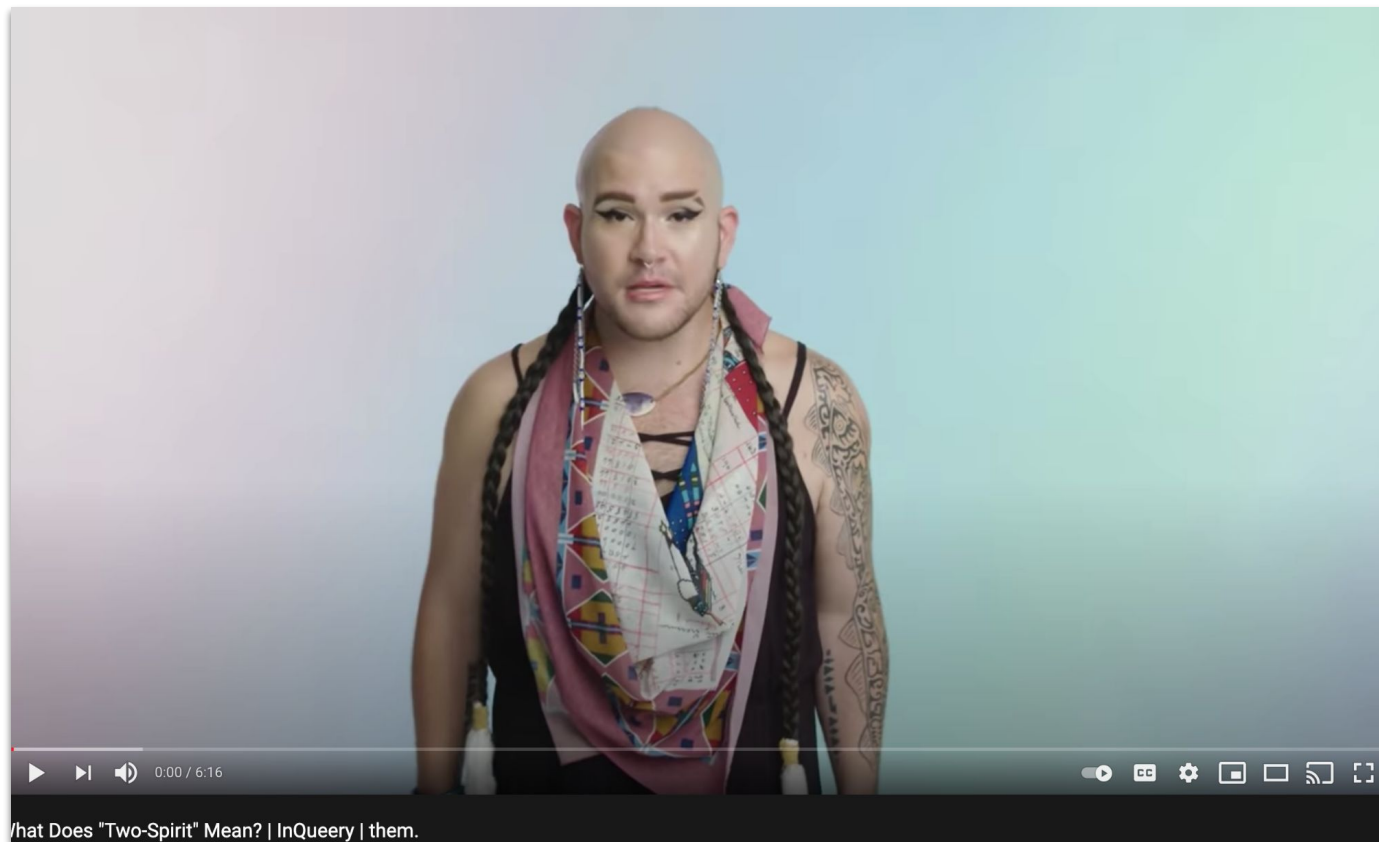
### **Systemic Change**

An organized effort across people, organizations, and institutions to challenge discriminatory practices and build more inclusion and equity for all

# Key Terms



# Two-Spirit Term



2.

# Project Background

The highlights...



# Direction from Native Youth

## 2.1 Million AI/AN Youth

Roundtable Discussions



### Key Areas of Interest

- Culture & Language
- Advocacy
- Education
- Arts
- Athletics
- **Inclusion - Two-Spirit & LGBTQIA+ relatives**

### Indigenizing Efforts:

- Food
- Education
- Health & Wellness
- Government
- Art



# Resource Development

Western States Center



Senior Policy Fellow

Co-Authors: Keioshiah Peter, Ryan Young,  
MJ Redshirt

- Virtual discussions & Relationship Building
- Live document drafting & editing

Two-Spirit Elders, scholars, partners

Editor & Toolkit Designer

1-year Project



3.

Introducing...

# The Indigenizing Love Toolkit

A toolkit for Native youth




# Quick Check in: Zoom Poll

Have you heard of the  
Indigenizing Love Toolkit  
before you joined today's  
discussion?

Do you know the term(s) in  
your Indigenous language or  
the local Indigenous  
language for Indigenous  
genders and/or sexual  
orientations?





The background of the image consists of several overlapping blue feathers, creating a textured and layered effect. The feathers are oriented diagonally, with their rachis (central shaft) running from the top-left towards the bottom-right. The color of the feathers is a rich, slightly darker blue, with lighter blue highlights where the light catches the barbs.

# INDIGENIZING LOVE

*A Toolkit for Native Youth  
to Build Inclusion*

# Toolkit Rundown

	<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Native Youth</li></ul>
	<b>What</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A resource guide to help promote inclusion discussions</li></ul>
	<b>Where</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nationwide</li></ul>
	<b>Why</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Because reclaiming Traditional Knowledge is a cultural value shared by many. Our Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQIA+ community members are essential in these efforts</li></ul>
	<b>How</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collaboration</li></ul>
	<b>When</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Today!</li></ul>



# INDIGENIZING LOVE

TOOLKIT HIGHLIGHTS

2  
MODULES

1  
ACTIVITY  
WORKBOOK

SEVEN  
ACTIVITIES

THREE  
TWO-SPIRIT  
LEADERSHIP PROFILES

100+  
LINKS,  
VIDEOS,  
AND  
RESOURCES

## TOOLKIT & ACTIVITY WORKBOOK AT-A-GLANCE



# Better Understanding our Two-Spirit Relatives



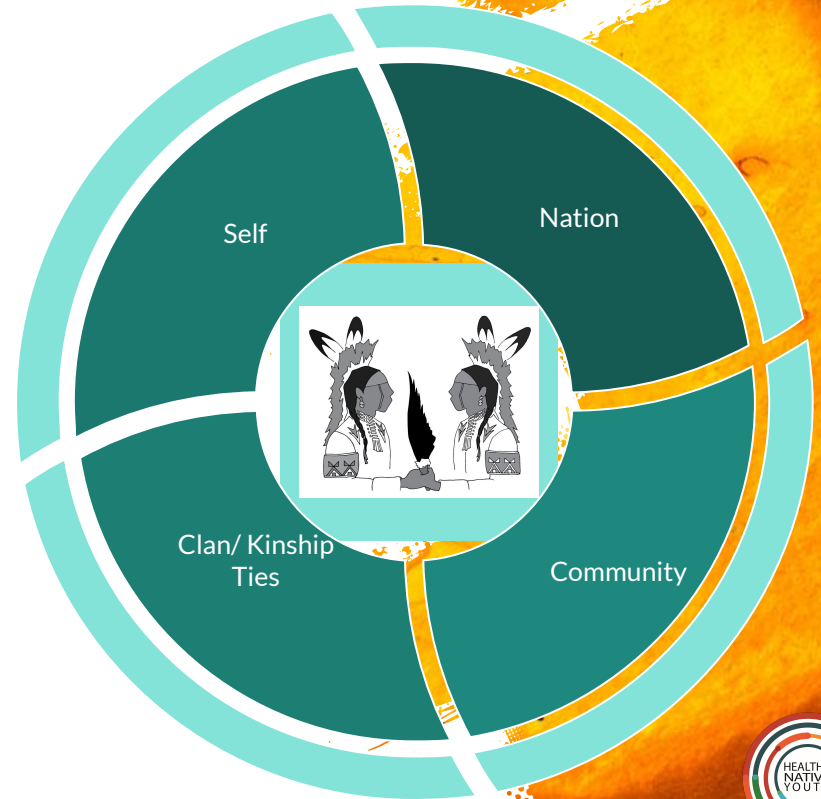
## MODULE 1

### Description:

- ★ Introduction to history, language, and evolution around Indigenous, Two Spirit, and LGBTQIA+ identity
- ★ Gender roles/ identity/ sexuality and Indigenizing love

### Activity Workbook:

- ★ “Two-Spirit terms in our own languages”



Native American tribes historical terms for two spirit people, unique to each tribe's culture.

TRIBE

DAKOTA (SANTEE SIOUX)



# Creating Systemic Change



## MODULE 2



**Description:** Introduces readers to the idea of Systemic Change, inclusion, and explores three systems with opportunities to promote inclusion of Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ relatives.

- ★ Culture and Language
- ★ Tribal and local government
- ★ Education

**Leader Highlights:** Elevate Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQIA+ leaders into the conversation about creating systemic change.

### Activity Workbooks:

- ★ Discussion Guides for each system
- ★ Suggested “Action” for each system for positive change and inclusion



# Discussion Guides

Design	Outline	Materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>★ Individual</li><li>★ Group</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>★ Content</li><li>★ Format</li><li>Options</li><li>★ Timeframes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>★ Videos</li><li>★ News Articles</li><li>★ Reports</li><li>★ Podcasts</li></ul>

# Mentimeter



Let us know what you think...

What other systems would you want to see included in a future toolkit?

What Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQIA+ resources would you want to see added to the toolkit resource list?

Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and use the code **1272 4412**





# 4. Engagement Activity

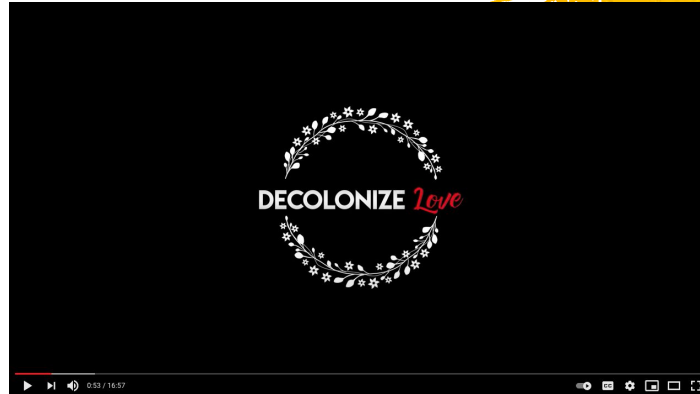
Let's try it out!



# Culture & Language Discussion Guide

## Activity D

1. Watch learning materials as a large group
2. Respond to Anonymous Padlet discussion questions
3. Return to large group to share key themes and new understandings



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r70wZlnXQ8&t=321>



# Padlet Discussion

Let's Talk About it!



A screenshot of a Padlet discussion board. The board has a background image of a colorful, textured wall with blue, red, white, and green sections. The title is "Let's Talk About it!" and the subtitle is "Culture &amp; Language Discussion". There are four discussion questions in white boxes, each with a plus sign below it. The questions are: "What are the top two words that come to mind after watching this video?", "Do you feel like you have enough access to opportunities to learn about your culture, language, and teachings?", "Do you feel that everyone (like our Two-Spirit relatives) from the community are invited to get involved in these opportunities?", and "Do you have ideas for strengthening efforts for gender inclusion by using culture and language?". There is also an "ADD COLUMN" button.





*Chatfeed Convo:  
Type Questions, Ask  
Away!*





# Request Your Copy

- ★ Free Online PDF
- ★ Print Copy - \$10

<https://www.westernstatescenter.org/indigenizinglove>

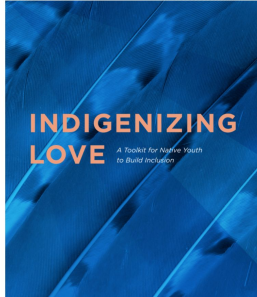
## Indigenizing Love: A Toolkit for Native Youth to Build Inclusion

REQUEST YOUR COPY NOW

In response to requests from American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth, Western States Center partnered with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, the Center for Native American Youth, and Native Youth Leadership Alliance to develop a resource toolkit for and with young Native leaders.

*Indigenizing Love* is written to support Native youth, tribal communities, Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQIA+ collectives, community leaders, and partners who intend to better understand and support our Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities.

Indigenizing Love refers to the idea of understanding and reclaiming our Indigenous ways of life (including kinship systems, shared values, and expressions of love), and resisting centuries of imposed settler colonial practices, policies, and thoughts that devalue our rights to share Indigenous knowledge and thrive. To Indigenize Love, we are rebuilding connections, kinship and relationships, and strengthening our abilities to love and care for all of our relatives.



WSC WESTERN STATES CENTER

Please fill out [this form](#) to request a toolkit. The PDF version is free of charge. If you'd like to be mailed a hard copy of the toolkit, please submit the form and then click the button below the form to pay the \$10 printing and shipping fee.

Please reach out to us to discuss large orders. The cost of the toolkit will enable WSC to continue to provide resources and support to Two Spirit and Native LGBTQIA+ communities.

If you have any questions, email us at [info@wscpxd.org](mailto:info@wscpxd.org). Thank you for your work to build inclusion.

REQUEST YOUR COPY NOW

Purchase a hard copy of the toolkit using the link below after filling out the request form.



# Stay Connected



**Josie Raphaelito, MPH**

Navajo (she/ her)

I love my wife and my cat Virgil.

From Ramah, NM

Living in Buffalo, NY

Queer Diné Woman

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**Ryan Young**

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**Lenny Hayes**

J Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate

does not use pronouns,

Winkta, Two-Spirit Male, Gay Male

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**MJ Redshirt**

Oglala Lakota,  
They/Them/Theirs TwoSpirit/  
Non-Binary

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# Practice in Action

Taking it back home!





# Wellness Moment

## Breathing Exercise

1. Imagine a flame on each finger
2. Breath in while tracing up finger
3. Blow out flame at top and continue down finger
4. Continue for each finger



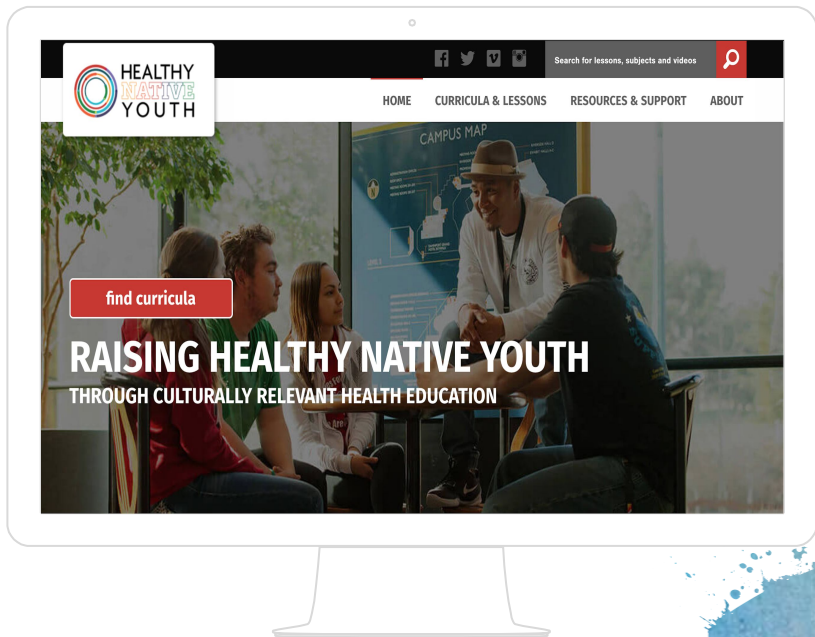
Image: Google images





# Find Curricula on *Healthy Native Youth*

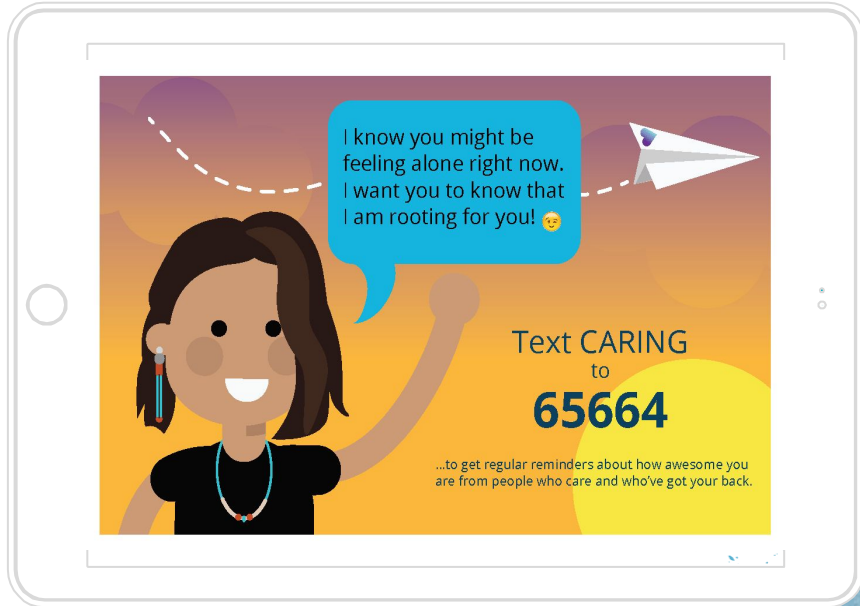
- ★ Filter & Compare Tool
- ★ All Materials Needed to Implement
- ★ Enhancement Activities
- ★ Resources & Support
- ★ Upload & Submit Your Own Curricula





# For Youth: Text “Caring” to 65664

To get regular reminders about how awesome you are from people who care and who've got your back!





## WERNATIVE

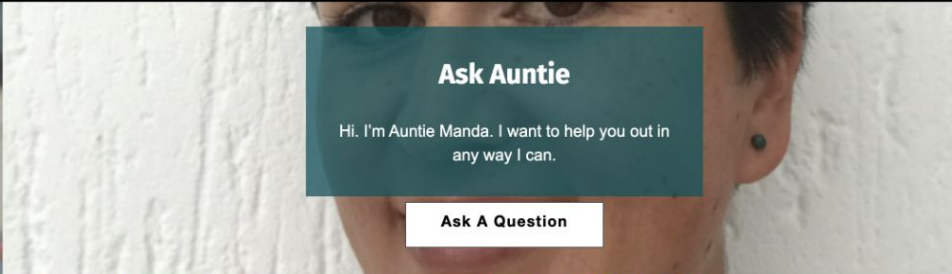
For Native Youth, by Native Youth



### Ask Uncle

Hi. I'm Uncle Paige. Let me help answer your questions.

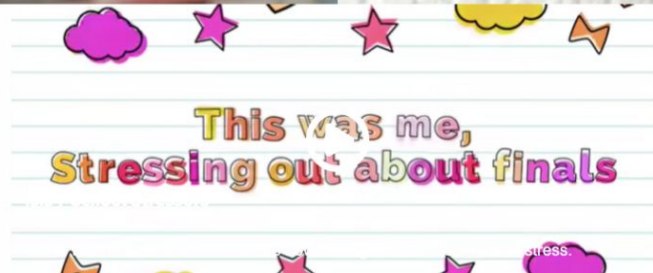
[Ask A Question](#)



### Ask Auntie

Hi. I'm Auntie Manda. I want to help you out in any way I can.

[Ask A Question](#)

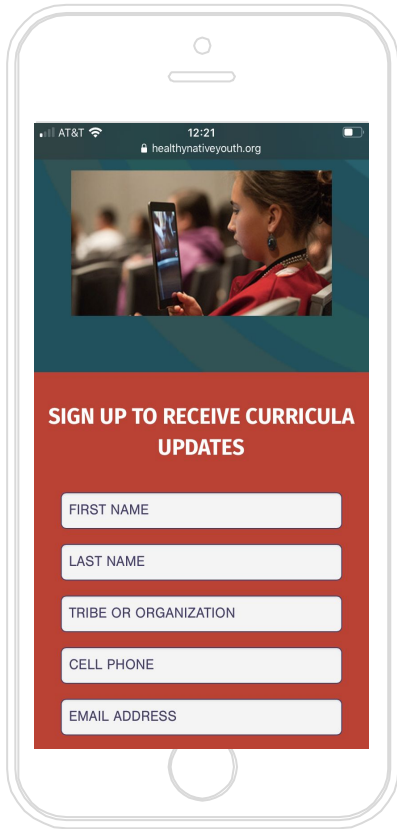




# For Adults: Text “Empower” to 97779



- ★ Tips & Resources for Talking to Youth About Sexual Health
- ★ Need some help getting the convo started?



# Sign up for the *Healthy Native* *Youth* Newsletter!

Stay up to Date with the Latest...



# Community of Practice 2021 Schedule

**Second  
Wednesday of  
Every Month**

10:00-11:00 AM PST

## How to Join

AT THE TIME OF MEETING,  
CLICK THIS [Zoom Link](#)

PASSWORD: 020558

JOIN BY PHONE ONLY:  
+1 646 558 8656 US  
MEETING ID: 929 2852  
5787

TEXT: HEALTHY TO 97779

- January 13th** Substance Misuse & Help-Seeking Skills
- February 10th** Connecting our Past with our Present  
Re-traumatization
- March 10th** Culture as Prevention
- April 14th** Supporting Youth Identity: We R Native!
- May 12th** Circles of Support: Create a Q&A Service like  
"Ask Auntie/ Ask Uncle"
- June 9th** 2SLGBTQ: Level up the Inclusion
- July 14th** Text Messaging Campaigns

# Leave Your Email in Chatbox

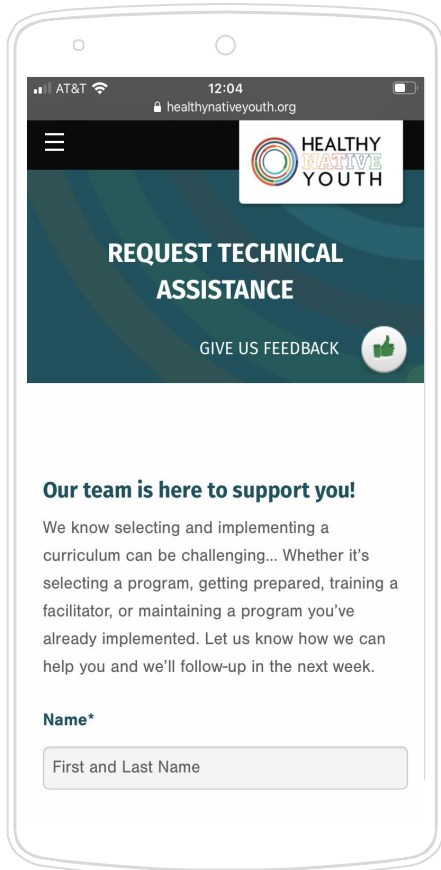


# Next Years Line Up

Use the chat box to tell us...

What topics would you like  
covered in 2021-22 CoP  
Lineup?





# We LOVE helping...

- ★ Training & TA Evaluation Form
- ★ Request TA



# Thank you!

You can find us at:  
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npaihb.org](mailto:agaston-contractor@npaihb.org)

Michelle Singer  
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# Funding Credit

This project is funded by the Indian Health Service HIV and behavioral health programs. This work is also supported with funds from the Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund.



# Let us Close with a Blessing

“Can't stop the spirits when they need you  
This life is more than just a read through”

Red Hot Chili Peppers

