



Statement of Priorities & Objectives October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019

Priority A: Abuse and Neglect

- Goal:** Individuals with disabilities will be free from abuse and neglect and receive appropriate services, whether they live in the community, residential facilities or correctional institutions.
- Objective 1: Monitoring Facilities and Services.** Monitor facilities and institutions at least quarterly for instances of abuse and neglect, distributing educational materials, and providing advocacy services for individuals who are allegedly being abused or neglected.
- Objective 2: Represent abused and neglected children.** Represent Native American children as Guardian Ad Litem or Youth Attorney in child abuse & neglect cases in New Mexico and the Navajo Nation.
- Objective 3: Legal Protection for Hopis with Disabilities.** Advocate for the Hopi Tribe to adopt a Hopi Adult Protection Act that provides Hopis with disabilities legal protection from abuse and neglect.

Priority B: Education

- Goal:** All Native American children in the Four Corners region will have available to them a free, appropriate public education designed to meet their unique needs.
- Objective 1: Promote Self-Advocacy.** Provide technical assistance to twenty-five (25) students with disabilities, or their parents or guardians, as well as give one training on education rights to 80 students and their parents to empower them to advocate for their children to obtain appropriate education services in the least restrictive environment in their community.
- Objective 2: Systemic Advocacy.** Ensure that the federal Bureau of Indian Education meets the educational needs of Native American students with disabilities enrolled in their schools by addressing the general education, special education, mental health, and wellness needs of students, including those impacted by trauma and adversity.
- Objective 3: Direct Representation.** Provide direct representation in meetings and other informal settings and administrative proceedings to twenty (20) children with disabilities who are not receiving a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

Objective 4: Improve Education Outcomes for Youth with Disabilities in the Justice System. Provide technical assistance and education advocacy to students referred to the juvenile justice system in an effort to ensure they are receiving appropriate education, supports and services.

Priority C: Community Integration

Goal: Individuals with disabilities will live and receive appropriate services and supports in the most integrated, least restrictive settings appropriate to their choices and needs.

Objective 1: Promote Self-Advocacy for Accommodations in Public Housing. Provide five (5) Navajos or Hopis with disabilities with direct representation and increase community awareness of the necessary information and resources to empower Navajos and Hopis with disabilities to navigate the Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) and Hopi Housing Authority's public housing accommodation process.

Objective 2: Policy Changes at NHA. Advocate for NHA and the Hopi Tribe to increase the amount of accessible housing available to individuals with disabilities.

Objective 3: Utilization of Available Benefits. Assist seniors and individuals with disabilities receive appropriate services by helping them access programs that help pay for healthcare, food and energy, for which they are eligible.

Objective 4: Champion Right to Autonomy. Work with other disability advocacy organizations to address systemic discrimination by transforming attitudes of paternalism, recognizing the right to autonomy in individuals with disabilities, especially those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and to increase the awareness of their needs and services.

Priority D: Employment

Goal: People with disabilities will have equal employment opportunities and be free from discrimination.

Objective 1: Promoting Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Increase awareness of vocational rehabilitation services through:
a. producing outreach materials; and
b. training on employment opportunities and supports for 50 people with disabilities wanting to return to work.

Objective 2: Promote Working in the Community. Provide direct assistance to individuals with disabilities in their efforts to obtain appropriate vocational rehabilitation services or address employment discrimination.

Objective 3: Decrease Discrimination by Employers. Increase compliance with relevant legal requirements, particularly the new Navajo Rights of Individuals with Disabilities Act, by reviewing policies of government agencies and job applications of local employers to ensure they are consistent with legal requirements.