

**Remembering the Human Being: Reflections on
Equity and Homelessness In the Arizona Balance
of State**

Joanna Carr
Arizona Housing
Coalition

Maria-Elena Ochoa
Against Abuse, Inc

Lucinda Yazzie
Native Americans
for Community
Action

Equity work in the AZ BOS



- ★ Development of a Social Justice/Racial Equity Workgroup
- ★ Development of Proposed Parameters for Local Coalitions to End Homelessness
- ★ Grounding work - Equity discussions
- ★ LCEH charter amendments
- ★ Development of action items related to disparity, including expanding expertise?

Where are we now? The work has just begun

“White privilege doesn't mean your life hasn't been hard. It means the color of your skin isn't one of the things making it harder.”

— Unknown

What is Systemic Injustice?



“The major insight about systemic and institutional racism is that there is no such thing as ‘a little bit of racism’ or ‘pockets of racism’ or ‘random incidents of racism’ isolated from the rest of society. Whether you realize it or not, racism is systemic, pervasive and embedded within the core of all of our major institutions.”

Dr. Crystal Fleming

Why is this work necessary and important?



Inequity is Real: It presents itself across many social structures:

- **Criminal justice Involvement:** people who have been incarcerated more than once are 13 times more likely than the general public to experience homelessness, whereas people who have been incarcerated once are 7 times more likely.
- **Low Income Households:** Renters with the lowest incomes are the likeliest to be stretched the thinnest, often making tradeoffs between buying food and health care or forgoing heat or air conditioning to cover their rent
- **People with disabilities:** Individuals with disabilities experience lower education levels, lower employment rates, fewer household resources, and poorer health than people without disabilities
- **Women:** In 2018, the U.S. Census data showed women were 38% more likely to live in poverty than men. Homelessness is particularly prevalent among children of single mothers. Research shows African-American women make up 9% of the population and 30% of all evicted people.
- **LGBTQ+:** LGBTQ+ Youth are 120% More Likely to Experience Homelessness
- **Veterans:** Veterans between the ages of 18 and 30 are twice as likely as adults in the general population to be homeless, and the risk of homelessness increases significantly among young veterans who are poor.

GOAL: Services are Equitable and Without Bias

***Reduce
Homelessness by
Reducing Inequity***

- ★ **Equity in access to services**
- ★ **Fairness**
- ★ **Dignity**
- ★ **Respect**
- ★ **Individuals with lived experience are integral in planning and decision making**

Mapping Prejudice

4. That no building shall be left with paper exposure or with the exterior incomplete.

5. That the said land or buildings thereon shall never be rented, leased or sold, transferred or conveyed to, nor shall same be occupied exclusively by person or persons other than of the Caucasian Race.

6. The forgoing covenant and restriction shall run with the land and shall bind the grantee herein and the heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns of said grantee until the first day of January A.D. Nineteen hundred and Forty.

Redlining - An example of discriminatory policy that has rippling effects today



RATE AT WHICH LENDERS
DENY BLACK APPLICANTS
COMPARED TO WHITE
APPLICANTS¹⁰

The racial homeownership gap is worse today than it was in 1960 when housing discrimination based on race was legal.

Black Americans have the lowest rate of homeownership in the US at a rate of 47%, compared to 76% for White Americans.

The rate for Hispanic homeownership is 51.4% and Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, 61.4%.

The National Picture of housing inequity



- Racial Disparities in homelessness and the impacts of COVID-19 are examples of **historic inequity**
- Racial Inequity is a cause of homelessness
- The most **striking disparity** can be found among **Black/African Americans**, who represent 13 percent of the general population but account for 40 percent of people experiencing homelessness and more than 50 percent of homeless families with children. This imbalance has not improved over time.
- Historic and continual data showing POC have economic challenges - **Latino and Black adults** have experienced economic hardship during COVID-19 at a rate between **two and three times greater** than white adults.
- Identifying how inequity looks in **local data** is an important step towards addressing racial inequity in the homeless response system

Picture source: Navajo Times, Nov 2020

A Snapshot of Disparity in Navajo and Coconino Counties

What you count, counts!

RACE	Navajo County Population	Navajo County Homeless Population
White	50.4%	5.41%
Black or African/American	1%	8.11%
Asian	0.6%	0%
American Indian-Alaska Native	45.7%	83.78%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0%
Multiple Races	11.5%	2.7%

RACE	Coconino County Population	Coconino County Homeless Population
White	65.7%	41.54%
Black or African/American	1.5%	1.54%
Asian	2.1%	0
American Indian-Alaska Native	27.4%	52.3%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0%
Multiple Races	3.1%	4.62%

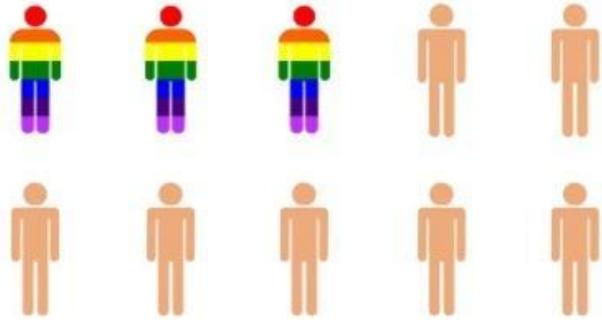


LEARN THE ISSUE

Nationally, Indigenous people are overrepresented among persons who are experiencing homelessness. The disparity can be seen across Arizona, and is concerning.

Indigenous people have experienced displacement from their homes and culture throughout history, with the Indian Removal Act, forced assimilation to western culture and extreme violence.

Data Considerations



- PIT data does not fully capture the full scope of the homeless problem
- Power imbalances in the system and trauma leads to count disparity
- Populations avoid PIT count and census activities. Fear of deportation, family separation
- Not all communities and services enter into HMIS, affecting the quality of BNL data
- HUD recognizes Hispanics/Latinos as an ethnicity, not a race, which impacts the ability to identify disparity in PIT homeless data

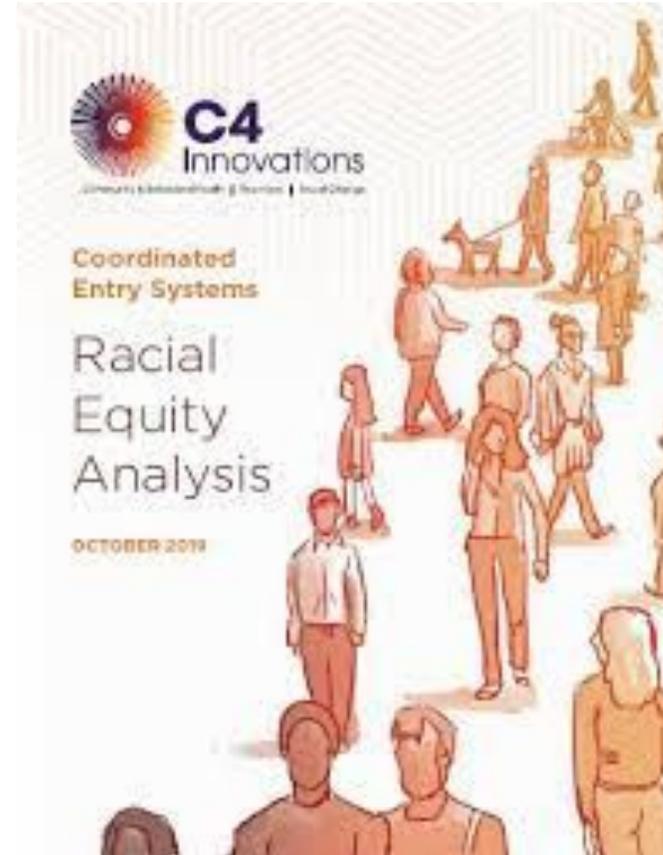
Solutions:

- Analyze a range of data sources
- Include People with Lived Experience
- Collect Qualitative data

The VI-SPDAT

“Let’s put the VI-SPDAT to rest...turn off the lights...bring it to an end”

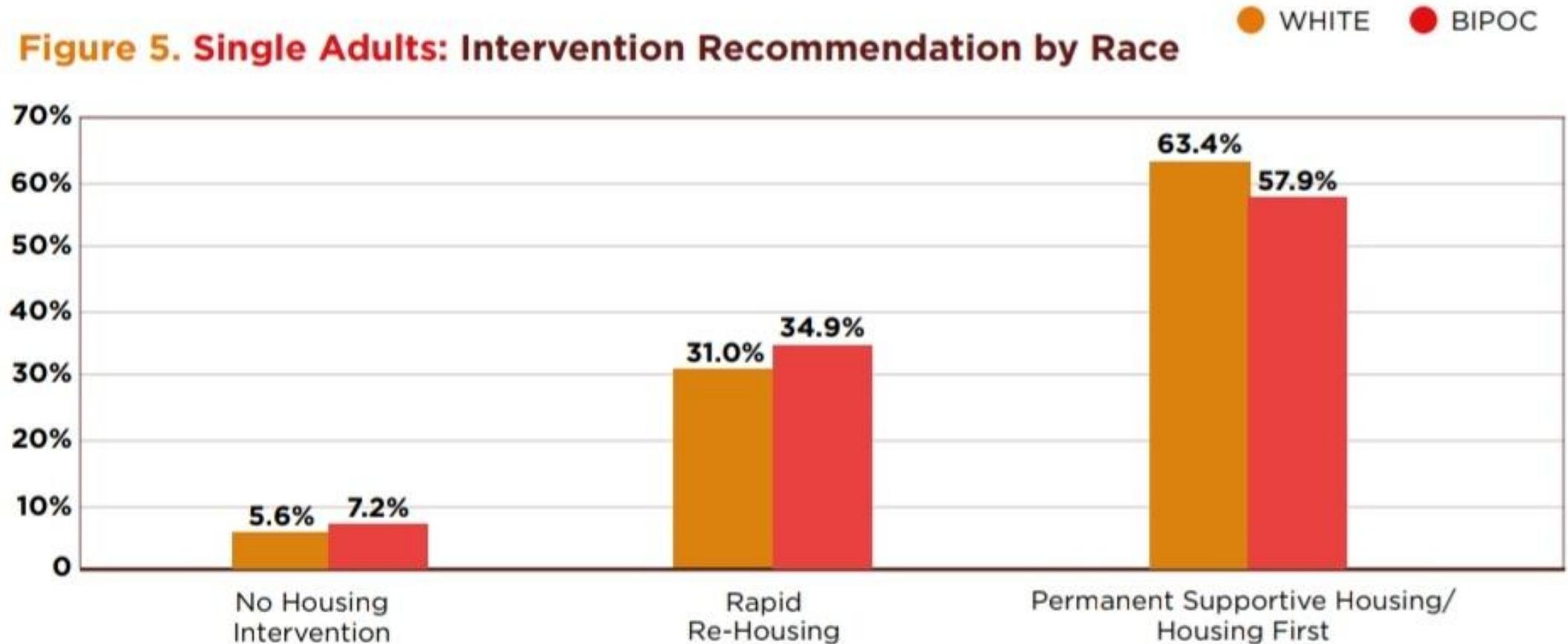
Iain De Jong, Org Code, Creator of the VI-SPDAT



The C4 Innovations study, asserts that people of color—both single adults and families—experience system-level inequities from a tool specifically designed to objectively capture who among those experiencing homelessness have the highest levels of vulnerability.

Inequitable outcomes in housing intervention

Figure 5. Single Adults: Intervention Recommendation by Race



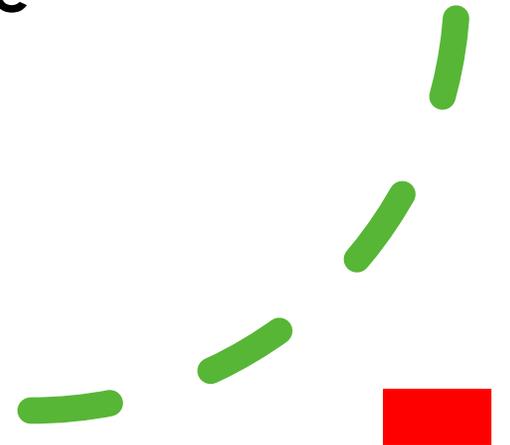
What is HUD's take on the VI-SPDAT?

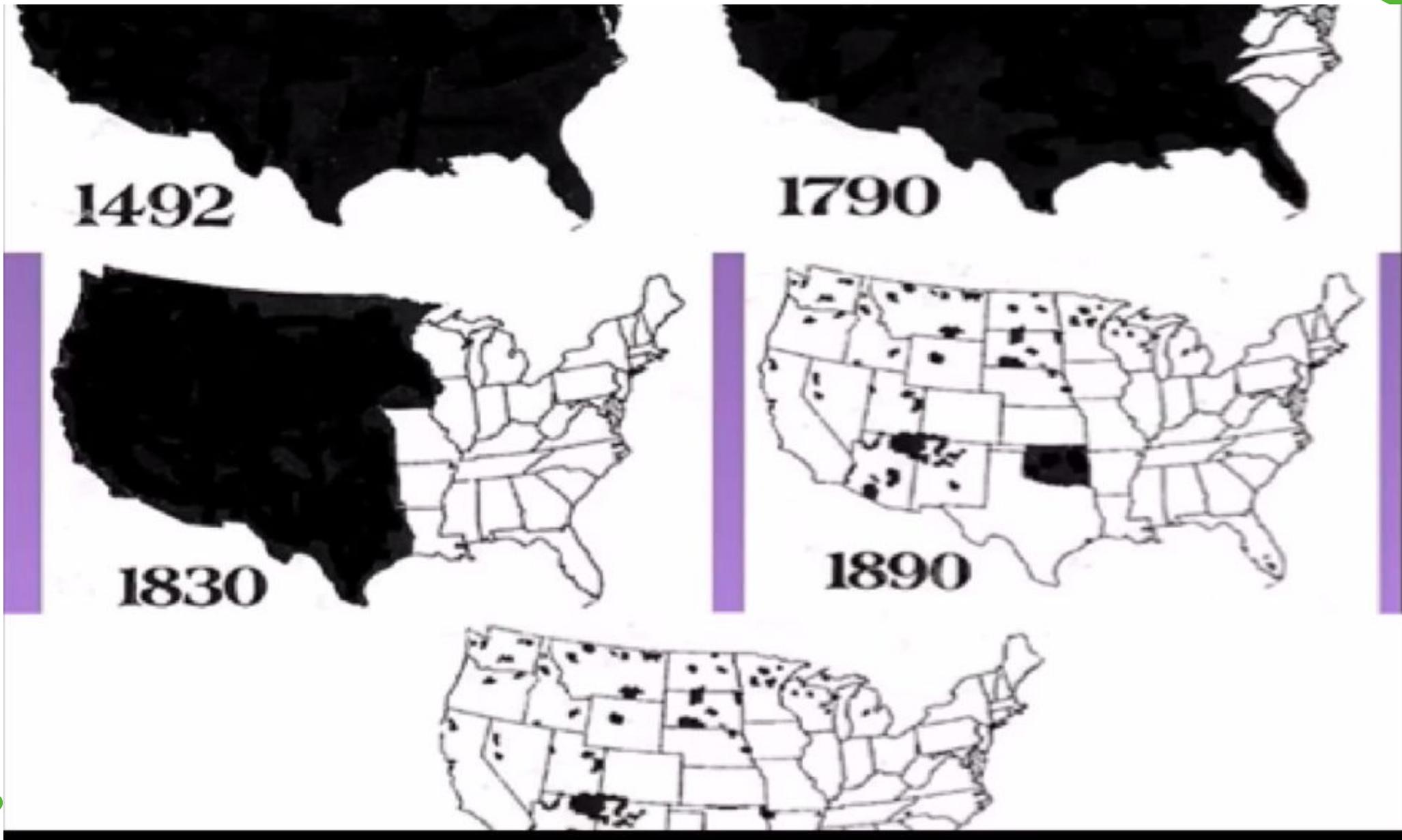
“CE systems should always evaluate policies and procedures affecting access and interventions for different subpopulations based on need. Communities are always encouraged to evaluate and adjust their prioritization policies based on evolving information and circumstances, including new or improved data, changing needs and priorities, and available resources”



Maria-Elena Ochoa, MBA
Deputy Director,
Against Abuse, Inc.
GAB Member, BOSCOG

- **Historical Trauma**
- **Understanding Equity vs. Equality**
- **Wage Disparity**
- **Importance of Demographic Data**
- **Multi Sector Representation**
- **Individuals with lived experience**





Fulton, Madison. (2021). Historical Trauma & Collective Resilience: *An Indigenous Framework Approach*. Retrieved with permission, from attending 8th Annual ACEs Summit, Arizona Adverse Childhood Experiences Consortium



Boise

A

Z

T

L

A

N

Carson City

San Francisco

Los Angeles

San Diego

Phoenix

Denver

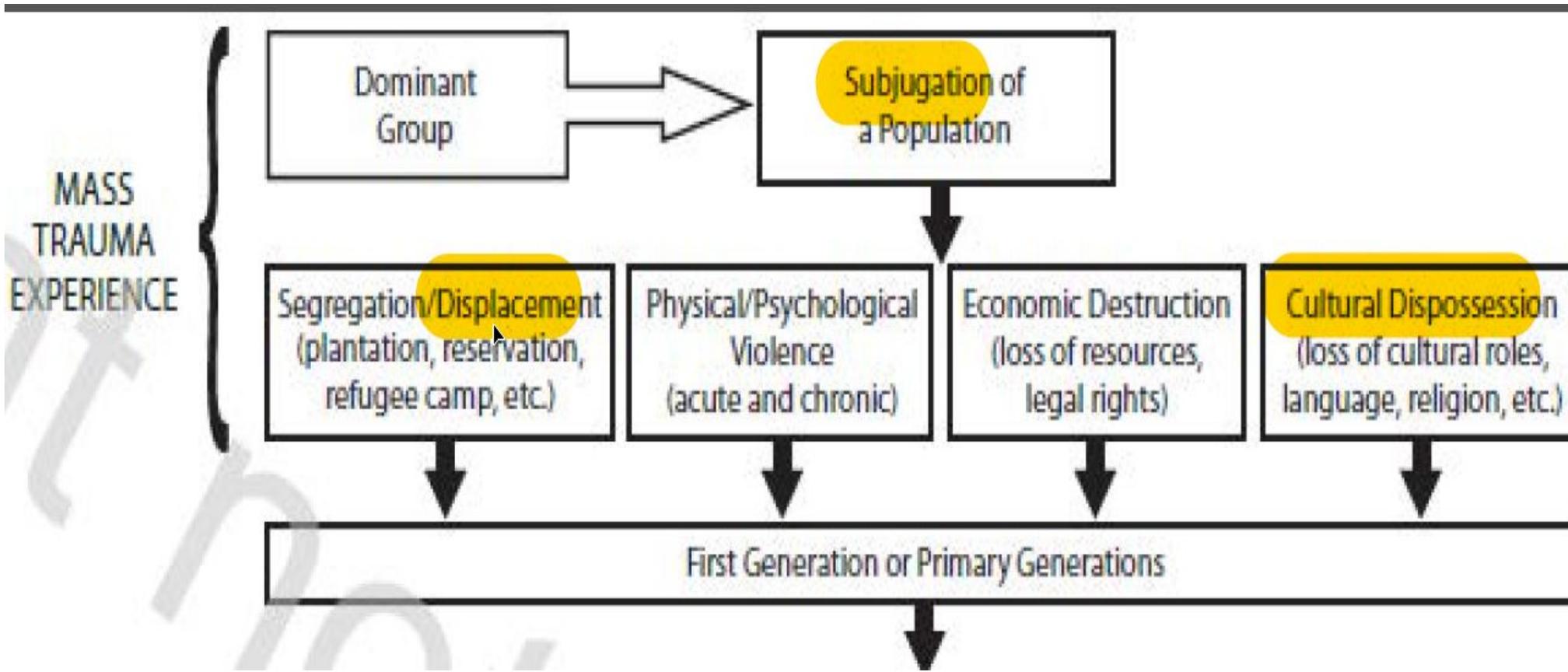
Cheyenne

Lincoln

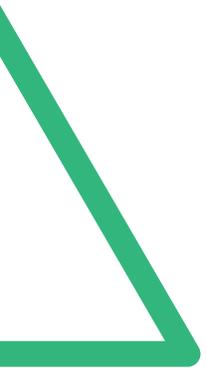
Oklahoma City

Dallas

Houston



Sotero, M. 2006. A conceptual model of historical trauma: Implications for public health practice and research. *Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice* 1 (1), 93-108.



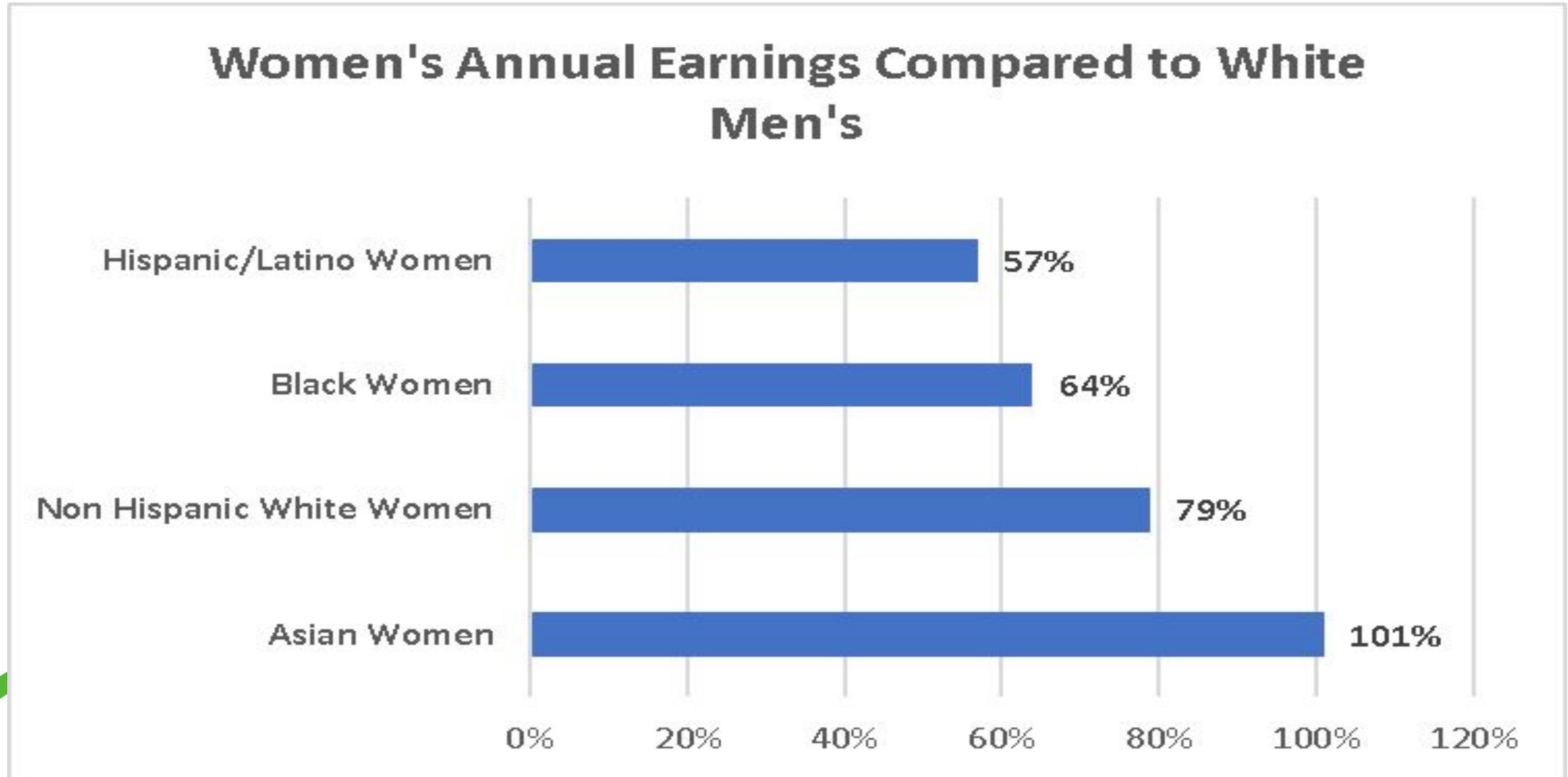
2022

America's Gender Pay Gap by State

We found how much a woman earns for every \$1 a man earns



Business Insider: Overall, Black and Hispanic Women face the biggest gap when comparing earnings to non-Hispanic white men (U.S. Census Bureau – 2020)



Demographics

- What are the demographics in your community?
- What are the demographics of those who are homeless in your community?
- What are the demographics of your coalition?
- What are the demographics of the organizations represented in the coalition?
- How do you recruit to ensure demographics match and include individuals with lived experience?



Domestic Violence and Homelessness

90% of homeless women have experienced severe physical or sexual abuse at some point in their lives

63% have been victims of intimate partner violence as adults

National Network to End DV (2018)

On a single night in 2019, homeless services provider had more than 48,000 beds set aside for survivors of DV

National Alliance to End Homelessness (2020)

DV is the 3rd largest cause of homelessness among families in the U.S.

Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness (2012)

39% of cities cited DV as the primary cause of family homelessness

U.S. Conference of Mayors (2007)

Ethnicity is not included in HMIS Data

EXAMPLE

RACE	Yuma County Population	Yuma County Homeless Population
White	91.2%	66.09%
Black or African/American	2.60%	4.35%
Asian	1.50%	0.00%
American Indian-Alaska Native	2.30%	10.43%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.30%	0.00%
Multiple Races	2.10%	19.13

According to US Census Bureau, QuickFacts (April 2020)
Hispanics or Latinos in Yuma County: 64.6%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino: 30.1%

Latinos are likely to be undercounted

Not likely to be in usual options for homelessness, i.e. homeless shelters and encampments)

Use public services at lower rates than other racial/ethnic groups

Some are fearful of deportation

There may be cultural and language barriers

There is a stigma associated with homelessness, and many won't identify as homeless

They rely on familia or other personal social networks.

Equity through Multisector Sector Representation

8 Dimensions of Wellness



We can't do it alone... Need: Multi Sector Collaboration



Individuals with Lived Experience in Planning and Decision Making

Cautions:

- Tokenism is a thing – participation should be based on experience and passion for the mission, reflective of the community served

Listen/Hear the voices of People with Lived Experience

- Hear their voice and perspective based on their experience
- Their voice brings understanding to what is actually occurring
- Their voice provides dimension to the quantitative data



Achieving Equity and Social Justice in Housing Outcomes in the Arizona Balance of State

Lucinda Yazzie

Native Americans for Community Action

Flagstaff, Arizona



INDIGENOUS WORLDVIEW..

A web of relationships that involves connections to human kinship; relations to the animals, plants, spirits, and elements; relationship to the Earth, lands, waters, and territories; and connection to traditional stories, songs, teachings, names, and ancestors. All these aspects of the circle of interconnectedness are known as “home” in Indigenous societies and worldviews.

- Jesse Thistle, Metis/Cree

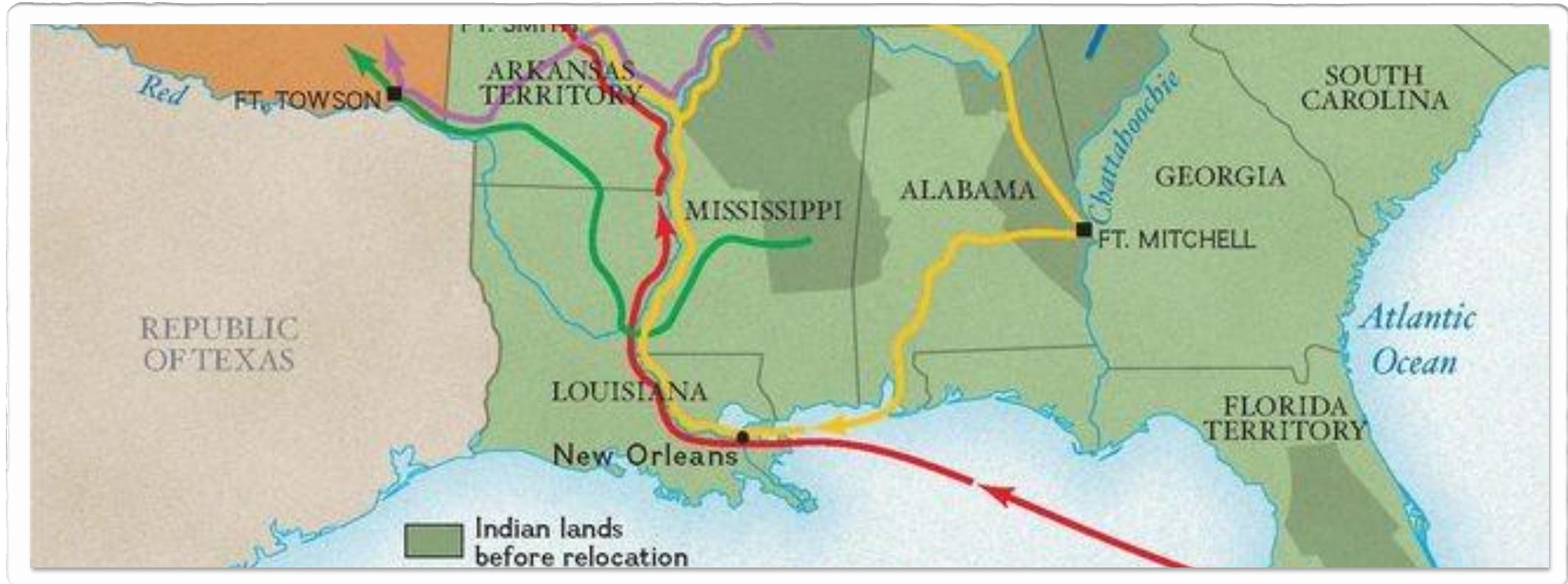


HISTORICAL TRAUMA

“The collective emotional and psychological injury both over the life span and across generations, resulting from a cataclysmic history of genocide”

“It’s the cumulative emotional and psychological wounding over the lifespan and across generations, emanating from massive group trauma.”

Dr. Maria Yellowhorse-Braveheart



The beginning of Indian Removal (1830)

It freed more than 25 million acres of fertile, lucrative farmland to mostly white settlement in Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas.



- 18-year-old Navajo Marine
- 1830 INDIAN REMOVAL ACT
- NAVAJO LONG WALK (1864-1868)
- WORLD WAR II (1939)

- Indian Removal Act,
- 1840's Manifest Destiny
- Trail of Tears (1831-1850)
- Navajo Long Walk(1864-1868)

- The Indian Reorganization Act (1934)
- The Termination Era (1953 – 1968)
- Snyder Act/Transfer Act 1954
- The Indian Relocation Act (1956)
- Navajo - Hopi Relocation (1974)
- Indian Self Determination Act (1975)

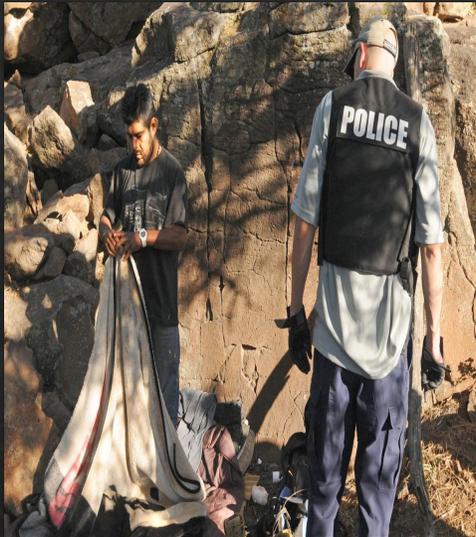
- No Camping Ordinance
- NAHASDA/ Tribal Housing Policies

NO LONGER IN HARMONY
WITHIN their dimensions of being
Indigenous

- Historic Displacement-indigenous lands
- Contemporary Geographic Separation
- Spiritual Disconnection
- Mental Disruption and Imbalance
- Cultural Disintegration
- Relocation/Mobility
- Going Home

Is Boondocking Camping?

1



*boondocking

The National Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Department of Fish and Wildlife all have thousands of acres of land where free camping is allowed.

- There's no official definition when it comes to boondocking*, but most will agree that it refers to “dry camping” or dispersed camping on public lands.

Permits are not required for boondocking (dispersed camping) inside the Coconino County National Forest.

Camping is allowed for no more than 14 days within 28 days, so after the 14th day, person can move 25 miles radius outside of the campsite and return on the 29th day.

Navajo Nation Jurisdictions

5 AGENCIES

Western Navajo Agency

Chinle Agency

Shiprock Agency

Fort Defiance Agency

Eastern Navajo Agency

101 Chapters-

WNA 18 chapters

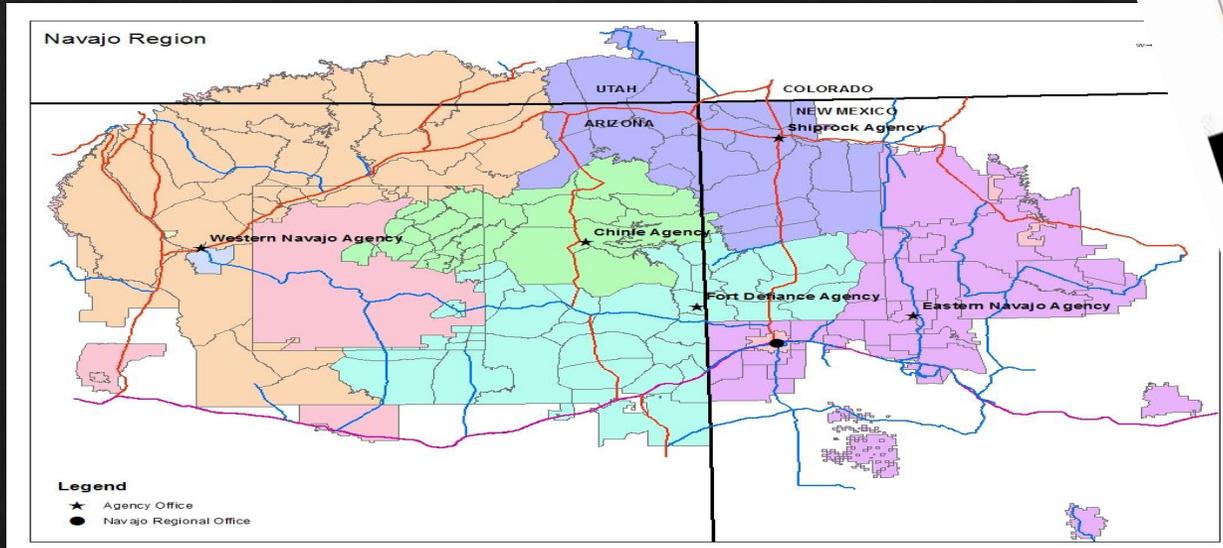
Chinle 14 chapters

Shiprock 19 chapters

Fort defiance 27

chapters

ENA 31 chapters



CHECKLIST FOR HOMESITE LEASE (HSL) APPLICATION

Application that lacks any required information will be considered incomplete and will NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Page 1 of 6

Homestead Application Requirements

- 1 Please read the Eligibility Requirements before filling out the HSL Application. Applicant(s) must use blue or black ink. complete all application forms. **NO WHITE OUT.** Original and up-to-date Certificate of Navajo Indian Blood, which can be obtained from...

Impact of historical trauma in 2021

“I’m nobody, I don’t make the rules. All I want is some clothes for an upcoming interview. I live at the shelter”

“I showed up for an interview, but when the person saw me, the lady said she already ‘hired someone else’. The position was still posted for hire 2 weeks later”

“Staff made comment that ‘all Natives are drunks’ and have seen staff treat Natives differently”

“I miss my mother talking to me in Navajo. I like going to counseling, but I want to talk to someone in my own language”

“I am now the responsible party for my grandchildren, but I am not getting help with housing”

“Just take it, we are beggars, we can’t be choosers”

“He always encouraged us to keep going forward no matter what”

UNSHELTERED RELATIVES

Bringing help and hope to the unsheltered around the world.

- Coalitions to End Homelessness
- Models of community engagement and culturally driven practice (Indigenous)
- City (Bordertown) Ordinance/Legislation
- Mental / Behavioral / Medical Health
- Resource Center/Mobile Crisis Unit
- Faith Base
- Indigenous circles
- Tribal Advocacy
- Housing Agencies
- Criminal Justice System
- Social Service Agencies



ahéhee'

Maria-Elena Ochoa
maria-elena-ochoa@against-abuse.org



Lucinda Yazzie
Lmyazzie@nacainc.org



NACA
NATIVE AMERICANS
FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

Joanna Carr
joanna@azhousingcoalition.org

