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Support Available Through HUD for Clubs in Indian Country

This is an exciting time to start a Boys & Girls Club in Indian Country. It is an opportunity to be part of a creative, growing movement among Native American communities designed to promote youth leadership, cultural pride, and community cohesion. During the past 10 years, more than 54 different tribal groups have set up Clubs for their young people, augmenting the programs to fit their own rich tribal heritages and cultures (see Club profiles in Part 4). Each Club is creating its own set of strategies and ideas for working with Indian youth. While the initial Clubs served Native American young people; the growing movement has expanded to include Alaska Native communities.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

HUD makes operating funds available for Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian country through a variety of mechanisms. The funding streams have shifted somewhat over time. Initially, some funds came through the HUD Youth Sports Program and the Public and Indian Housing Drug Elimination Program. Currently, the most important funding sources include:

- **Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act of 1996.** Legislation has affected some funding streams for Indian housing communities. Tribes may now choose to have their HUD monies for Indian housing go either to the tribe or to Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs).

- **Community Development Block Grants.** You may need to petition your Tribal Council to apply for this block grant money, which can be used to improve the quality of life for housing residents through such programs as Boys & Girls Clubs. For example, ICBDG may be used to fund the construction of a community center that could house Boys & Girls Clubs.

(For more information, contact your local HUD office and visit <http://www.codetalk.fed.us>.)

Funds may also be available from other government sources. Both B&GCA and ONAP can assist you in identifying such resources. For a detailed description of funding sources, see the chapter in Part 3, Boys & Girls Clubs of America Federal Government Resources.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROSPECTIVE AND EXISTING CLUBS

Through the HUD/B&GCA partnership, you can be part of the network of Native American communities now operating Boys & Girls Clubs for their youth. The Indian Clubs are new and energetic, forging creative activities and approaches for their young people. The Clubs in Indian Country share certain challenges, such as how to provide transportation or access for youth in remote locations. The HUD/B&GCA “learning community” of Clubs can give your group the chance to learn from others who have faced the same challenges, to compare ideas and explore solutions. Some



Clubs come together for joint events, giving their youth a chance to show their cultural traditions to other Clubs.

You can be part of the HUD/B&GCA national training and promotional initiative to start up and support strong Clubs in Indian Country. This effort builds upon the Clubs' successes and is helping Indian communities to discover and shape the strategies most effective for their youth. ONAP is working closely, and in a host of ways, with Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHE), tribal organizations, and Native American youth. The results are already apparent: a network of comprehensive Native American youth programs.

In addition to providing funds and technical assistance to individual projects, ONAP sponsors training events and conferences. At these events, the leaders of Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country come together to share ideas and experiences. Some of these events include:

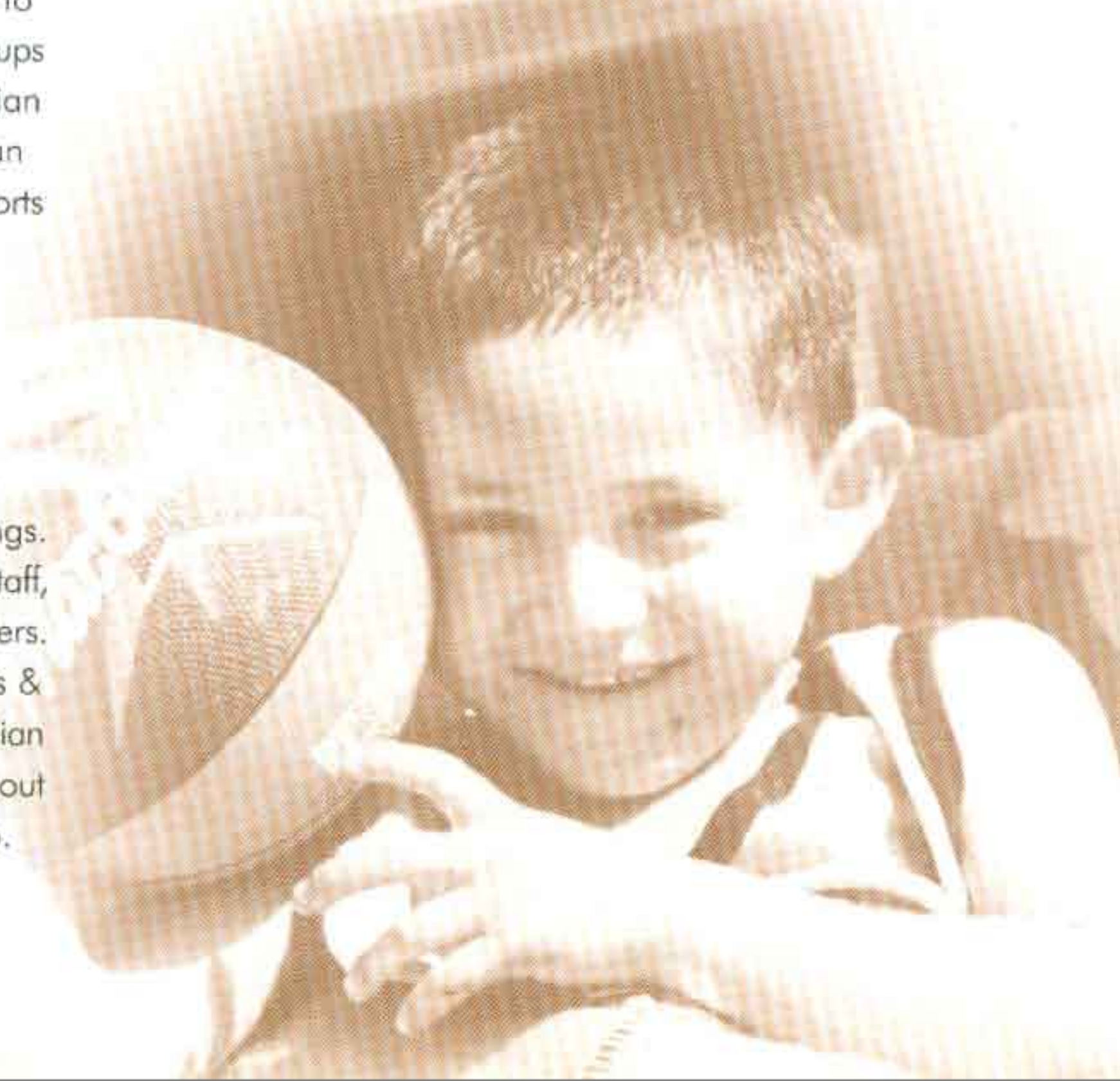
- ⦿ **A discussion forum on Native youth initiatives.** ONAP sponsored the first forum in 1996 on life skills programming for Native American youth. Leaders of Native American youth organizations met to discuss the needs of youth and ways to network and expand their efforts. Key groups attending included United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY), the National Indian Athletic Association, Native American Sports Council, North American Indigenous Games, Running Strong for American Indian Youth, and Wings of America.
- ⦿ **Regional training sessions.** Many trainees representing tribes from across the Nation have attended ONAP trainings. TDHEs send teams composed of TDHE staff, program directors, and community leaders. These teams learn about starting a Boys & Girls Club, visit an existing Club site in Indian Country, and hear from Club directors about their own experiences in starting a Club.
- ⦿ **Regional learning conferences.** As more Clubs start in Indian country, the

trainings are shifting to a "learning conference" format. The emphasis will be on creating a workshop environment where participants can plan, share, and discuss their promising ideas and strategies, as well as ways to resolve common challenges.

TRAINING AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

ONAP also sponsors a number of activities that directly benefit the children in Native American Boys & Girls Clubs. These activities include:

- ⦿ **Training conferences in Native Youth Leadership Development.** Beginning in 1997, these training events are bringing together Native community teams that are currently involved in community service and youth activities. Teams consist of two adults and four youth. Teams will develop community action plans with specific goals and timelines.
- ⦿ **Club Notes, a newsletter for Indian youth.** This whimsical publication shares interesting facts about other Clubs in Indian Country and is popular with children and Club staff.



- ⊙ **NetSmartz.** An educational resource for children of all ages, parents and teachers on how to stay safer on the Internet.
- ⊙ **Internet connections.** One of the features on HUD's Internet Web site is *Planet Youth*, which contains information about the Boys & Girls Club Initiative:
<http://codetalk.fed.us>
Another useful site can be found at:
<http://www.naclubs.org>

NATIONAL PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

ONAP is supporting the initiative by developing a number of promotional materials. This Guide, designed to provide practical help for starting a Boys & Girls Club in Indian Country, is part of that effort. Other materials include:

- ⊙ **A video showcasing six successful Clubs in Indian Country.** Featuring Native American Olympic Champion Billy Mills, this video will help Indian Tribal Councils and communities view how Clubs work in Indian Country.
- ⊙ **An informational brochure.** This colorful booklet highlights Indian children participating in many kinds of events and activities at their Boys & Girls Club.
- ⊙ **A vibrant poster.** This poster promotes the Boys & Girls Clubs movement in Indian Country.

For more information about HUD's Native American Boys & Girls Club initiative, contact the Office of Native American Programs, at 202-401-7914 or 1-866-NACLUBS.