



FY19 IMPACT REPORT

YEAR IN REVIEW

Strength in Numbers

Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC) tackles community’s most pressing issues, with the help of partners.

When ANJC was honored this year by the Foundation for the Improvement of Justice for its role in the movement that got Alaska State House Bill 34 passed into law, the award was recognition of one of ANJC’s greatest strengths: its ability to bring partners together to affect real change.

Throughout 2019, ANJC has nurtured and grown established partnerships and developed relationships with new partners that will allow the organization to provide more services to more people across the state.

“Seven of the grants we applied for this year required community partners, and when we approached the partners we chose, every one of them was an immediate ‘yes,’” reflected ANJC Director of Operations Tammy Ashley. “That’s entirely due to the work ANJC has done in the community, building our credibility and our reputation.”

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STATISTICS & IMPACTS

ADVOCACY FOR VICTIMS

In 2019, 31% of our participants were assisted with emergent needs to include housing, food or clothing.

317 Individuals who were victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, dating violence or stalking.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE - ADULT REENTRY

In 2019, Restorative Justice served 72 participants with Adult Reentry services with a success rate of 86% in a reduction of recidivism.

63% of our participants were employed after starting our program.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

ANJC brings partners together to advocate important issues and affecting real change in the systems that adversely affect the people we serve. In 2019:

40 people were assisted through Pro Se clinics to complete paperwork for child custody and/or divorce/dissolution in order to file with the State of Alaska court (pro se meaning “I’ll do it myself”).

LEGAL REPRESENTATION

In 2019, the Tribal ICWA Representation Program served 39 tribal cases involving children.

7 tribes were represented in Child in Need of Aid (CINA) cases held in Anchorage.

In 2019, ANJC served 83 participants with legal advice and/or legal representation through our Family Law Program.

100% of protective orders taken to trial were granted.

MISSION & VISION

OUR MISSION

Justice for Alaska Native People.

OUR VALUES

We are **interdependent**. We are **resilient**.
We are **accountable**. We are **respectful**.

LEADERSHIP

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LEADERSHIP

Gloria O'Neill, President/CEO

Tammy Ashley, Director of Operations

Alex Cleghorn, Legal and Policy Director

YEAR IN REVIEW CONTINUED

New partnerships with Lemon Creek Correctional Center in Juneau and Spring Creek Correctional Center (SPCC) in Seward have allowed ANJC staff to present to inmates throughout the year. In addition, SPCC is working with ANJC to bring reentry classes and support for those leaving the prison system to new locations. Meanwhile, relationships with partner organizations are allowing ANJC case managers to take services off-site to increase access to participants who have trouble traveling to ANJC's Anchorage office.

"It's all about meeting our people where they're at and making sure accessing our services isn't a burden on them," Tammy said.

This year, ANJC brought on a team to represent Tribes, at their request, in Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) cases brought in Anchorage courts. Alaska Native and American Indian children represent a disproportionately high percentage of children in out-of-home care in Alaska; in Anchorage, the imbalance is even greater. ANJC's Tribal ICWA Representation team seeks to correct this imbalance by providing Tribal representation, as well as legal guidance and consultation.

Since January, the Tribal ICWA Representation program has assisted seven Tribes with 39 cases—vastly improving the results of ICWA cases for Alaska Native children and families.

ANJC also grew its Family Law program to assist survivors of crimes, with an emphasis on serving Elders and young people who have been victimized. ANJC's focus on representing survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, dating violence, and stalking continues to provide essential services in our community.

Looking toward 2020, ANJC has its eye on increasing services to young people. ANJC youth advocates will be working with the McLaughlin Youth Center (MYC) to provide reentry-type services with youth advocates working with youth who are coming back into the community after being at MYC. ANJC is partnering with Big Brothers Big Sisters, making services and case management available to Alaska Native "littles" and their families.

ANJC is also working on increasing its direct services to those who have been affected by human trafficking. ANJC will continue to expand its reach, providing more services outside of Anchorage, including in the Mat-Su Valley with a partnership with Knik Tribe.

"Access is a huge issue for our participants, or potential participants," Tammy said. "With the support of our partners, we can continue to do more."

SUCCESS STORY - RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



CORA MOONIN

Ready for Change

You missed out on so much already. Those words, spoken by Cora Moonin’s daughter, broke Cora’s heart.

But it was true: for years, Cora focused on getting high, even though it meant that her children had to stay with their dad. “Then my own dad passed away and I used that as an excuse to go deeper into drugs,” Cora recalled.

She’d been to jail for a short time before, but when she was arrested again, she served ten months. During that time, she got sober. She was surprised to find that, for the first time, she wanted to change.

“Before, I didn’t care,” she said. “I didn’t have a job for a long time. I didn’t want to change. But toward the end of that ten months, I was doing so good. I felt better, healthier, and I was just tired of how things had been.”

From the halfway house, Cora started talking to her kids again and rebuilding her relationship with them. But if she wanted them to stay with her, she would have to create real change in her life.

That’s where the Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC) would come in.

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Pillars of Justice



Education

Equipping individuals with knowledge about the criminal justice system.



Restorative Justice

Providing those returning to society after incarceration with the tools they need to successfully rebuild their lives.



Advocacy for Victims

Standing up for the rights of Alaska Native people and providing the tools they need to advocate for themselves.



Social Justice Advocacy

Bringing partners together to advocate for fair and equitable treatment of Alaska Native people within the justice system.

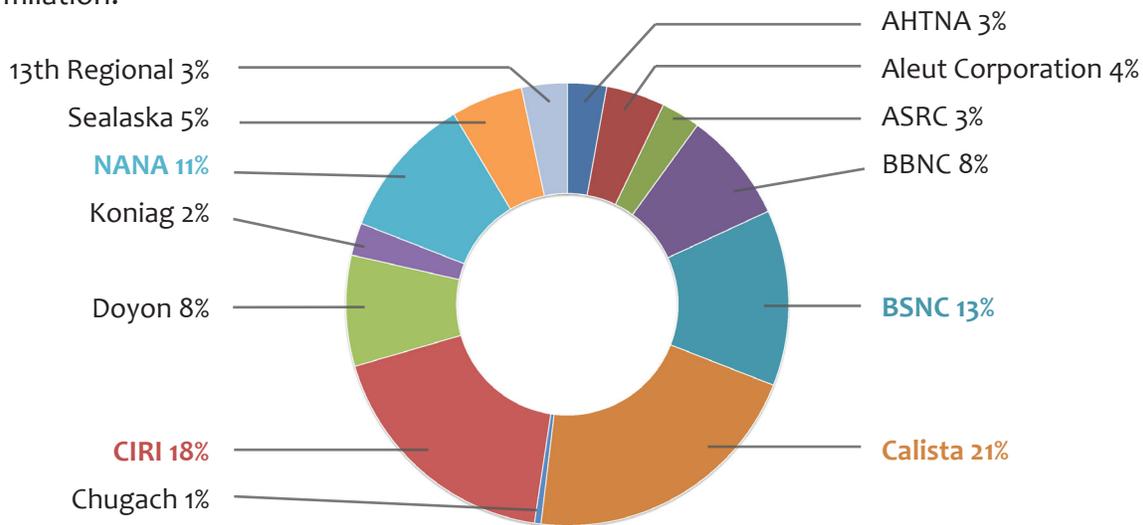


STATISTICS & IMPACTS

SERVICE AREA

ANJC serves individuals state-wide, assisting participants from every ANCSA region.

We have served a total of **1,261** individuals this year, including **210** participants who identified their ANCSA-affiliation.



SUCCESS STORY - RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

In Her Shoes

Cora had never undergone treatment for her addiction before. And she'd never heard of Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) until she came to ANJC. MRT is a cognitive-behavioral program that leads to better moral reasoning, decision-making and appropriate behavior among offenders and those who struggle with substance abuse.

"I'm really glad I did," Cora said. "It helped open me up to being accountable for my own decisions and actions... I felt like Benny and the other case managers actually understood my situation because they had gone through jail, too," Cora said. "That was a big inspiration for me to do better."

"I look at Cora today, I see a glow," said Benny. "I see the change. When I first met her, there was no glow—just stress and confusion."

Ready

Cora credits MRT with setting her up for success once she sought treatment for substance abuse. At the treatment center, she met her clinician—a man who had previously been in treatment himself and who had worked his way up to a job. "I thought, I want that," she remembered. "If he can do it, I can do it."

Today, she has done it: Cora is employed by the same center where she received treatment, working with peer groups. She's in a healthy relationship with her boyfriend, and now she sees her children on a regular basis.

"My life has changed a lot," Cora reflected. And she's ready for more change—ready to spend more time with her kids, ready to move forward in her career helping others who are working through addiction. That's her advice to people coming to ANJC for the first time: "Be ready for change. It's work, and it's hard, but that's the place to start."

SUCCESS STORY - TRIBAL ICWA REPRESENTATION PROGRAM

NINILCHIK TRIBAL COUNCIL, TRIBAL SERVICES

Just a Phone Call Away

Alaska Native Justice Center's (ANJC) Tribal ICWA Representation Program provides representation, and more, for Tribes. Bettyann Steciw picked up the phone, not expecting much. She'd been through this before: As the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) specialist for the Ninilchik Traditional Council, Tribal Services, she had called plenty of lawyers, looking for answers to questions about the cases she was involved in.

"When I called attorneys for help in the past, I'd get put on hold, then they'd take my name, they'd think about it, and I'd never hear back," Bettyann explained. "So when Chad actually called back within a couple days and had read up on the case and said he could help—I was dumbfounded!"



Chad Holt is an attorney with ANJC's newest service: providing representation to Alaska Native Tribes, at their request, in ICWA cases brought in Anchorage courts. ANJC launched the services in January 2019; since then, the ANJC team has assisted seven Tribes with a total of 38 cases.

A Significant Imbalance

Statewide, over 50 percent of the children in out-of-home care are Alaska Native, even though they are only 19 percent of the state population. The imbalance is even greater in Anchorage, where only nine percent of children are Alaska Native or American Indian, but over 60 percent of children in out-of-home care are Native.

Compounding this disproportion, many Native families live in regions far from Anchorage—which means ICWA caseworkers involved in cases brought in Anchorage courts either face an expensive flight to the city, or must appear in court by phone. Most opt for the phone option.

Making things even more difficult, unlike the other parties involved in ICWA cases, which are appointed an attorney, Tribes are provided with no legal representation.

ANJC's Tribal ICWA Representation Program is an effort to change this imbalance. The new program also aims to help Tribes to fully comply with ICWA requirements.

"ICWA was passed more than 40 years ago," pointed out Legal and Policy Director, Alex Cleghorn, who served as a Special Assistant to the Attorney General on policies related to Alaska Native legal issues and rural justice before joining ANJC. "Given the severe disproportionality and challenges with ICWA compliance, ANJC's efforts are necessary to achieve better outcomes for Native children and their families."

Someone on Your Team

Like many case workers and ICWA specialists who work for a Tribe, Bettyann has ICWA training, but she's not a lawyer. And because there aren't many lawyers who specialize in ICWA cases, she often finds herself scouring the internet for answers to her legal questions.

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SUCCESS STORY - TRIBAL ICWA REPRESENTATION PROGRAM

“But am I going to stand up in court and say, ‘Well, I found this on the internet’? You never know if what you found is a definitive answer,” Bettyann lamented.

When she connected with Chad at ANJC, she discovered a go-to source for all her questions. “It’s those five-minute educational calls that really make ANJC’s ICWA team a super resource,” she said.

In addition to providing over-the-phone consultation and guidance, ANJC’s ICWA team can represent Tribes in Anchorage courts. In Bettyann’s case, Chad and his team quickly read through the case discovery and talked to both parties involved; they accompanied Bettyann to court and provided representation for the Ninilchik Tribe.

“When you’re on the stand, your heart is pounding,” described Bettyann, who testified in her role as the Tribe’s spokeswoman. “Just having someone there in the courtroom, on your team, with you is a tremendous amount of relief.”

A Resource with Expertise

With the help of Chad and ANJC, the parties in Bettyann’s case reached an agreement and ended with the reunification of a family. Even after the conclusion of the case, ANJC equipped Bettyann with the knowledge she could bring back to the Tribe.

“They had prepared me and explained to me enough about what had happened with the case that I could come back here and explain it to all the players,” she said.

“ICWA cases are very unique,” Chad added. “They’re not your typical civil case—they have an entirely different set of rules, language used, goals. That’s why it’s really helpful to have a resource that can provide expertise and representation for Tribes involved in ICWA cases.”

What’s Next for ANJC?

- **Service expansion:** Increased advocacy around sexual assault (SA) awareness resulting in legislative support and changes throughout the state around SA crimes
- **Increased advocacy:** Additional partnerships with other advocacy organizations statewide
- **Broadened client base:** Services for rehabilitating sex offenders and providing case management and support group to inmates currently incarcerated.
- **Youth-focused programs:** Youth Development through mentoring and advocacy support for youth with partnerships with Division of Juvenile Justice and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska

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ANJC's mission is only possible through our family of partners and supporters. We wish to acknowledge our FY2019 donors, sponsors and funders.

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Alaska Career College
Alaska Community Foundation
Alaska Escape Rooms
Alaska Federation of Natives
Alaska Sealife Center
Alaska Zoo
Aleut Corporation
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Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation
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Pick.Click.Give.
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How You Can Support ANJC

Your generous donation provides legal assistance for Alaska Native and non-native people alike. Because of you, parents are able to maintain custody of their own children; women fleeing domestic violence situations find safety; and those who have been incarcerated find the support they need to become valued members of society. Because of you, Alaska Native people find justice.

You can donate in four easy ways:

1. Online through our website at www.anjc.org
2. Alaska Native Justice Center on Facebook
3. Pick. Click. Give
4. Send a check in the mail

