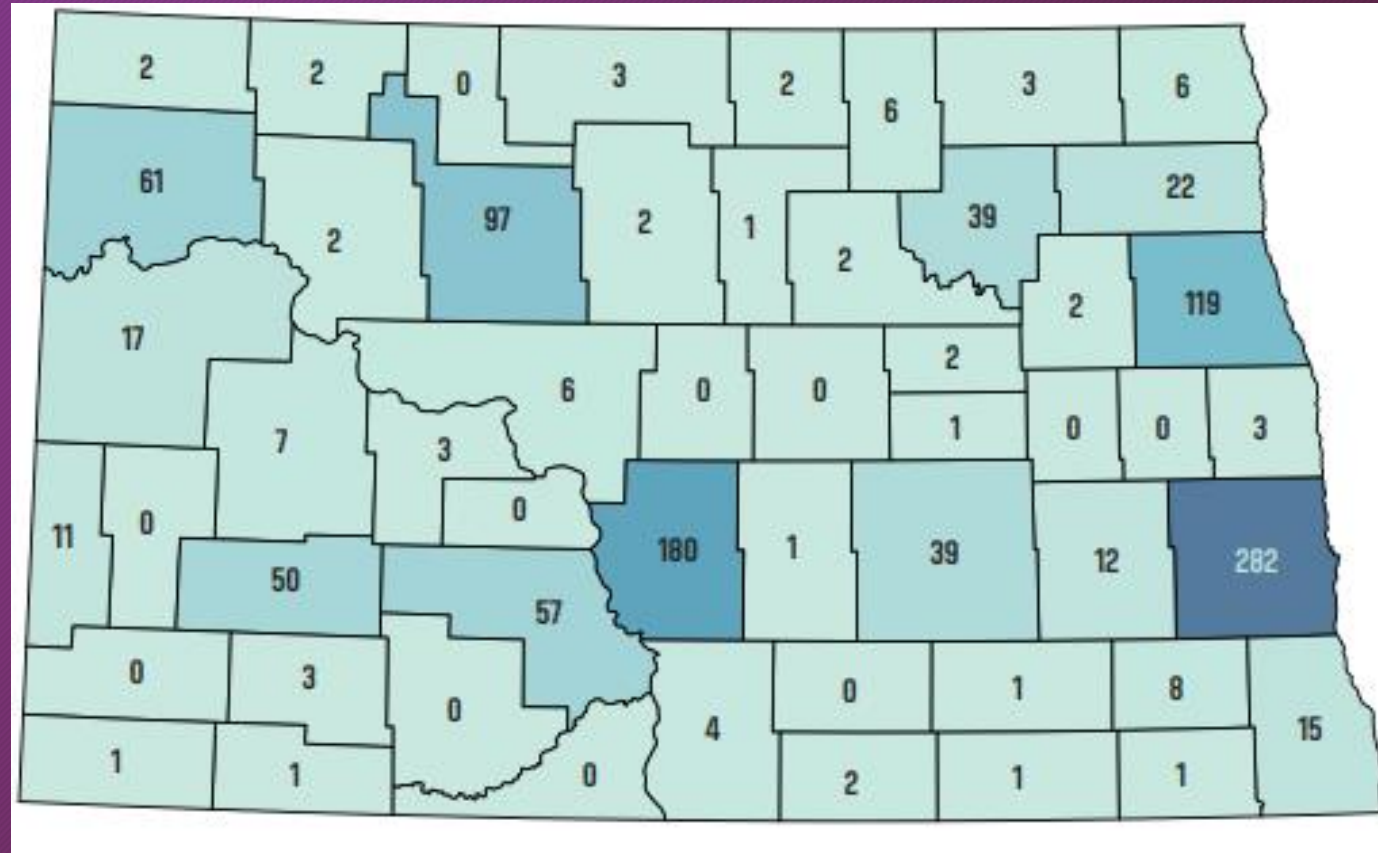


Court Improvement Program Taskforce Projects and Data

Dual Status Youth (DSY)

- In 2023, there were 1,079 dual status youth identified by the Initiative. Five hundred fifty of those youth were new to the Initiative. The map shows the home county where the dual status youth were identified.



Family Centered Engagement (FCE) Meetings

- **Top referral concerns (more than 1 can be selected)**

- 21% delinquency (youth)
- 16% parent/child conflict/family discord
- 13% child abuse/neglect
- 11% CHINS
- 11% severe MH issues (Child)

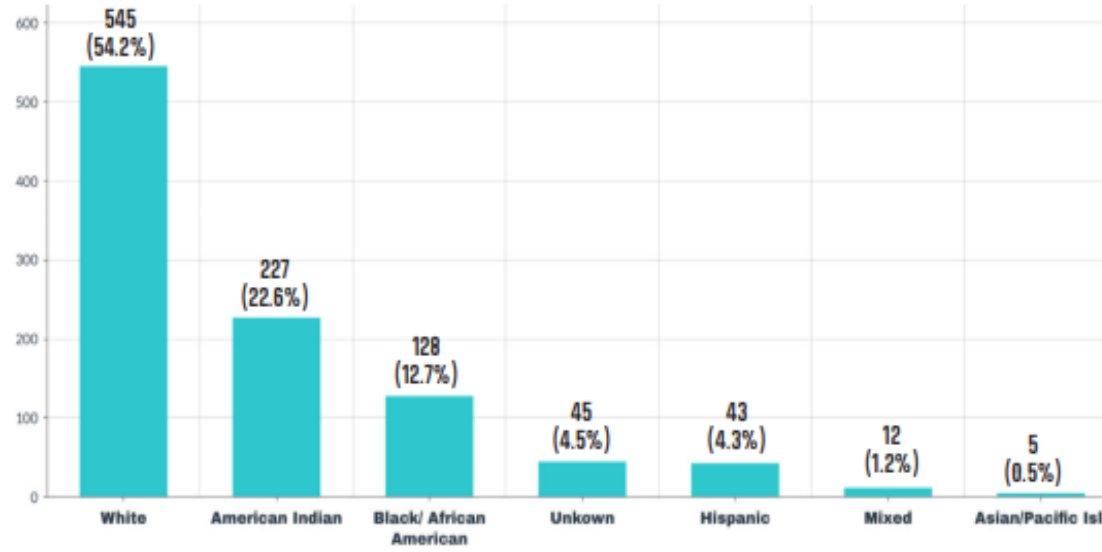
- **Family survey results**

- 98% of respondents felt they had an opportunity to listen and share information
- 95% of respondents felt the family's values and culture were respected
- 85% of respondents felt the FCE process was a positive experience

- **Six-month post FCE findings**

- 88% of the children remained in the home
- 1% of the children were placed with kin
- 11% of the children entered foster care system

DSY - Race

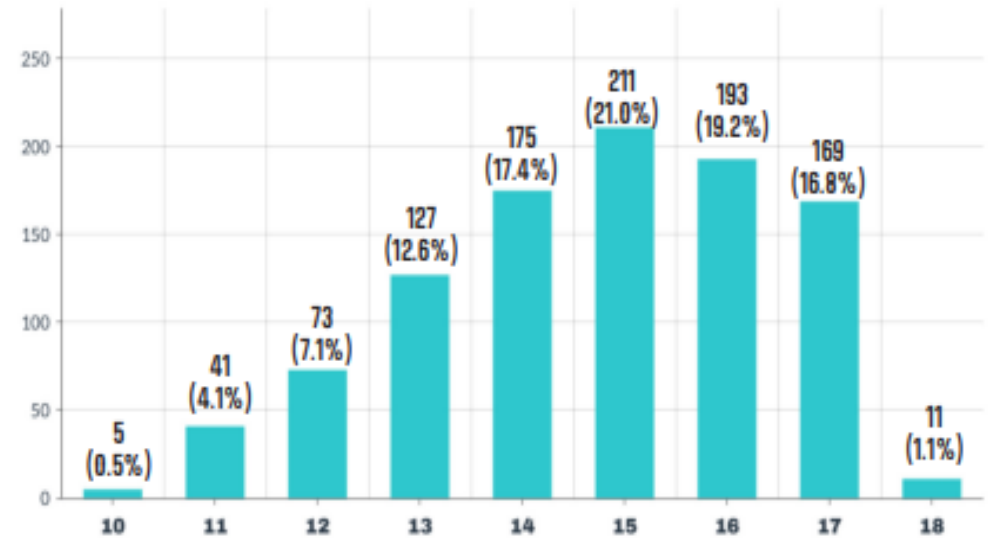


Male
541 (53.83%)



Female
464 (46.17%)

DSY - Age





ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

OJJDP Office of Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention
Office of Justice Programs • U.S. Department of Justice

Our Shared Vision and Values

Guided by our core values, we strive for equity fairness, and the well-being of all youth involved in our systems. Every young person deserves recognition of their inherent dignity and potential. Our commitment is to foster empathy, understanding, and respect, ensuring that our approaches are healing-centered, culturally affirming, and informed by individuals with lived experience. These efforts are tailored to address the unique needs of each youth.⁷

The complexity of the challenges faced by dually involved youth necessitates a collaborative and innovative approach from all partners. By breaking down barriers between child welfare and juvenile justice and engaging with communities, families, and young people, we can foster a coordinated response. Our focus includes investing in accessible community-based services, leveraging aligned policies, and blending funding streams to provide stabilizing services that maintain youths in their homes.

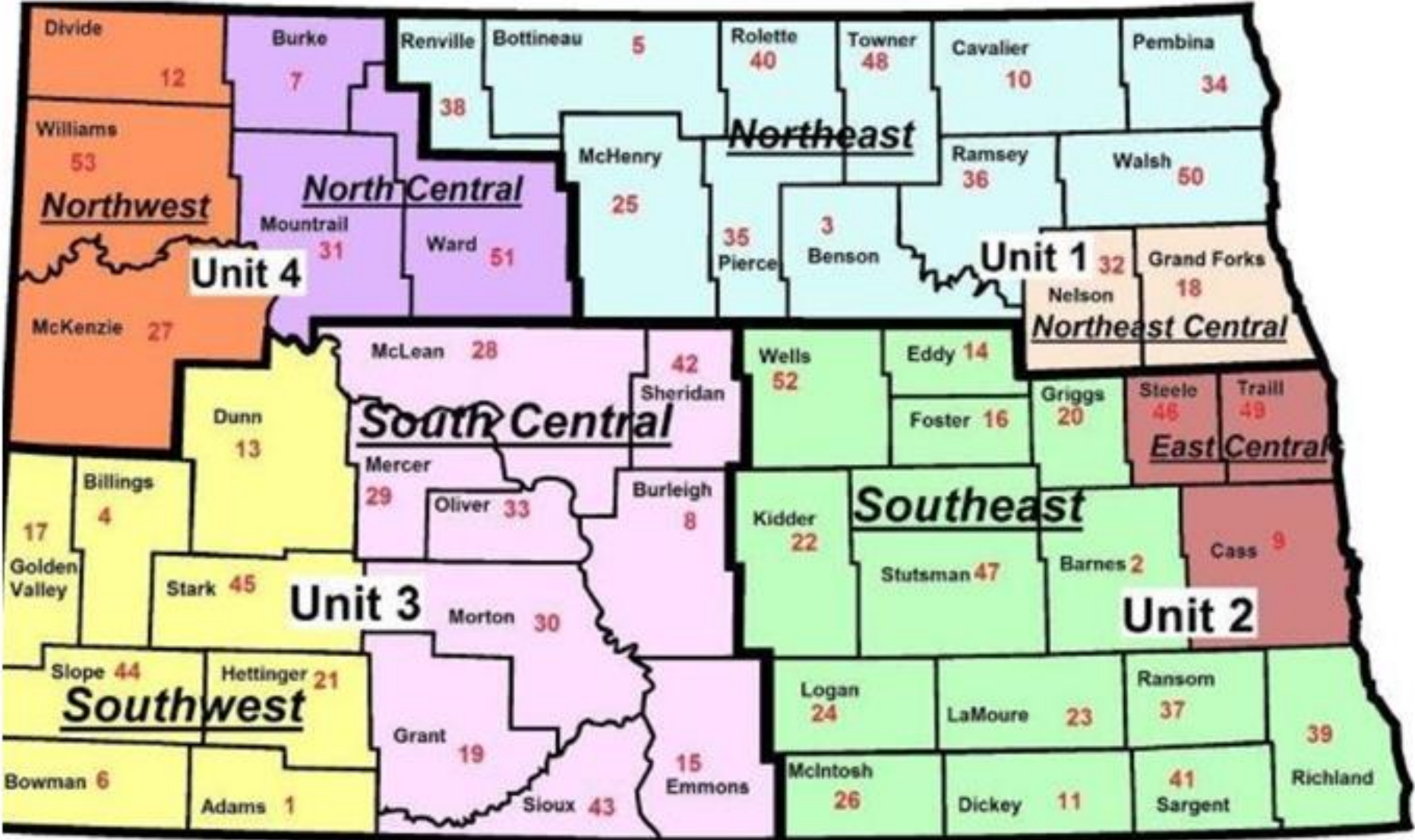
Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) Workgroup

- Heather Traynor, CIP Coordinator
- Cathy Ferderer, Juvenile Court Coordinator
- Barb Oliger, GAL Program Administrator
- Meg Morley, GAL Program Coordinator and Supervisor - Unit 1 and 2
- Sharla Price, GAL Program Coordinator and Supervisor - Unit 3 and 4
- Karen Kringlie, Former Juvenile Court Director - Unit 2
- Leah Honeyman, Case Management Administrator, Children and Family Services
- Jessica Ahrendt, Public Defender - Grand Forks
- Dan Gast, Judicial Referee - Unit 2
- Kara Brinster, Foster County State's Attorney
- Sloan Henry, ICWA Family Preservationist
- Kristi Frederick, Ward County Human Service Zone Director

Recommendations

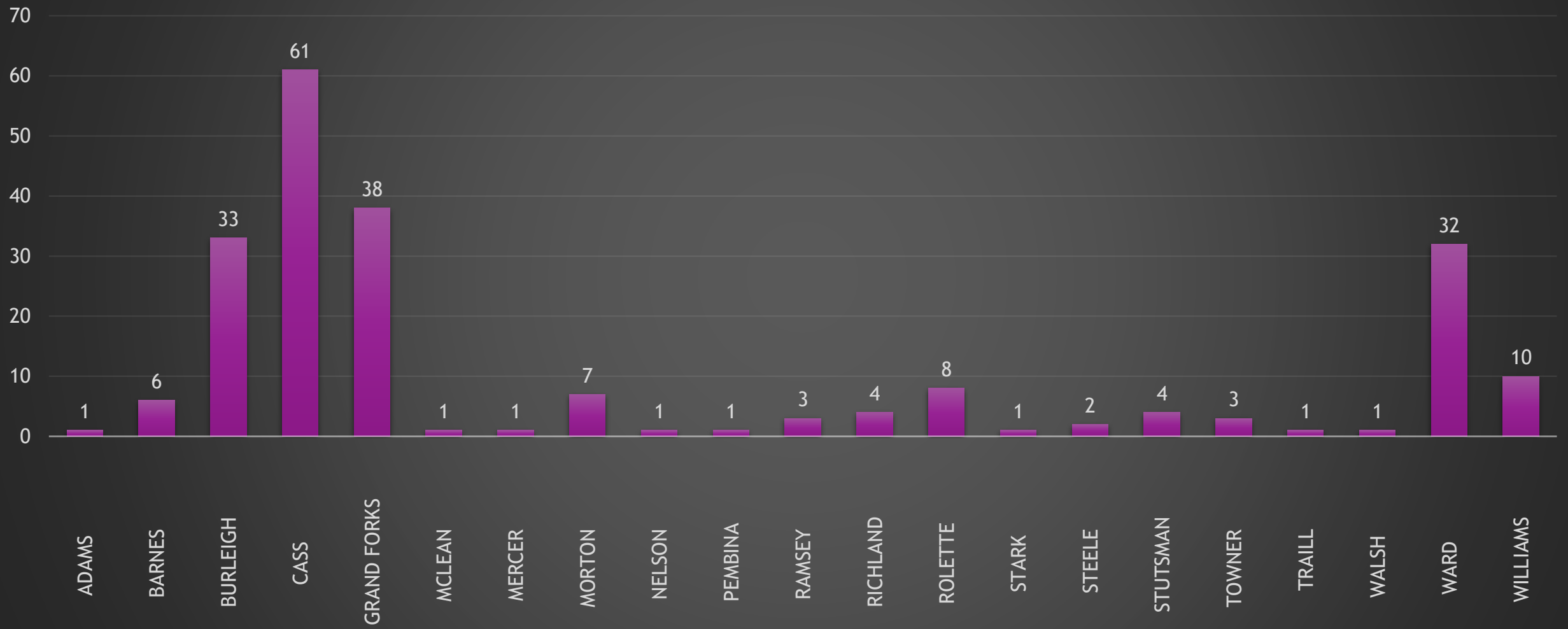
- Regional full-time contracted Lay GALs by judicial district
- Establish a maximum caseload
- Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Specialized GAL in each judicial district
- **Post-disposition monitoring** - Youthworks should consider outlining post-disposition monitoring parameters to include seeing each child one hour, once per month, and attending quarterly Children and Family Team Meetings.

Court Units/Districts

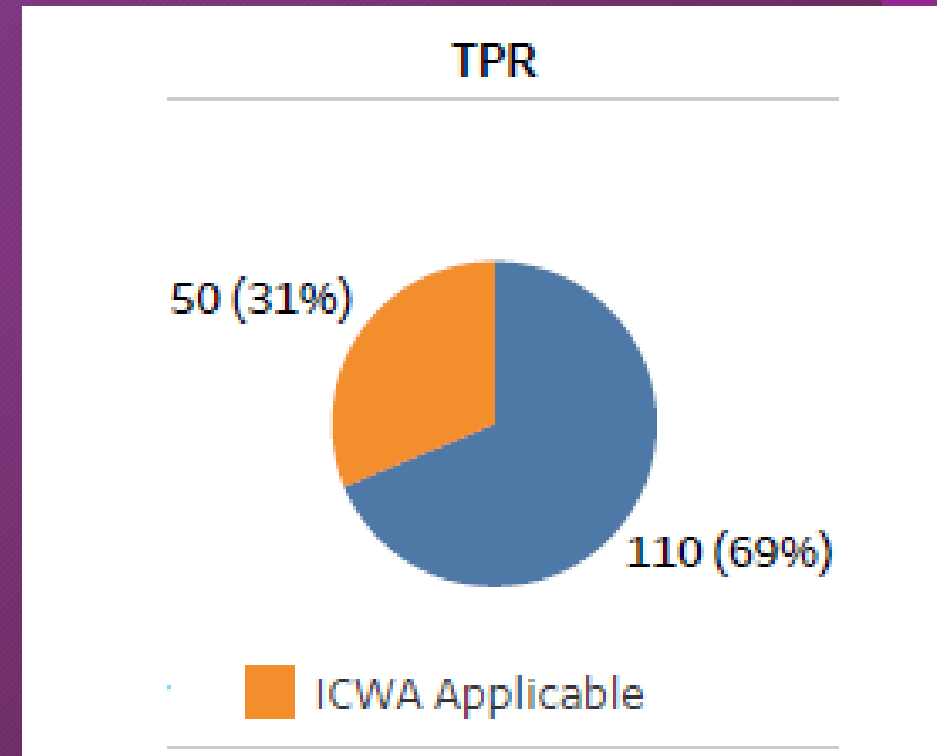


CY 2023 Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) Data

2023 - Total TPR Case Filings by County



Unit	Number of TPR Cases Reviewed
1	36
2	60
3	34
4	30
Total	160



Statewide TPR Petition Filing Data:

Calendar Year	TPR Petition filed within 450 days
2023	(96/219) 44%
2022	(92/250)37%

Calendar Year	TPR Petition filed within 660 days
2023	(155/219) 71%
2022	(167/250) 67%

Regional judicial unit* data reflects the following average days to TPR petition:

Average Days to TPR Petition	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
CY 2023	570	475	604	641
CY 2022	633	441	688	649

Time between submission of affidavit and petition filing for TPR

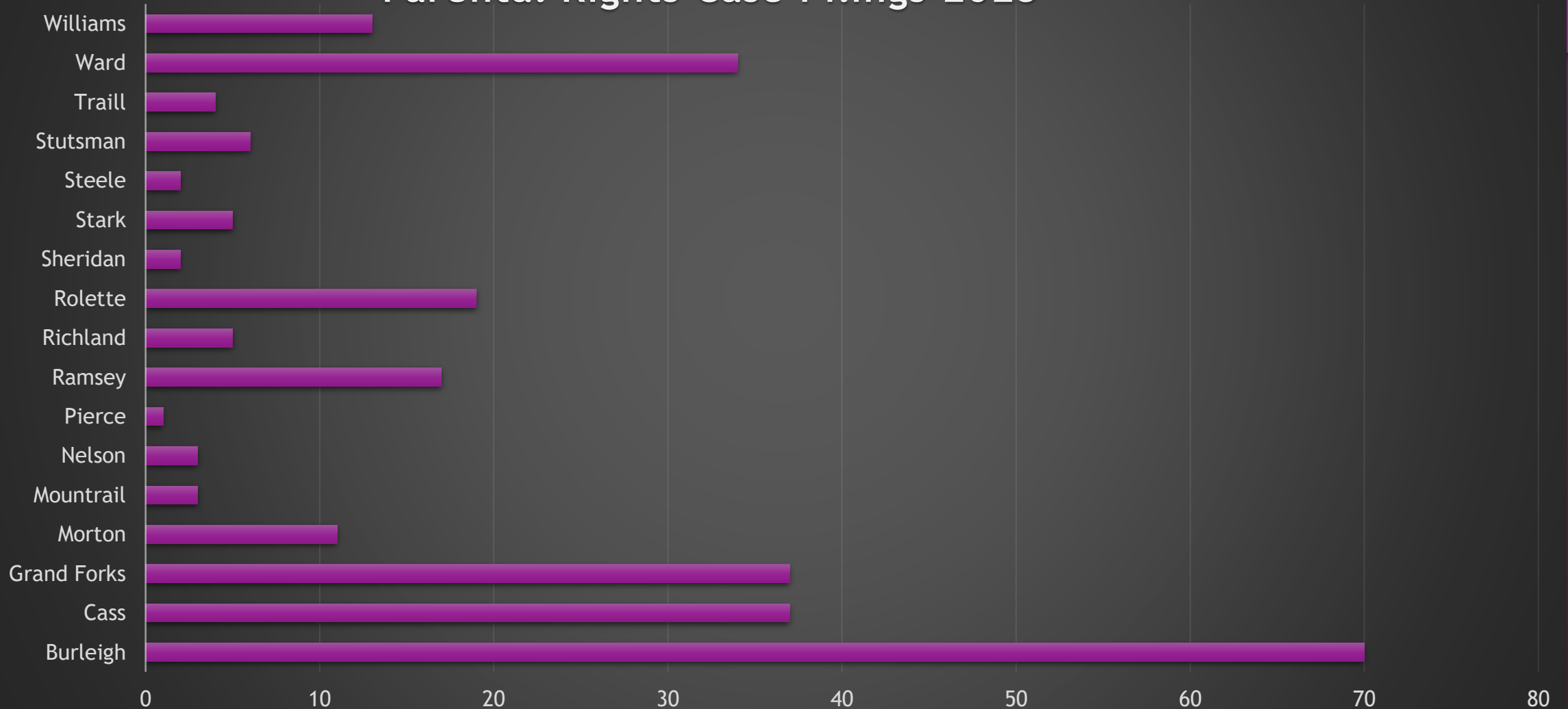
Average Days Between Zone Submission of Affidavit and Sate's Attorney Filing of TPR Petition	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
CY 2023	56	22	6	11
CY 2022	42	1	14	15

Stakeholder Feedback on TPR Proceedings

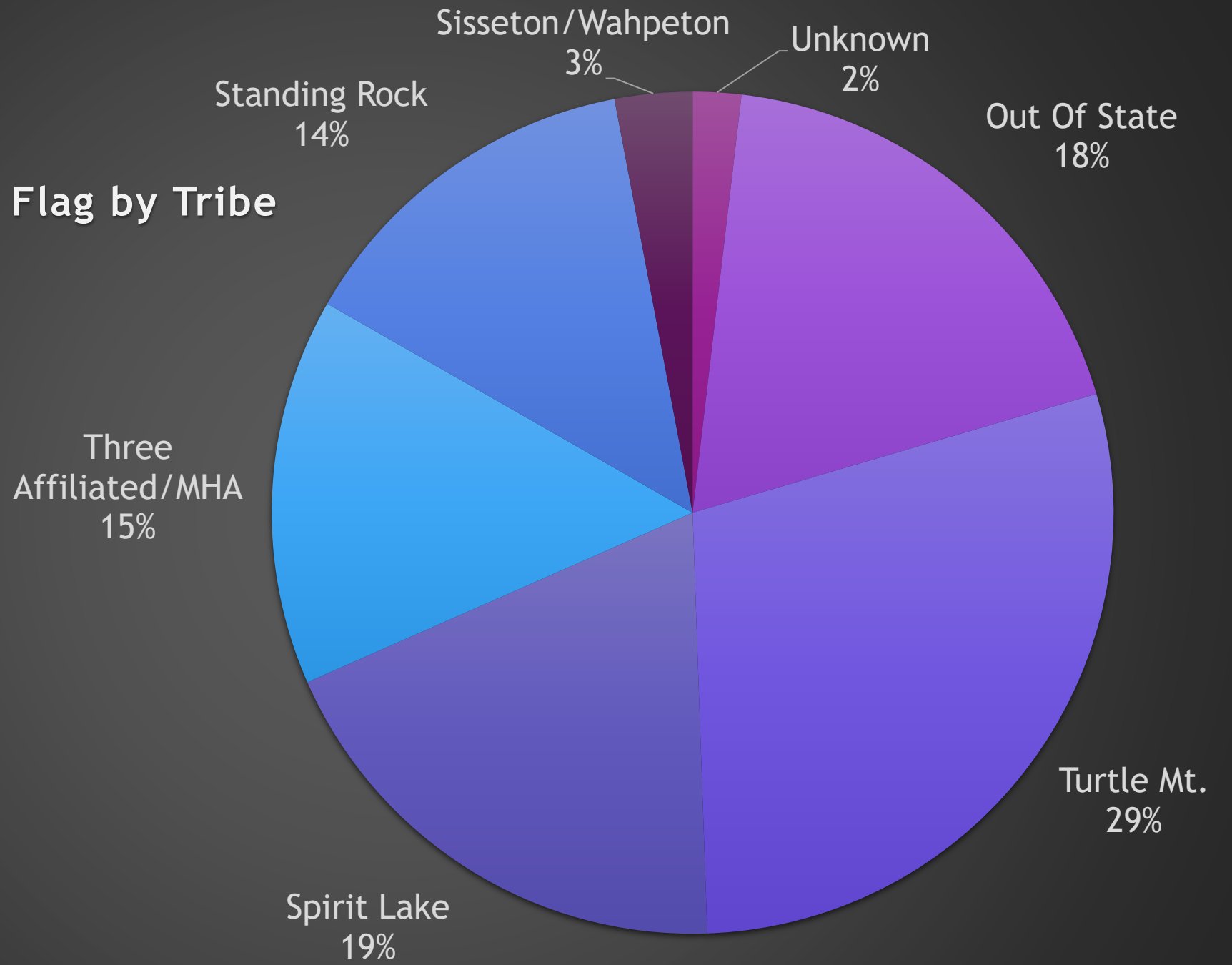
What are the barriers that affect your agency's ability to the required time frames when the filing of TPR proceedings do not occur in accordance with the required provision for a child in foster care? (Check all that apply)

	False		True		Total
High caseloads for State's Attorney	7.69%	2	92.31%	24	26
High caseloads for case management staff	16.67%	4	83.33%	20	24
Case management's knowledge of requirements	8.33%	1	91.67%	11	12
State's Attorney's knowledge of requirements	0.00%	0	100.00%	15	15
Lack of effective tracking systems to identify when filing requirements are nearing	0.00%	0	100.00%	8	8
None of the above	10.00%	4	90.00%	36	40
Other (please specify)	22.86%	8	77.14%	27	35

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Applicable Child in Need of Protection (CHIPS) and Termination of Parental Rights Case Filings 2023



ICWA CHIPS/TPR Flag by Tribe



ND ICWA Efforts Roadmap

2009-2012

UND/CIP ICWA Compliance Audit –

Research team reviewed findings and orders in CHIPS/TPR cases in Odyssey.

2016

Final UND/CIP ICWA Compliance Audit Report

Multi-year audit helped to clarify areas in need of improvement.

2016

ICWA Implementation Partnership Grant Awarded

Grant partners included the Native American Training Institute, tribes, courts and child welfare.

2019

QEW Recruitment and Training

Native American Training Institute (NATI) provided training to increase QEW presence in court hearings.

2021 -2023

Adoption of ICWA in North Dakota Century Code

NDCC 27-19.1

2015

UND/Casey Family Program Audit

Research team reviewed Grand Forks County Social Services files for ICWA compliance.

2016

Creation of ND ICWA Hard Card and Desk Reference Guide

Hard Card and Bench Guide was widely circulated and continues to be utilized by stakeholders.

2018

ICWA Inquiry Form

Creation of a universal ICWA inquiry form to be utilized statewide by caseworkers when reaching out to tribes.

2020

ICWA Family Preservationist (IFP)

IFP model developed and implemented.

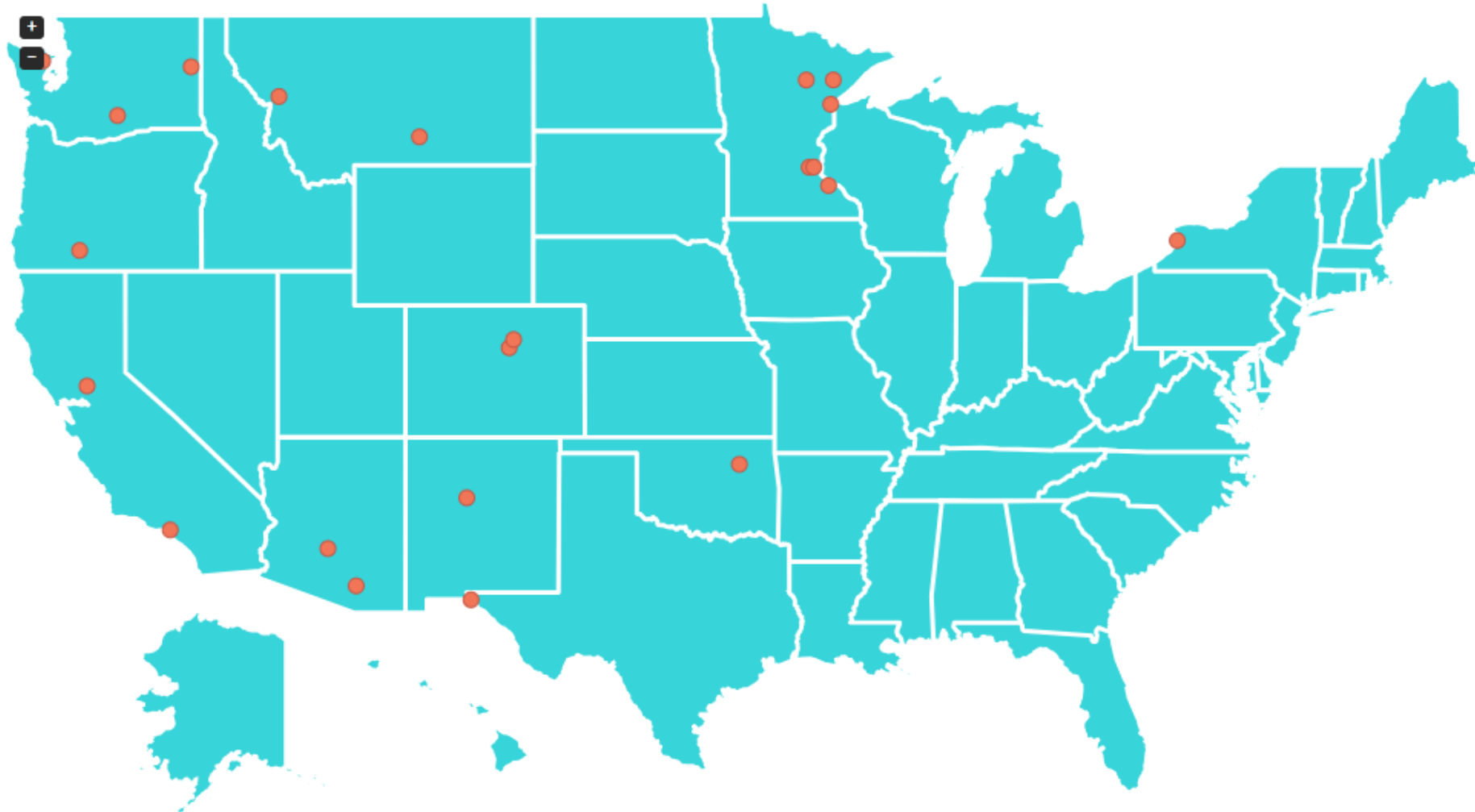
2023

2nd ICWA Implementation Partnership Grant Awarded



ICWA Court Map

Below is a map of the current ICWA Courts. For more information about these courts or to be added to the map, please see the contact information below.



An ICWA Court Approach

- Consistency in calendaring ICWA hearings
- Hearings held by the same judicial officer
- Required ICWA specific training for all court partners
- Culturally appropriate court environment
- Round table approach with families

Outcomes

- Permanency - Quicker time to reunification with caregiver
- Placement preferences - Placed with relatives at earlier stages of the case
- Increased tribal presence
- Parents at hearings more frequently and earlier in the stage of the case
- Increased collaboration and relationship building
- Authentic engagement with tribes
- Enhanced inclusive and diverse cultural practices