Mission: “Improving the lives of Native American people through culturally appropriate behavioral health, affordable housing, and community development services” since 1972
Supporting homeless individuals, working families and people in recovery.
Also supporting elders and youth.
Supporting Families

Whole Health Model
Sharing Native American Recipes
NAC Oral Health Initiative

• Promote oral health as part of a whole health lifestyle; physical, mental & spiritual health

• Raise awareness of the importance of oral health

• Support public policy that increases access to oral health care
  • Dental Therapy
Native Americans suffer from the poorest oral health of any population in the United States, with staggeringly rates of untreated tooth decay among children and untreated decay and gum disease among adults.

- Preschool-aged Native American children had four times more cases of untreated tooth decay than white children—43 percent compared with 11 percent.

Active in advocacy to support improved oral health policy

2019 Policy and Civic Engagement

Passage of HB2235 Dental Therapy (AZ 2018); Dental Therapy is a mid-level provider authorized to work in tribal, nonprofit and FQHC settings.

Passage of dental benefit in AHCCCS/Medicaid for pregnant women – SB1088 has moved through the House and Senate and is awaiting inclusion in the 19/20 budget appropriations process.

Foster Active Citizens through Get Out the Vote Campaign, Request to Speak, Restoration of Rights, and participation in the US Census.
Why Dental Therapy?

Developed in Alaska Native communities;

DT’s came from the communities they work in;

Continuity of care for rural villages;

Alaska Dental Therapy Educational Two-Year Program at Iḷisaġvik College

More than 40,000 Alaska Native people living in 81 previously unserved or underserved rural areas now have regular access to dental care!
Dental Therapy bill passed
AZ 2018 Legislative Session

• Tribal, FQHC and nonprofit dental clinics
• CODA accredited education program required
• Must be licensed hygienist (not required to be licensed in AZ)
• 1,000 hours of supervision under clinical practice agreement; none if working directly with dentist
Implementation

• BODEX
• Rules – State Plan Amendment
• AHCCCS
• CODA Accredited Education Program
Also participated in advocacy on MMIW Bill – Passed!
Thank you!

Diana Yazzie Devine
President/CEO
d.devine@nativeconnections.org

Corey Hemstreet
Community Health Representative / Oral Health Coordinator
c.hemstreet@nativeconnections.org