

Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation to host new Elder Abuse Resource Fair in Smith River on June 25

June 18, 2022



Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Community and Family Wellness, Victim Services Division is hosting an Elder Abuse Resource Fair on June 25th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Howonquet Hall Community Center, 101 Indian Court in Smith River.

This is a day of resources and activities for elders, their caregivers and families. Local Native American Elders, age 55 and older, can take a survey and receive an incentive.

If you are interested in tabling or would like more information please contact Myrtle Thompson, the new Elder and Vulnerable Adults Advocate at 707-487-9255 ext 1123.

The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation has received a grant for the Tolowa Elder and Vulnerable Adult Victim Services project. This grant, from the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime, will use funding to establish a comprehensive victim services program for elders and vulnerable adults who have been, or are at risk of, abuse or exploitation.

Unfortunately, the abuse and neglect of American Indian and Alaska Native elders occurs with alarming frequency and more than 79 percent of elder abuse cases go unreported in tribal communities, according to Dorothy Wait, Tribal Council Member and former director of Community and Family Services.

Tribal leaders across the country have identified three major challenges in addressing elder abuse and neglect issues on reservations. There is a need to increase training about elder abuse and neglect, a lack of codes addressing elder abuse issues and a lack of policies and procedures for tribal agencies handling elder abuse and neglect issues.

Wait is excited for how this work will impact the Nation. “This is an opportunity to educate our community about Elder Abuse, educate our Elders on how to recognize if they are being abused, or have in the past, and reinforce the cultural practice of honoring our elders.”