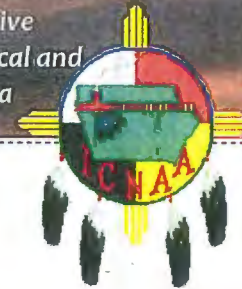




# Iowa Commission on Native American Affairs

*To ensure participation by Native  
Americans in the economic, political and  
social life of the State of Iowa*



The **Commission on Native American Affairs** exists to promote equality for Native Americans through study and recommendation for administrative action and legislation, public information and education, and development of programs and services. We work to:

- Provide the necessary tools to empower American Indians within Iowa
- Educate those around us about American Indians, their beliefs and traditions
- Create an atmosphere that is beneficial for everyone to learn and grow
- Recognize and respect every facet of the American Indian culture
- Engage the community in projects concerning American Indians whenever the opportunity presents itself
- Grow and expand as a commission, creating the best possible environment for everyone in Iowa.

# Native Americans In Iowa ..



**Native American  
Pow-Wow in Iowa**

## **History**

The first American Indian Day was celebrated in May 1916 in New York. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed a joint congressional resolution designating November 1990 as "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar national proclamations have been issued every year since 1994. Iowa's Governors have also issued proclamations to support Native Americans in Iowa.

## **Population**

The estimated number of American Indians in Iowa in 2012 was 14,043. The Census Bureau estimates a 47.8% increase in population between 2000 and 2011.

## Family

The average Native American Family in the year 2012 was 2.81 members for the American Indian and Alaska Native Population in Iowa. The average family size overall in the State of Iowa is 2.4.

## Iowa Natives

The percentage of American Indians and Alaska Natives in 2012 who were born in Iowa was 48.7%. This compares with 72.5% of the total population who were born in the state. Nearly half (44.8%) of the total American Indian and Alaska Native population live in Woodbury, Polk and Tama counties.

## About the Commission

The Commission on Native American Affairs was established in May 2008. It consists of 11 voting members. Members are appointed by the Governor, with confirmation by the Iowa Senate.

- Seven of the members are appointed to represent all areas of Iowa
- One of the seven members will be an enrolled tribal member living on a tribal settlement or reservation in Iowa.
- Four members will be selected by tribal governments
- All members are residents of Iowa
- Meetings are open to the public

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*The Iowa Department of  
Human Rights brings  
strength to our rich  
Iowa heritage.*

**We eliminate cultural and  
economic barriers, and work  
to empower Iowans.**

**We are the voice for many.**

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Iowa Department of Human Rights  
**WE GROW OPPORTUNITY.**

