

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA PROVIDES GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT FOR THE WELFARE OF AMERICAN INDIAN CHILDREN



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About the Child Welfare League of America

The Child Welfare League of America (“CWLA”) oversees a powerful coalition of hundreds of private and public agencies that since 1920 has worked to serve children and families who are vulnerable. CWLA’s expertise, leadership and innovation on policies, programs, and practices help improve the lives of millions of children across the country.

CWLA’s vision is that every child will grow up in a safe, loving, and stable family. CWLA’s focus is children and youth who may have experienced abuse, neglect, family disruption, or a range of other factors that jeopardize their safety, permanence, or well-being.

CWLA Supports a Workgroup of State Indian Child Welfare Managers

The Indian Child Welfare Act (“ICWA”) promotes best child welfare practices by requiring that child welfare agencies provide proper notice to tribes and active efforts to preserve family and community ties before a child who is a member or eligible for membership in a federally recognized tribe can be brought into custody. The law sets forth requirements for how tribes, child welfare agencies, and courts work together to protect the best interests of Indian children and address the security, and stability of the family and tribe.

The ICWA has proven to be challenging to implement because federal regulations had not been promulgated until recently. In an effort to assist the states with their work related to ICWA, the CWLA established the State ICW Managers Workgroup (“Workgroup”) in partnership with the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA). The Workgroup consists of professionals from across the nation who focus on ensuring relevant entities in the state know about ICWA and are following it.



CHALLENGE:

Workgroup Needed a Platform for Sharing Documents and for Discussion Forums

The CWLA established the Workgroup to share best practices, policies, training materials, and other relevant documents amongst this group of professionals. The Workgroup required a social collaboration platform to store and share documents and engage in discussion forums. [Email and listservs failed to provide the necessary discussion continuity and security.](#)



SOLUTION:

Groupsite’s Document Folders and Discussion Forums

The CWLA chose GroupSite because the communication features including the discussion forums, emails blasts, and group blogs provided the Workgroup with the ability to collaborate on best practices and policy issues. GroupSite’s document folders provided the Workgroup with the ability to share documents such as policies and training materials.



“Groupsite enabled members of our Workgroup to quickly access training materials and other helpful best practice resources to assist the states with their implementation of ICWA.”

Julie Collins. VP Practice Excellence, CWLA.