



BUILDING INCLUSIVE SPACES FOR INDIGENOUS YOUTH & SURVIVORS

*This resource is intended to guide service providers in creating **inclusive, trauma-responsive, and culturally grounded spaces** for Indigenous youth and survivors of violence, exploitation, and trafficking.*

KEY PRACTICE APPROACH

TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE & SURVIVOR-CENTERED CARE

- Build **trust through consistent relationships**
- Be transparent about **roles and limitations**
- Acknowledge **power dynamics**
- Avoid re-traumatization through non-punitive services

STRENGTHS-BASED ADVOCACY

- Focus on **existing strengths and resilience**
- Reframe behaviors as **survival strategies**
- Use developmentally appropriate communication

CULTURAL CONNECTION = HEALING



*A strong cultural identity is a **protective factor** that:*

- Reduces suicide risk
- Builds belonging and self-worth
- Strengthens community connection





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PROMOTE CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

- *Cultural teachings, ceremonies, and language*
- *Access to elders and Indigenous role models*
- *Traditional healing, storytelling, and community activities*

HOLISTIC WELLNESS FRAMEWORK

Support the whole person through:

- **Physical** (activity, health, land connection)
- **Emotional** (healing, relationships)
- **Mental** (learning, coping skills)
- **Spiritual** (ceremony, identity, purpose)

BEST PRACTICES FOR INCLUSIVE SPACES

- *Integrate **culturally responsive programming***
- *Support **traditional healing practices and activities***
- *Ensure access to **basic resources and safe environments***
- *Engage in **ongoing collaboration with Indigenous communities***
- *Center **survivor-led and community-driven approaches***

KEY TAKEAWAY

Inclusive spaces for Indigenous youth require **intentional, culturally grounded, and relationship-based practices** that honor resilience, address trauma, and support healing through community and culture.