



For more information, call 1 (877) 505-5437  
or visit us online: [utahfostercare.org](http://utahfostercare.org)

## Statewide Facts:

### American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Children in Foster Care

Utah Foster Care is a private, non-profit organization contracted by the Utah Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) to find, educate, and support foster families caring for AI/AN children and all children in foster care.

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) requires that AI/AN children be placed in the nurturing homes of relatives, members of their clan or tribe, or a member of a different tribe, when possible, in an effort to strengthen and preserve native families and culture.

In Utah, there are approximately 100 AI/AN children in state foster care at any given time. There are fewer than 15 state-licensed AI/AN foster homes in Utah (State of Utah, September 2016).

The primary goal of the foster care system is to help parents resolve their issues so that children can return to a safe home. When that is not possible, it is necessary to find another permanent home for children. Often this means adoption. Most AI/AN children adopted from foster care are adopted by their non-Native foster parents.

In October 2013, Utah Foster Care, launched a new initiative, Native Homes for Native Children, to increase the number of AI/AN foster homes in Utah.

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Contact our AI/AN Specialist

**Stephanie Benally**

(877) 505-5437 Toll-free

[stephanie.benally@utahfostercare.org](mailto:stephanie.benally@utahfostercare.org)

[utahfostercare.org/tribes](http://utahfostercare.org/tribes)

