# NIHSDA 2021 STRATEGIC PLAN

**NIHSDA Mission Statement**  Standing Strong and Preserving the Identity of AIAN Children and Families

**NIHSDA Purpose**  To remain the leading voice for AIAN children in Head Start programs, the National Indian Head Start Directors Association strives to preserve and respect indigenous identity, while actively providing high-quality advocacy, leadership development, and professional growth opportunities to current and future early care and education leaders.

## Key Objectives

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<th>Increase Advocacy and Education Efforts</th>
<th>Increase Leadership and Engagement with Parents and Staff</th>
<th>Enhance Membership Benefits</th>
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## Initiatives

- **Increase Advocacy and Education Efforts**
  - Develop and disseminate NIHSDA information packets to Congressional offices
  - Encourage programs to invite their elected officials to visit their centers
  - Prepare annual Labor-HHS testimony
  - Prepare annual ACF Consultation comments
  - Increase virtual and in-person visits to Washington, DC
  - Better utilize tribal partners during advocacy efforts (NCAI, tribal lobbyists, etc.)
  - Increase meetings with federal offices (ACF, OHS, BIE, White House, STAC, etc.)
  - Coordinate a “call-in-day” for AIAN programs to contact their representatives
  - Hold and AIAN Head Start reception on the Hill

- **Increase Leadership and Engagement with Parents and Staff**
  - Establish a Parent Advisory Council
  - Develop and hold a Parent Leadership Institute
  - Establish a Staff Advisory Council

- **Enhance Membership Benefits**
  - Offer Leadership Skills Training through a cluster focusing on items such as: Coaching, Goal Setting, Conflict Resolution, Communication, Staff Motivation/Appreciation, and Leader vs. Boss
  - Establish leadership cohorts (virtual) to encourage peer networking via training and group work
  - Partner with TTA to offer New Staff Training Clusters to include sample/example materials developed by NIHSDA in addition to “textbook” materials from TTA