



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Researcher Literature Review:

**The Impact of the Boarding School Era
on Native Americans Today**

Issue Date: November 15, 2017

Response Deadline: January 31, 2018

Purpose of the Request for Proposals:

In the effort to bring about justice and healing for Native Americans and to support its continued efforts in legal advocacy and public education, NARF aims to advance research and public understanding of the present effects of boarding school era and policies on Native individuals, tribes, families, and communities.

The purpose of this project is to conduct a rigorous and thorough review of literature regarding the impacts of boarding schools on Native Americans. The review should take into account the landscape of today that includes but is not limited to intergenerational stress and historical trauma and influences the Board School era may have on contemporary economic and social outcomes on reservations, including (but not limited to) high rates of Native youth suicide, substance abuse and other issues facing Native peoples today. In addition, a review of literature concerning how those modern-day continuing harms can be successfully healed or mitigated by tribal communities is necessary. The outcome of the literature review should be a comprehensive summary of the state of knowledge of the present impacts of the Boarding School era and policies on Native Americans, and remedial measures known to address those impacts. This would include a discussion of the strengths and limitations of the existing data and a summary of the knowledge gaps that need to be addressed. The format of this review is not set, and is open to proposal. Due to the immense interest in the topic and the diversity of audiences who may utilize this information, NARF is flexible in how we approach the structure of this document.

NARF envisions the literature review and synthesis would be used to direct subsequent research activities, advance our overall understanding of the present-day impacts of the Boarding School era as well as help to support advocacy and public education.

Scope of Work:

NARF is seeking proposals from qualified candidates to perform research analysis, draft the literature review, and maintain a comprehensive record of all information assessed and included in the final product.

NARF is interested in approaches that creatively address the challenge of preparing a literature review on a topic that includes the possibility of continually emerging research.

This is a dynamic project that may require the skill set of more than one researcher. NARF is open to submissions from individuals, small teams, and/or submission from an individual with the acknowledgement or request that they may need to acquire additional help with some aspects. The researcher/researchers should reflect this in their submitted budget.

Additionally, the researcher(s) will work in correlation with NARF, through an iterative process, to refine the document (and/or other platform) based on their input and feedback. These meetings will likely take place a few times during the drafting of the literature review and on an as-needed basis during the finalization of the review.

The successful researcher or project team will be required to perform the following tasks.

- Perform a thorough literature search of all relevant research related to the proposed topic.
- Prepare a literature review and synthesis listing trends that emerged, possibilities that have been overlooked, research that has shown promise or has shown to be irrelevant, and recommendations for further research.
- Submit an annotated citation list.
- Prepare a summary of knowledge gaps.
- Participate in monthly check-in calls with NARF and incorporate their feedback and input, as appropriate.
- The exact timeline for each task should be included as part of the final proposal; the desired delivery date (pending agreement on exact format) of the draft literature review is May 31, 2018 and the final review is desired by July 31, 2018.

Minimum Qualifications:

This RFP is open to academic researchers, mentored/supervised graduate students, or other professionals meeting the minimum qualifications. All submissions received will be evaluated to determine if they meet the minimum requirements as follows:

- **Researcher Qualifications**
The successful researcher must have the educational background, knowledge and skills necessary to perform the literature review. In addition, the successful researcher must be able to judge the rigor and scientific merit of research publications by evaluating the experimental design, data collection procedures, statistical methods, and validity of conclusions drawn. The successful researcher must be able to understand refereed journals and research articles and assess their value to include in the review.
- **Literature Access**
The successful researcher must have a means of accessing the relevant research and technical publications from appropriate sources, including refereed journals. Use of

citation management software that maintains a database of pdf copies of articles and exports a citation list is preferred (i.e., BibTex, Endnote, or RefWorks). An otherwise qualified candidate without current access to these tools may still submit a proposal and should indicate— as part of his/her budget and scope, or otherwise – how this capacity will be obtained for the project.

- **Communication Skills**

The successful researcher must be able to communicate the results of his/her analysis in a well-written manuscript with comprehensive citations, suitable for publishing in a peer-reviewed journal. The successful researcher may also be asked to present a summary of the results to NARF during their semi-annual Board of Directors meeting. In addition, project teams may incorporate additional communications, outreach, and education skills relevant to the development of online and/or other tools for dissemination, education, and dynamic incorporation of evolving knowledge.

Budget and Time Frame:

Please include a budget with your proposal that encompasses all costs, including any direct costs, and estimated time frame to complete the work. Please consider the following tasks when drafting your budget:*

- Research and analysis
- Drafting the literature review and summary of knowledge gaps
- Participation in sub-group teleconference meetings and in-person meeting
- Document finalization

*Please also describe, if applicable, any matching resources (in-kind or financial) that the proposed individual, team, or institution can contribute to meet the budget for this effort.

Guidance for Submittals:

- Proposals are due by January 31, 2018 at 5pm Mountain Standard Time and should be submitted electronically to: Kalee Salazar, legal assistant, at kalee@narf.org
- Questions about the proposal should be written and sent electronically to: Brett Shelton, staff attorney, via Kalee Salazar at kalee@narf.org
- The submitted proposal should include:
 1. A summary of your approach to complete the literature review
 2. Budget and estimated timeframe to complete the work. Budgets should not exceed \$35,000.
 3. Current Resume or CV and statement of qualifications and ability to perform a literature review project; if your proposal includes a team approach, please include qualifications for the primary members of your team.
 4. One writing sample, written within the last 5 years

Basis for Selection:

NARF will evaluate the qualifications and proposals of submitters and develop a short list to interview. NARF will rank the interviewed submitters, and negotiate the detailed scope of work and final budget with the top-ranked submitter. Compensation may be based on a fixed firm price or time and materials, depending on the final negotiated scope of work and budget.

Background: Native American Rights Fund & Boarding School Healing Project

Founded in 1970, the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) is the oldest and largest nonprofit law firm dedicated to asserting and defending the rights of Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and individual Indians nationwide. The heart of NARF's mission is empowering individuals and communities whose rights, economic self-sufficiency, and political participation have been systemically eroded and undermined. From a historical standpoint, Native Americans have, for numerous reasons and under various laws, been targets of discriminatory practices.

For the past 45 years, NARF has represented over 275 Tribes and Native American organizations in 31 states in such areas as tribal jurisdiction, federal recognition, land claims, hunting and fishing rights, religious liberties, voting rights and, boarding school abuses. This legal advocacy plays a vital role in the survival of tribes and in securing their culture and traditional way of life. NARF strives to protect the most important rights of Indian people within the limit of available resources.

NARF is guided by five priority areas that drive its mission and ongoing work:

1. **Preservation of Tribal Existence:** NARF's foremost priority is to protect and secure continued tribal existence. NARF focuses on preserving tribes' sovereignty — their political status and legal rights as governments. NARF helps tribes maintain their longstanding government-to-government relationships with the United States and with local and state governments as well.
2. **Protection of Tribal Natural Resources:** The political and economic self-determination and self-sufficiency of most tribes depend on maintaining their land and natural resources. NARF helps tribes to safeguard their land rights; water rights; hunting, fishing, and gathering rights; resource rights; and environmental rights.
3. **Accountability of Governments to Native Americans:** NARF strives to hold governments at all levels accountable for the broad range of laws that protect tribal sovereignty and Native rights.

4. **Development of Indian Law & Educating the Public about Indian Rights Issues:** NARF has played a key role in developing a body of federal law pertaining to tribal sovereignty. Over the years, NARF has educated legislators, judges, and officials about Indian law and tribes' rights through consultations and training. NARF also engages in ongoing and national public education.
5. **Promotion of Native American Human Rights:** NARF concentrates on enforcing laws regarding rights to equal protection and to be free from discrimination in education, incarceration, religion, and voting.

NARF Boarding School Healing Project

Compulsory industrial school education for Native children from the mid-1800s through the 1970s has resulted in present-day, sky-high rates of suicide, substance abuse, high school dropout rates, sexual and physical abuse, and other tragedies in Native communities, resulting in families and communities that are unable to support their children in achieving mental and physical health, much less academic achievement. In the United States, mandatory attendance at boarding schools is unique to the Native American experience.

The effects of the Boarding School era continue to ricochet through Native communities today.

With over a century of documented human rights violations in federal Indian boarding school, the mission of the NARF Boarding School Healing Project is to secure a meaningful response from the U.S. government and churches as well as to support efforts for healing and reconciliation among Native American individuals, families, communities, and tribes.

Beginning in May 2011, NARF co-hosted a Symposium in Boulder, Colorado to discuss the harms and trauma suffered by American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) individuals, families and communities and nations as a result of the federal Boarding School Policy that grew out of President Grant's Peace Policy of 1869.

Since that time, NARF has spearheaded efforts to bring together tribes, Native nonprofit organizations, and victims of the boarding school experience to draw the attention of the federal government, churches, and others in Indian Country to the impacts of the boarding school policy and the need for community healing. Through that process, NARF helped to give birth to the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition ("NABS"). Today, NABS is an independent nonprofit organization that continues its important work to bring healing and justice to Native American people impacted by historical, intergenerational traumas of the boarding school era.

In addition to the organizational support NARF provided to NABS, NARF has also conducted outreach to tribes regarding the lasting impact of boarding schools, the need to explore healing models as well as redress from the federal government and churches. NARF is also engaged in international advocacy at the United Nations regarding the abuses and trauma suffered by American Indians and Alaska Natives. NARF remains committed to ensuring justice for all Native

Americans and Tribal Nations through its legal advocacy and public education about the lasting and continued impact of boarding schools.

For more information about NARF and its Boarding School Healing Project, please visit:
<http://www.narf.org/our-work/promotion-human-rights/>