



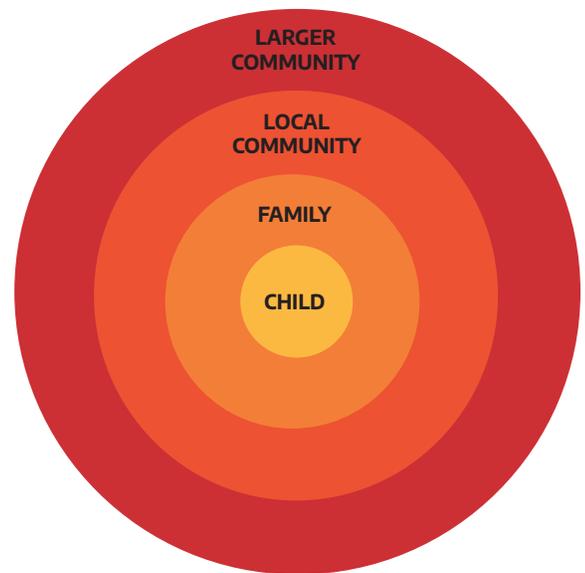
# VICTIM SERVICES

When a Missing Child Incident occurs, the impact on the family and community is immediate. In order to maintain the support of the family and community as well as the integrity of the future investigation, it is imperative to ensure that some level of resources and services are made available. This resource will provide a starting point for ensuring support of those affected by the missing child incident, regardless of geographic location.

## Victim Services and Community Health

Victim Services do not take place in a vacuum and should not be imagined as such. A missing child takes a toll on any community and the response should factor in the well-being of everyone. Additionally, the cultural context of a missing child incident needs to be considered as culturally responsive approaches will have a tremendous effect on the relationship with the family and community and therefore, the integrity and chances of success in the case.

The response of healing and support should be immediate and as holistic as can be. Services for victims and families have ripples into the wider community and impact on the case itself. Offering ongoing support can help keep a family safe and engaged as well as send a clear signal to the community that the investigative agency is invested in successfully recovering the child.



## Where to Start

Service availability can differ widely by region, but there are a core set of pathways for seeking assistance for victims and their families.

- **Team HOPE Hotline : 866-305-HOPE**

The Team HOPE Hotline is a group of people who know firsthand, the emotional depth of experiencing a missing child incident. The trained volunteers of Team HOPE can assist families with tangible steps to support the search for children, provide emotional support in a private and respectful way, and offer a release from some of the most cumbersome feelings of isolation and helplessness that are common for families and caretakers of missing children.

- **Jacob Wetterling Resource Center : 800-325-HOPE**

The Jacob Wetterling Resource Center is a organization committed to the end of all child mistreatment and offers an additional 24/7 hotline. Parents, caretakers, law enforcement and community members can call to access support, and connections to resources for missing child incidents.



- **The investigating agency**

Agencies tasked with responding to the emergency situation of a missing child incident are uniquely positioned to offer support and relief to families and the community. One of the foremost elements of supporting victims is communication, and a perceivable outlook of hope, confidence, and capability. When the family and community can clearly see that the responding agency is taking the incident seriously, making clear efforts to recover the child, and communicates with the family in a kind, empathetic and respectful manner, everyone benefits.

- **Local Tribal family services**

Despite the massive diversity among Native communities, nearly every Tribal Jurisdiction has some kind of local family service agency. These agencies can be immense assets in supporting families and the community after a missing child incident. Officers involved in the investigation of a missing child should work to establish contact with the local Tribal family services agency and offer a bridge of contact for the provision of applicable services.