Federal Recognition Update

On December 5, 2002, the Bureau of Indian Affairs issued its Proposed Finding Against Federal Acknowledgement of the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation.

The Proposed Finding stated that the Tribe did not meet two of the required criteria that it must meet to establish that it is an Indian Tribe within the meaning of federal law. The first criterion that the Tribe failed to meet was to show that most of its members are a community that has existed from historical times until the present. The second criterion that was not met was to show that the Tribe had had political influence or authority over its members since historical times.

The Proposed Finding noted that the Tribe had been recognized by the State of Connecticut. However, the Finding stated that there were substantial periods of time, from the early 1800's until 1875 and from 1885 until the late 1960's, when the State did not deal with or identify formal or informal leaders of the Schaghticoke, and did not consult with members concerning issues which concerned the entire group.

This situation, according to the Finding, makes the Schaghticoke different from the Eastern Pequot Tribe, which was granted a Proposed Finding in favor of recognition earlier that year.


This Proposed Finding stated that the Tribe did not meet three of the required criteria that it must meet to establish that it is an Indian Tribe within the meaning of federal law. The first two criteria were the same ones that the Schaghticoke were found not to have met. The third (Continued on next page)

Legislative Update

Bills Affecting Native Americans:

In January, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, Bill No.7501. That bill eliminates "Las Vegas Nights" and is intended to prevent more casinos being developed. It is expected that this bill will be challenged in the courts.

The following are proposed bills being considered by the Legislature this session:

- Resolution No. 11. This resolution would amend the state constitution to state that it is the public policy of Connecticut to prohibit gambling.
- Proposed Bill No.262. This bill would prohibit the use or conveyance of state land for a gambling casino.
- Proposed Bill No. 5255. This bill would require that any person filing a claim stating that land was originally owned or controlled by an Indian Tribe and was unlawfully transferred from the Tribe must provide a surety bond of five million dollars. The stated purpose of the bond is to protect against any devaluation of real property surrounding the land that is the subject of the claim.
- Proposed Bill No. 5336. This bill would eliminate state recognition of Tribes that do not have federal recognition and requires them, and any other group, to ask for state recognition through a Commission on Tribal Recognition.
- Proposed Bill No. 5801. This bill would eliminate the Connecticut Indian Affairs Council and replace it with a Commission on Native American Affairs.

General:

As of January 1, 2003 some new laws went into effect. A few that may be of interest are:

Public Act 02-33 - As of January 1, 2003 the minimum wage in Connecticut increased to $6.90 per hour and as of January 1, 2004, the minimum wage will rise to $7.10 per hour.

Public Act 02-7 - This act requires that an Alternative Base Period (ABP) be used in calculating Unemployment Compensation for the next 3 years. The ABP formula will be used if you are ineligible for unemployment compensation because you do not have sufficient earned income during the standard base period. This act requires that your wages from the most recently completed quarter be used if you are not eligible using the standard base period.
3. If someone in the household is at least 60 years or disabled, apply if your income is less than the amounts listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># in house</th>
<th>Annual income</th>
<th>Monthly income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$17,720</td>
<td>$1,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$23,880</td>
<td>$1,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$39,060</td>
<td>$3,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$52,160</td>
<td>$4,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$64,250</td>
<td>$5,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$76,340</td>
<td>$6,370</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Contact your utility company about its arrearage forgiveness program if you owe the company money. This is a payment program that forgives back bills based on the amount of payments the household makes and the amount of energy assistance received.

5. Repairs or replacements of unsafe furnaces or furnaces that are not working are available to some households.

6. More weatherization assistance (making your home energy efficient) is available. Your Landlord's permission is needed.

Call Statewide Legal Services for free advice at 1-800-453-3320 or (860) 344-0380.

Be Aware of These Changes!

Benefits for households that heat with electricity or gas have been reduced. Last year, these households could get slightly higher benefits to make up for the fact that they are ineligible for the crisis assistance available to households heating with deliverable fuels (oil, propane, wood, coal). This year, those higher benefits have been eliminated. Benefit levels for lower income households will be the same as last year (except for the reduction mentioned above). But because state funding for benefits has been eliminated (federal funding is still available), it is more likely that the state will run out of funds before the program closes. Individuals or families who receive assistance from the state (TFA, AABD or State Supplement, SAGA or GA, or Food Stamps) who live with others who do not receive assistance may not be eligible for energy assistance this year. In the past, these low-income individuals could "carry" some energy assistance benefits with them when they doubled up.

More Winter Heating Assistance

The following information appeared in the February 2003 edition of CABIN FEVER. Website: www.larc.org/

SS has just announced that federal funds have been released to cover expanded winter heating assistance benefits to higher income households. Contingency Heating Assistance Program (CHAP) benefits are now available to households up to 60% of state median income (for example, monthly income up to $2,150 for one person or $3,474 for three people). The benefit amount will be the same this year as last year, a flat $200 per household. Emergency furnace repair funds

(Continued on next page)
are available for homeowners eligible for energy assistance with household income less than 150% of the federal poverty level (for example, monthly income up to $1108 for one person or $1878 for three people).

Contact Infoline at 211 or your local Community Action Agency to find the location of the nearest application site. The deadline to apply for energy assistance is April 30th, but the program may close down earlier if funds run out. Call to make an appointment to apply today to increase the chances of receiving this benefit.

How To Get Help If You Are Affected By the Closing of DSS Offices

The following information appeared in the February 2003 edition of CABIN FEVER. Website: www.larce.org

The Department of Social Services (DSS) has closed its regional offices in Ansonia, Bristol, Killingly, Meriden, Norwalk and Willimantic. As a result of a lawsuit brought by Legal Services organizations on behalf of clients affected by the closings, DSS has presented a written plan outlining how people in need of benefits or other DSS services will be able to get them. The basic points in the plan are listed below:

- **Use mail and phone:** For clients in the towns affected by the office closings, as much business as possible will be conducted by phone and mail. Toll-free phone numbers to DSS offices will be available to clients in the affected towns and DSS will provide postage paid envelopes for mailings on request.

- **Waive required in-person interviews:** For many programs, there are provisions for waiving in-person interviews when the client can show good cause, as a result of disability, work schedules or transportation problems, for not being able to go to the office. These provisions have not been used very often in the past. For clients affected by office closings for the next three months, DSS workers have been instructed to accept the client’s statement of inability to travel without further verification, and waive the in-person interview.

- **Use home visits or designated representatives:** When an in-person meeting is required and the client cannot go to the DSS office, a DSS worker will conduct a home visit or the client may designate someone to represent the client at the in-person.

- **Postpone redeterminations:** For clients in affected towns for the next three months, DSS will postpone required redeterminations where possible under program rules.

- **Contact Community Action Agencies:** Community Action Agencies in the affected towns have agreed to assist clients with disabilities who need help filling out forms, contacting DSS, faxing or copying documents and verifying identity for expedited Food Stamp applications.

- **Establish Disability Assistance Help Line:** For people with disabilities, a special toll-free help line has been established. The number is 1-800-842-2159. For people with hearing disabilities, the TDD/TYY line is 1-800-842-4524.

If You Have Problems Using The New System, Contact Legal Services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affected Towns</th>
<th>Legal Help</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby,</td>
<td>Joanne Giubau (New Haven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford, Seymour, Shelton</td>
<td>Legal Assistance):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>203-946-4811 ext142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avon, Canton, Simsbury,</td>
<td>Lucy Potter (Greater Hartford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmington, Bristol, Burlington,</td>
<td>Legal Assistance):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth, Southington</td>
<td>860-541-5002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn, Canterbury, Eastford,</td>
<td>Shirley Bergert (CT Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret,</td>
<td>Services):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putnam, Thompson, Woodstock</td>
<td>860-456-1761 or 1-800-413-7796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meriden, Wallingford</td>
<td>Sharon Langer (ext 108) or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Caitlin Simon (ext 106) (CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Legal Services):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8678 or 1-800-223-7619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Canaan, Wilton, Norwalk,</td>
<td>Amy Marx (CT Legal Services,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weston, Westport</td>
<td>Stamford): (ext 106) or 1-800-541-9899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Or Nadine Nevins (CT Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Services, Bridgeport):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>203-336-3851 or 1-800-809-4434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashford, Chaplin, Columbia,</td>
<td>Shirley Bergert (CT Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coventry, Hampton, Mansfield,</td>
<td>Services):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland, Union, Willington,</td>
<td>860-456-1761 or 1-800-413-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windham, Willimantic</td>
<td>7796</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you can’t reach the individual listed immediately or aren’t sure who to call, contact Statewide Legal Services at 1-800-453-3320. The judge in the lawsuit has indicated her willingness to review whether the plan is adequate if there is evidence of problems.
Free Tax Filing Help for Low-Income Taxpayers
If you worked in 2002 and are a low income wage earner, a legal assistance client or a housing authority resident, you are probably eligible for some tax credits. This could reduce what you owe or increase your refund. So file early and file for free!
Locations for assistance:
New Haven Legal Assistance, 426 State Street, New Haven, CT 203-946-4811 11:00 - 2:00
Saturdays: 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/1 & 3/22
Valley Legal Assistance TEAM Office, 30 Elizabeth Street, Derby, CT 860-736-6420
Every Friday 1:30 - 4:30
(except February 14th and April 4th)

Important Tax Information

Claim your Earned Income Credit
If you worked in 2002, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Credit. If so, you'll owe less in taxes, and you could get cash back. Even if you don't owe income tax, you can get the EIC.

- If you raised one child in your home in 2002 and if your family earned less than $29,201 (or $30,201 for married workers), you can get up to $2,506.
- If you raised more than one child in your home in 2002 and your family earned less than $33,178 (or $34,178 for married workers), you can get up to $4,140.
- If you weren't raising a child, were between the ages of 25 and 64 on December 31, 2002, and earned less than $11,060 in 2002, you can get up to $376.
- If you were raising children in 2002, you must file federal tax return Forms 1040 or 1040A and must fill out and attach Schedule EIC. You cannot get the EIC if you file for Form 1040EZ or fail to attach Schedule EIC. Married workers must file a joint return.
- If you weren't raising children in 2002, file the return you would normally file (including the 1040EZ). Be sure to write "EIC" or the dollar amount of your credit on the Earned Income Credit line of your tax form. Do not file Schedule EIC.
- You don't have to calculate your own EIC. If you choose, the IRS will do it for you.

Questions & Answers About the EIC:

Which children qualify for the EIC?
The following children qualify:
- Sons, daughters, stepchildren, and grandchildren, and adopted children
- Brothers, sisters, stepbrothers, or stepsisters — as well as descendents of such relatives — if they were cared for as members of the family
- Other children may qualify as foster children, but only if they are placed with the worker by an authorized government or private placement agency
- Qualifying children must live with the worker for more than half of the year. (As of 2002, a full year is no longer required for foster children.) They must be under age 19, or under age 24 if they are full-time students. Totally and permanently disabled children of any age also may be qualifying children. Valid Social Security numbers are required for qualifying children born before December 31, 2002.

What if I don't know how to file a tax return?
To get free help filing your tax return and for more information about the Earned Income Credit, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

Can I get a quick refund with my Earned Income Credit?
Yes. But it may not be your best choice. Quick refunds take away money from your EIC. Remember, free tax help is available.

What if I'm not a U.S. citizen?
Many legal immigrants who are employed are eligible for the EIC. Getting the credit will not hurt your immigration status. If you are a Canadian-born Native American, you may be eligible.

I work and get public Assistance benefits. If I get the EIC, will I lose my other benefits?
In most cases, no. The EIC does not affect federal benefits like TANF, Food Stamps, SSI, Medicaid or housing.

Get FREE Help Filing Your Taxes!
VITA, a program of the IRS, helps people fill out their tax forms for free. VITA sites are open from late January through April 15. To find the VITA sites near you, call 1-800-829-1040. Be patient — the line is often busy. Remember: paying for tax preparation takes money away from YOUR refund.

Five Helpful Changes to the EIC this Year
1. The EIC benefit has increased for married workers. Eligible married workers who were raising children and earned above $13,520 in 2002 will get a slightly higher EIC than a single worker with the same income. Eligible married workers not claiming a child and with income above $6,150, will also get slightly more than a single worker with the same

(Continued on next page)
2. The residency requirement for foster children has been changed. In the past, a foster child had to have lived with you for 12 months in order to be a qualifying child. Now, foster children are treated like other children and must live with you for "more than half of the year."

3. Claims by custodial parents have priority. Under previous rules, if a parent and grandparent lived together and could claim the same qualifying child (because the child could be claimed as the child of one and the grandchild of the other) the person with the highest income got the credit. Now, the parent can claim the credit even if the parent's income is lower than the grandparent's. If the parent does not claim the credit, however, the grandparent may claim it.

4. Non-taxable income is no longer included as income for the EIC. In the past, non-taxable earned income, such as a housing and subsistence allowance for members of the military, were included in the calculation of how much earned income you had. Now, these types of income are not considered. If you are affected by this change, you will be eligible for a larger credit than you received in the past.

5. Your adjusted gross income will no longer be "modified" to calculate your income. In the past, EIC eligibility was based on your "modified adjusted gross income." This meant that certain things, such as business losses, were added back to your income. In some cases, this modified income would have been too high to claim the EIC. Now, those modifications have been eliminated and your EIC eligibility will be figured using only your adjusted gross income. If you were not eligible last year because your modified income was too high, you may be eligible this year.

Avoid Refund Delays!

Be sure to provide the correct name and Social Security number for each person listed on your tax return.

Increase Your Take-Home Pay With The EIC Advance Payment Option

Most workers get their EIC in one large check from the IRS after they file a tax return. You have another choice. Your employer can add part of your EIC to every paycheck. You get the rest of your credit after you file your return.

In 2003, you can qualify for an Advance EIC payment if you have at least one qualifying child and you expect your 2003 income to be less than $29,666 ($30,666 if you are married).

If you are not raising a child in your home, you are not eligible for advance payments. You are not eligible if you get paid day to day; if you have no Social Security and Medicare taxes withheld from your pay, or if you are a self-employed worker who cannot advance your EIC to yourself.

In order to get the advance payment, just fill out a W-5 form called the "Earned Income Credit Advance Payment Certificate" and give the bottom part to your employer. You should be able to get the form from your employer. You can also get the form by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM or you can download the form from the IRS website at http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html. You can file a W-5 any time during the year, but you must file a new W-5 at the beginning of every year in order to continue getting advance payments.

You should not ask for advance payment if you hold more than one job; if you expect to get married during the year and both of you work; if you expect your income to increase a lot during the year; if you have a spouse who also works, unless you both take advance payments. If something happens during the year that would change the amount of the EIC you should be getting, such as getting married or a big raise, you can ask your employer to stop putting advance payments in your paycheck. Just fill out another W-5 form and give it to your employer.

If you get advance payments during the year, you must file a tax return at the end of the year and include the total amount you received as an advance payment. You must also file Schedule EIC.

Child Tax Credit Benefits Many Workers Receiving the EIC

The Child Tax Credit is now worth up to $600 for each dependent child under age 17. In 2002, even families that earned too little to owe income tax can get the credit. This credit is different than the Child and Dependent Care Credit that helps workers who need day care in order to work.

To be eligible for the credit, you must be able to claim an exemption for a dependent child under age 17, have taxable income of $10,350, and have either a Social Security number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. Immigrant workers with either type of number may be able to claim the credit. This credit does not affect your ability to take the EIC and will not reduce any benefits you can get from the EIC.

You must file Form 1040 or 1040A (not 1040EZ) in order to claim the credit. The credit is first used to reduce or eliminate any tax that you might owe. If any credit is left after your income tax has been eliminated, you then must file Form 8812 to find out if you qualify for a refund.
Under a rule that was in effect until 2001, some low-income families with three or more children have qualified for an "Additional Child Tax Credit." For some families, the refund they would have gotten under the old rules would be larger than the amount they would get under the new rules. Form 8812 allows those families to claim the refund amount that is the higher of the two.

The Child and Dependent Care Credit

You may also qualify for another federal tax credit. The Child and Dependent Care Credit is a tax benefit that helps you pay for child care you need in order to work or look for work. The credit is also open to you if you must pay for the care of a spouse or an adult dependent who cannot care for him or herself.

In the past, many low-income families could not take advantage of both the Child Tax Credit and the Child and Dependent Care Credit. That has changed. Now, you may find that the effect of the Child and Dependent Care Credit is to increase the amount of any refund you might be eligible for with the Child Tax Credit.

You can claim this credit as well as the EIC. You should know, however, that if you earn too little to pay federal income tax, you cannot get this credit. This is different from the EIC. You can claim the EIC even if you are earning too little to pay income tax.

You can claim this credit if

- You paid for care in 2002 for a child under age 13 or for a disabled adult who lived with your family, and
- You needed the child or dependent care in order to work or look for work (In a two-parent family, both spouses must have needed care available in order to work or look for work, unless one spouse was a full-time student or unable to care for him or herself), and
- You paid over half the cost of keeping up your home (such as rent, food, etc.), and
- You paid less for your dependent care than your 2002 income. If you are married and filing jointly, the income of the spouse with the lowest income must be more than the amount you paid for care. There are special rules for figuring the income of a spouse who was a full-time student or disabled.

The size of your credit will depend on the number of children or dependents needing care, the amount of your income and what you paid for care during the year.

In order to claim the credit, you must file Form 1040 or 1040A. Specific instructions on this Credit are included with the forms. If you need help, contact the VITA site nearest you. You may get free information about this Credit, or any other tax matter, by calling 1-800-TAX-1040.
Manchester: 860-645-4033
Meriden: 203-238-1501
Middletown: 860-301-0030
New Britain: 860-225-6357
New Haven: 203-789-8104
New London: 860-301-0030
New York: Domestic Violence Services of New London County
Norwalk: Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Stamford: Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Torrington: Susan B. Anthony Project
Waterbury: Women’s Emergency Shelter
Willimantic: Domestic Violence Program/United Services

Elder Abuse and Neglect:
INFO LINE (for after hours emergencies) 211
Statewide (Toll Free) 1-888-385-4225
East Region:
Greater Norwich/New London Area 860-886-2641
Windham Area 860-465-3550
Northeast Region:
Hartford Area 860-723-1003
Manchester/New Britain/Bristol Areas 860-647-5930
Northwest Region:
Torrington Area 860-496-6950
Waterbury/Danbury Area 203-596-4242
South Region:
Middletown/Meriden/Wallingford Areas 860-704-3040
New Haven 203-974-8029
Southwest Region:
Bridgeport Area 203-551-2701
Norwalk Area 860-855-2759
Stamford Area 203-251-9392

Mental Health:
Ansonia: Valley Mental Health Center 203-736-2601
Branford: Harbor Health Services 203-483-2630
Bridgeport: Greater Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center 203-551-7507
Danbury: Danbury Hospital 888-447-3339
East Hartford: Intercommunity Mental Health Group 860-895-3100
Enfield: North Central Counseling Services 860-863-8068
Hartford: Capitol Region Mental Health Center
Website: www.dhhs.state.ct.us/crmhc/homepage.htm
Hartford: The Samaritans of the Capitol Region 860-232-2121
Manchester: Genesis Center 860-747-3434
Meriden: Crisis Stabilization Program 1-800-567-0902

Middletown: River Valley Services 860-344-2100
Middletown: Middlesex Hospital Crisis Assessment and Triage Service 860-344-6496
Milford: Bridges Community Support System
Website: www.bridgesmilford.org
New Haven: Connecticut Mental Health Center 9am-10pm
Website: www.dhhs.state.ct.us/cmhc/
10pm-8am
New Haven: Camps
Norwich: Southeastern Mental Health Authority
Website: www.dhhs.state.ct.us/smha/index.htm
Plainville: Wheeler Clinic
Website: www.wheelercare.org/1-800-203-1234
Rocky Hill: Infinsite
Stamford: F.S. DaBois Center 203-358-8500
Torrington: Northwest Mental Health Authority 860-447-3339
Waterbury: Waterbury Hospital 203-573-6500
West Mystic: Contact of Southeast Connecticut
1-800-848-1281

Poison Control: Connecticut Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222
TD-866-218-5372
Sexual Assault Crisis Programs:
(Hotline Numbers)
Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield Co., Inc. Rape Crisis Service 203-333-2233
Women’s Center of Greater Danbury Sexual Assault Crisis Service 203-731-5204
Hartford Region YWCA Sexual Assault Crisis Services 860-522-6666
Central Connecticut YWCA Sexual Assault Crisis Service 860-635-4424
Rape Crisis Center of Milford 203-878-1212
New Britain YWCA Sexual Assault Crisis Service 860-223-1787
Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis 203-624-2273
Northeastern Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Service 860-456-2789
Susan B. Anthony Project for Women (Serving Northwestern Connecticut) 860-482-7133
Women’s Emergency Shelter Sexual Assault Crisis Service (serving greater Waterbury) 203-753-3613
Sexual Assault Crisis Center (Lower Fairfield County) 203-329-2929

Youth Crisis:
Contact the nearest Youth Service Bureau through your town hall

LEGAL RESOURCES
Lawyer Referral Service:
Website: www.ctbar.org/public_for_the_public/lawyer_referral.shtml
This service can recommend a private lawyer who, for a small fee, will assist e a case and give an estimate of charges.
Fairfield County 203-335-4116
Hartford 860-525-6952
New Haven Area/Waterbury/Middlesex County 203-562-5750
New London/Norwich 860-889-9384
Legal Assistance Programs:
These organizations give free civil legal help to income eligible people. This help includes telephone advice, referrals, direct representation, and giving out self-help material, depending on the priorities and resources of the organization.

STATEWIDE
Statewide Legal Services 1-800-453-3320
in Middletown 860-344-0380
Website: hsct.org/
Statewide Legal Services screens cases for all legal assistance programs in the state, giving brief service and advice, community education materials, and referrals to local legal services offices for non-criminal cases. Please call Statewide Legal Services first, unless you have an emergency that needs to be settled that day or you are over age 60.

Bridgeport
Connecticut Legal Services 203-336-3851
Website: www.colegalservice.org/index.htm

New Britain
Connecticut Legal Services 1-800-233-7619

New London
Connecticut Legal Services 1-800-413-7798

Stamford
Connecticut Legal Services 1-800-541-8099

Waterbury
Connecticut Legal Service 1-800-413-7797

Willimantic
Connecticut Legal Services 1-800-413-7796

New Haven
New Haven Legal Assistance 203-946-4811
Website: www.nhgal.org/index.htm

Hartford
Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc. (serving Greater Hartford) 860-541-5000
Website: www.ghla.org/index.htm

Center for Medicare Advocacy
Website: www.medicareadvocacy.org/
This organization gives legal advice, written materials and representation to elderly and disabled people prevented Medicare coverage for home health care, skilled nursing facility care, rehabilitation and other health services. Services are free to residents of Connecticut.
Telephone: 1-888-262-4414

Connecticut Legal Rights Project
Website: www.mindlink.org/cgrp.html
This organization helps low-income adults who have or are perceived to have psychiatric disabilities. Its staff may also help clients to protect their civil rights in conservatorship and commitment proceedings or in discrimination in housing.
Telephone: 1-877-402-2299

Connecticut Lawyer’s Legal Aid to The Elderly
This organization offers legal help to low-income elderly in the Hartford area.
Telephone: 860-273-4303

Children’s Law Center
Website: www.clccts.org/
This organization gives legal representation to children in northeastern Connecticut using a lawyer/mental health team approach. The Center also provides legal information about situations involving children through the Children’s Lawline (1-888-LAWDOOR).
Telephone: 860-232-9993

Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Fund
Website: www.cwealf.org/
This organization provides a free telephone counseling, information and legal referral line for help on discrimination, harassment and family matters. The group also offers community education and training, mainly in employment and family law. For information on workshops, call 860-247-6090.
Telephone: 1-800-479-2949

Legal Assistance to Medicare Patients
Website: elderlaw.org
LAMP is part of Connecticut Legal Services, Inc. a non-profit law firm.
Telephone: 1-800-413-7796

Disabilities:

Connecticut Office Of Protection and Advocacy For Persons With Disabilities
Website: www.state.ct.us/OPAPD
60B Weston Street
Hartford CT 06120
Toll Free Telephone: 1-800-842-7303
Hartford area: 860-297-4300
TDD: 860-566-2102
Fax: 860-566-8714, Email: ctopapd@connix.com

 Discrimination:

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities
Website: www.state.ct.us/chro/index.html
Capital Region:
1229 Albany Avenue
Hartford, CT 06112-2193
Tel.: 860-506-7710

West Central Region:
Rowland State Government Center
55 West Main St.
Suite 210
Waterbury, CT 06702-2004
Tel.: 203-805-6530

Central Office:
21 Grand Street
Hartford CT 06106
Tel.: 860-541-3400
1-800-477-5737

Social Security:
Website: www.ssa.gov/

Some Helpful Native American Web Sites

Native Web: www.nativeweb.org/NativeTech/Nipmuc/
Pine Tree Legal Assistance: www.ptla.org
Index of Native American Resources on the Internet: www.hanksville.org/NAsources
Free Indian News: www.freindiannews.com/
Native Links: www.johneco.com/native/ Native Sense: www.nativesense.com/
Aboriginal Links: www.bloorstreet.com/300block/hborean.htm
Wabanaki Confederacy: communities.minns/WabanakiConfederacy
Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut: www.larce.org
Statewide Legal Services: www.incourt.org/shct.org/