

2018 - 2019

# STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

“WIDENING THE SACRED CIRCLE”



NATIVE AMERICANS  
IN PHILANTHROPY

**For 28 years**, Native Americans in Philanthropy has sought to advance responsible and responsive investments in Native communities through education and advocacy within the philanthropic sector. Whether hosting regional summits, training Native leaders, or connecting organizations to opportunities, Native Americans in Philanthropy seeks to restore all Native communities to full health and sustainability.

## The Need

Most philanthropic efforts to improve the lives of men and women of color overlook the distinctive needs of Native Americans, and foundation funding for Native issues and communities remains disproportionately low:



Despite Native Americans accounting for **nearly 2% (5.4 million)** of the U.S. population, philanthropic funding for the population remains **less than 0.5 percent** of annual foundation grant dollars.

Like other people of color in the United States, Native Americans face historical and contemporary structural racism and systematic discrimination. Furthermore, Native Americans face a settler-colonial legacy of physical and cultural genocide that continues to threaten the health, wellness and very survival of future generations.

For instance, from 1869 to the 1960s (over four generations), as many as 100,000 Native American children were forcibly removed from their homes and families and placed in Boarding Schools – operated by the

federal government and Christian churches -- that explicitly aimed for the destruction of Native cultures and communities. The children were punished for speaking their Native language, banned from acting in any way that might be seen to represent traditional or cultural practices, and stripped of traditional clothing, hair and personal belongings and behaviors reflective of their Native culture. They suffered physical, sexual, cultural and spiritual abuse, and neglect. In many cases, the treatment they experienced constituted torture for speaking their Native languages. Many children never returned home and the abuse and trauma they suffered has yet to be accounted for by the U.S. government. The modern legacy of the Indian Boarding School Era -- though mostly unacknowledged, especially in mainstream education and media -- is evident in the challenges Native communities face today.

In 1969, the Senate convened a Special Subcommittee on Indian Education to investigate the challenges facing Native students. The resulting report, entitled "Indian Education: A National Tragedy, a National Challenge," delivered a scathing indictment of the federal government's Indian education policies. It concluded that the "dominant policy . . . of coercive assimilation" has had "disastrous effects on the education of Indian children, which makes clear the critical need for work to address trauma and healing."



**81%** of Native Men experience violence in their lifetime.



**84%** of Native Women experience violence in their lifetime.



Native Children are overrepresented in the foster care system at more than **2.6 times** the expected level.



Native Youth commit suicide at a rate that is **2.5 times** the national average.



Native Youth are **5 times** more likely to be placed in the criminal justice system than white youth.



## A Better Future is Possible

Traditionally, Native Americans societies were sophisticated in their social structures, kin relationships and childrearing practices. A return to these traditional ways – or “original instructions” – has proven to be effective as protective factors for children, families and communities. These traditional ways and protective factors are consistent with what Western knowledge is now catching up with through advances in brain science, child development and other fields. By returning to our original instructions, we secure a healthy future for our future generations.

From Standing Rock to the divestment movement, Native communities are at the forefront of movement building around climate change, environmental and social justice, and a number of other issues, demonstrating their leadership, resiliency and relentless commitment for a better world. Native Americans were, and will always be, the original resistance.

Through all of this work, Native Americans in Philanthropy supports communities to advance cross-cultural, cross-issue social change built upon Native traditions, experiences and worldview.

**United, we can make our vision of leveraging philanthropy to build healthy and sustainable Native communities a reality.**

## Our Achievements

Formed in 1990 by a small delegation of Indigenous professionals who were startled by the severe lack of representation in the philanthropic and foundation sector, Native Americans in Philanthropy aimed to bring more Native voices to the sector; create culturally connected professional development opportunities for Native Americans in the sector; and serve as a platform in philanthropy to raise awareness and advocate for funding to Native organizations and tribal communities.



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Over the past 28 years, Native Americans in Philanthropy has become a powerful and continuously growing network of Native and non-Native nonprofits, tribal communities, foundations and community leaders committed to engaging, learning and sharing resources and best practices grounded in Native values and traditions. Native Americans in Philanthropy has been a consistent advocate for the protection of tribal sovereignty, land and water rights, women’s rights, Native youth leadership and Native inter-generational healing. Through partnerships and cross-movement advocacy efforts, our organization works to elevate key issues and to address the pressing needs of our communities with culturally comprehensive approaches.

## Our Challenge

The current sociopolitical environment has heightened divisions, fostered uncertainty, and shifted funds and focus away from addressing our communities’ challenges. There is no more urgent time than now for us to connect across communities and issues. We have to amplify our power to protect the gains we have made and continue progressing towards a better, more equitable future.



## Our Mission

**The mission of Native Americans in Philanthropy is to promote equitable and effective philanthropy in Native communities.**

In 2015, Native Americans in Philanthropy took a bolder stance towards supporting advocacy and movement building. Whereas in the past, NAP has supported flagship program areas to educate philanthropy, enhance Native nonprofit leadership, and invest in data and research within philanthropy, it shifted to meet these same strategies through a series of targeted advocacy campaigns. Advocacy is defined as any action that educates, recommends, speaks in favor of, and/or supports or defends on behalf of an issue or a group of people. Campaign is defined as a planned series of strategies and actions designed to achieve clear goals and objectives.

**Native Americans in Philanthropy has worked to elevate key issues with culturally comprehensive approaches to advance its vision of healthy and sustainable communities.**

### **NAP has implemented advocacy through the following strategies:**

- 1. Public education:** Educating the community on relevant issues through social media, speaking engagements, events and programming.
- 2. Educational conferences:** Gathering, networking, sharing information, and planning for the future.
- 3. Engaging philanthropy:** Advocating for resources to support Native leaders, organizations and communities to impact priority issue areas.

### **Advocacy campaigns to date have included the following key issue areas:**

- **Native American Youth (Generation-Indigenous)**
- **Native American Women and Girls (Indigenous Women Rise)**
- **Cross-movement Organizing (Movement of Movements)**
- **Trauma and Healing**

Through new and deeper partnerships and cross-movement efforts guided by an understanding of intersectional spaces, Native Americans in Philanthropy has worked to elevate key issues with culturally comprehensive approaches to advance its vision of healthy and sustainable communities.



## Through its campaign work, NAP has successfully:

- **Initiated a relationship between the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and Wallace Global Fund** during an educational funders tour in Standing Rock, resulting in a pledge of \$1.25 million towards renewable energy efforts and \$250,000 cash gift to the Tribe. (Key issue area: Native American Youth)
- **Amplified the work of nonprofits serving Native youth and their communities** through a philanthropic White House event and regional Gen-I philanthropic convenings. Generation Indigenous (#GenIndigenous) is an initiative for Native youth first started by the Obama administration in 2014. (Key issue area: Native American Youth)
- **Supported investments in Native community organizing** through the Native Voices Rising Project, a grant making collaboration to increase funding available to Native communities for community organizing, advocacy, and civic and voter engagement. (Key issue areas: Native American Youth, Native American Women and Girls, Trauma and Healing)
- **Influenced funding through two grant-making collaboratives:** a) the #GenIndigenous Response Fund, housed at The Minneapolis Foundation, which provides grants to youth organizing groups responding to the current moment in ways that build long-term power for Native youth, and b) Native Voices Rising, a partnership with the Common Counsel Foundation, designed to support organizing, advocacy and civic engagement in Native communities. (Key issue areas: Native American Youth, Native American Women and Girls, Trauma and Healing)
- **Supported the development of Native philanthropic organizations** implementing a wide array of giving models and approaches grounded in Native values and worldview – expanding and enriching the field of institutional philanthropy.
- **Led a one-day summit in Los Angeles, California, “Invisible No More,”** curating powerful conversation among leaders dedicated to cross-movement building efforts. (Key issue area: Cross-movement Organizing)
- **Helped convene hundreds of Native men and women to advocate for Indigenous issues** at the Women’s March in Washington, DC with the Indigenous Women Rise collective. (Key issue area: Native American Women and Girls)
- **Facilitated new sources of revenue for Native American focused organizations:** a) a portion of the proceeds arising from the sale of TOGETHER WE RISE, the definitive oral and visual chronicle of the Women’s March in 2017, will benefit the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center (NIWRC), and b) proceeds from Decolonizing Wealth: Medicine to Heal Divides and Restore Balance will benefit the #GenIndigenous Fund in partnership with The Minneapolis Foundation.
- **Collaborated with a number of influencers,** including John Legend, Harness and Taboo of Black Eyed Peas, to raise visibility for Native issues (Key issue area: narrative change, youth, healing)

## Our Approach

### Native Americans in Philanthropy's Theory of Change:

The overarching purpose of Native Americans in Philanthropy is to influence and increase funding to Native communities. NAP achieves this through four programmatic areas of work:

- 1. Native lens to grantmaking:** NAP educates and engages funders to adopt strategic and inclusive grantmaking strategies through its Native Culture and Context for Philanthropy program, Indigenous-led research and advocacy.
- 2. Direct connections between funders and leaders in communities:** NAP facilitates opportunities for funders to directly connect with Native leaders and communities through its Native Voices Rising and #GenIndigenous Response Fund re-granting initiatives and immersive funder tours and convenings.
- 3. Nonprofit fundraising capacity building:** NAP supports Native nonprofit fundraising professionals expand their skills and knowledge through its Art of Reciprocity training, which reflects the Indigenous values, culture and history of giving grounded in their own experience and vision of the future.
- 4. Native philanthropic leadership pipeline:** NAP educates and empowers Native leadership in the philanthropic and nonprofit sector through its Circle of Leadership Academy and Alumni Network.

These areas of work are framed by our key advocacy, narrative change and healing strategies that promote Native voices, experiences, traditions and worldview as powerful drivers of change.

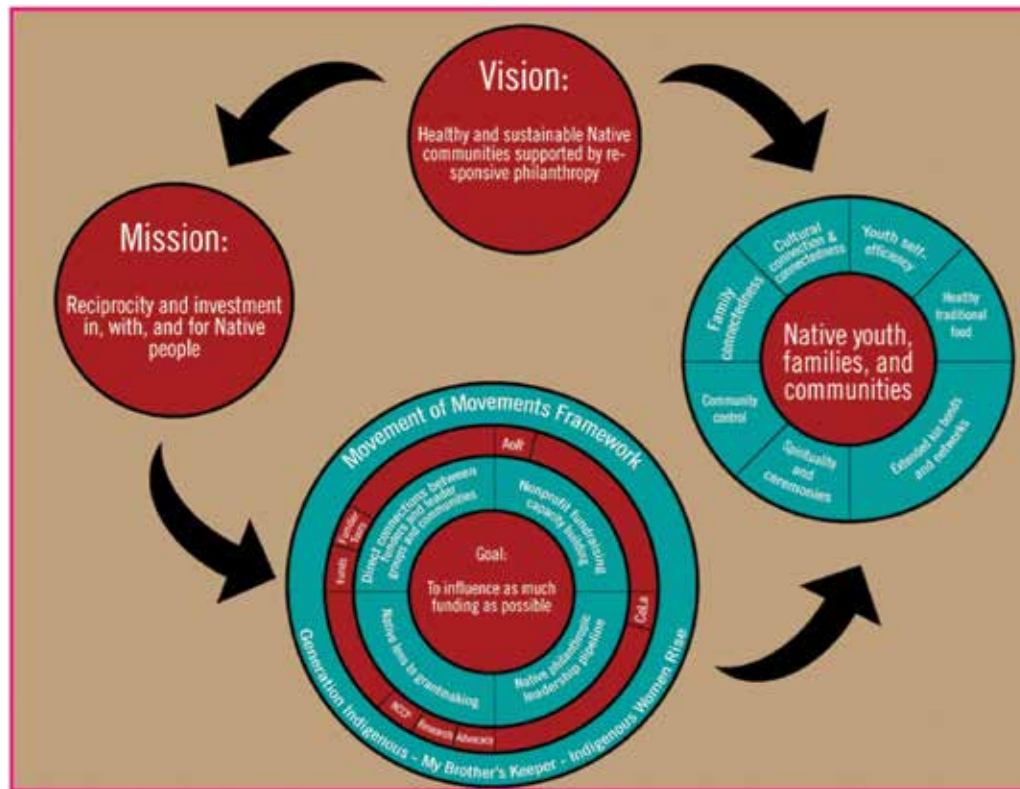
## Specific Goals

### Native Americans in Philanthropy's 2018-19 priority goals are as follows:

- **Increase** philanthropic investment in Native communities to contribute to healthy and sustainable communities.
- **Strengthen** supports for Native, philanthropic and nonprofit leaders to further diversify the sector.
- **Improve** the availability of regular, reliable data and Indigenous-led research on philanthropic giving to Native communities.



## Theory of Change



## All are Welcome to Join our Circle

Restoring Native communities to full health and sustainability will take the assets, knowledge and passion of all of us. We invite all to join our circle.

### Here is how to get involved:

- **Become a member:** our membership comprises a powerful and growing network of foundations, community leaders, academics, youth, and nonprofits.
- **Support our work:** 100% of your donations go towards improving Native communities.
- **Stay informed:** Sign up for our mailing list for details on the latest events, news, and developments within the Native American philanthropic community. Native Americans in Philanthropy does not share its email list with any outside organizations or affiliates.
- **Attend a convening:** Visit [NativePhilanthropy.org](https://NativePhilanthropy.org) to find programs, summits, or symposiums to take part in and experience Native Americans in Philanthropy's mission in action.



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