



National Indigenous Women's Resource Center

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2019

FISCAL YEAR 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission

Our mission is to provide national leadership to end violence against American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian women by supporting culturally grounded, grassroots advocacy.

Vision

Restoration of sovereignty and safety for Native women

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A LETTER FROM THE NIWRC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It is my honor to share with you the FY2019 Annual Report for the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center. As the movement to restore the safety of Native women builds across the nation, we find ourselves inspired each day by the effort and resiliency of survivors, tribal leaders, grassroots advocates, tribal coalitions and programs working to end violence in their communities.

Our staff here at NIWRC are steadfastly committed to uplifting tribal voices and perspectives in the call for social change to stem the tide of violence. Year over year, our team responds to hundreds of requests for culturally-specific technical assistance, training, advocacy resources, and policy work that is uniquely tailored for tribes, tribal programs, advocates, and most importantly, Native victims and survivors of violence. In the last year, our efforts have helped renew attention for and provide resources in response to the ongoing crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, as well as call for the reauthorization of critical legislation including the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA).

As advocates, our work is centered on the reclamation of the sacred status and safety of Native women. Until all Native women and girls are safe and free of violence in all forms, we will continue to carry the medicine passed down from our elders and ancestors to heal by advocating for the sovereignty of tribes and supporting our sister advocates, tribal leaders and community members in strengthening their capacity to serve American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian victims and survivors of violence in their communities.

As part of NIWRC's leadership for the past 10 years, I have been honored to serve Indian Country in my role as Executive Director, supporting the development of our staff at NIWRC and to walk alongside our sisters in this work. It is humbling to see all of the steps forward we have made together and heartening to imagine a world free of violence for the future generations of women and girls.

Our work to end violence against Native women and children would not be possible without the support of our sisters, mothers, aunties, grandmothers, relatives, friends and allies, and for that, we thank you for your love and encouragement as we work to restore our communities to a place of beauty, balance and safety together.

Ahéhee' (thank you),



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy".

Lucy Simpson, Esq.
Diné
Executive Director



WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2010, the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Inc. (NIWRC) is a Native-led nonprofit organization dedicated to ending violence against American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian women and children. Born out of tribal grassroots organizing and incorporated as a culturally-specific resource center in 2011, NIWRC offers a national voice in ending gender-based violence in Native communities by lifting up the collective voices of tribal leaders, programs and advocates and offering culturally grounded resources, technical assistance and training, and policy development to strengthen tribal sovereignty. This includes highly specialized, culturally specific advocacy and programmatic and policy development in the areas of domestic violence, sexual violence, missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, stalking, and sex trafficking.

The creation of the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center is rooted in a legacy of Tribal grassroots organizing to restore status, integrity and safety to Native women. Tillie Black Bear (Sicangu Lakota), a founding mother of NIWRC, is considered one of the grandmothers of the battered women's movement of the 1970s. In its early years, the movement was an unfunded tribal grassroots movement of survival and resistance to a broad spectrum of violence, connected to the federal eras of Indian wars, removal, allotment periods, assimilation, termination and relocation. In Indigenous cultures, women are the heart and backbone of families and communities. Because of colonization by foreign governments, Native women experience the highest rates of violent victimization – including domestic violence, sexual violence, sex trafficking, abductions, stalking, and murder, often by non-Native perpetrators – in the United States.

This violence against Native women is deeply rooted in colonization. Traditionally, Tribal Nations safeguarded women through their social status and Indigenous belief systems and ways of life. The dehumanization of Native women and the normalization of violence against them occurred as federal law and policies eroded the sovereign authority of Tribal Nations over time. However, for more than four decades, Tribal advocates have carried forward a consistent strategy of increasing safety for Native women by strengthening Tribal sovereignty, resulting in landmark changes to federal Indian law and increased resources to provide lifesaving services for Native victims and survivors. The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center was born to carry this legacy forward.

NIWRC's work is centered on restoring the safety and status of Native women, addressing the rights and related needs of children and Two Spirit/LGBTQ and male victims and survivors, and ensuring offender and abuser accountability by upholding tribal sovereignty. The expertise and leadership of survivors and tribal advocates is a key component of our work, hence our focus on supporting tribal advocates, who are often survivors of violence themselves. We believe by strengthening the sovereignty of tribes to hold perpetrators accountable, and reclaiming Indigenous protections for women through our beliefs, values and lifeways in our communities, the safety of Native women will be restored.

Because of the failure of the federal government to fulfill its trust responsibility to assist tribes with resources and its legacy of broken promises with respect to tribal sovereignty, NIWRC leadership and staff understand the disparities and difficult challenges within Native communities: pervasive poverty, jurisdictional challenges, law enforcement and criminal justice systems, under-resourced infrastructure, health and social disparities, and the lack of housing, all while our relatives struggle to confront the crisis of violence in our communities. Yet despite the challenges, our work is inspired by the endurance, resilience and commitment of Tribes, and in particular, the leadership, bravery and expertise of Native women, grassroots advocates, and victims and survivors of violence. The voices, perspectives, and

knowledge of Native women is integral to NIWRC's ability to assist Tribes and advocates in developing effective, responsive, culturally based, and trauma and healing-informed programs, resources, and policies to best serve the needs of Native victims and survivors.

Created to serve as the National Indian Resource Center (NIRC) Addressing Domestic Violence and Safety for Indian Women, the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center is one of two national resource centers funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Family Violence Prevention and Services Program.

Staff

Lucy Rain Simpson, Executive Director (Diné)
Brenda Hill, Director of Technical Assistance and Training (Siksika)
Tara Azure, Training and Resource Specialist (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians)
Gwendolyn Packard, Program Specialist (Ihanktonwan Dakota)
Rose M. Quilt, J.D., Director of Policy and Research (Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and descendent of the Lummi Nation)
Paula Julian, Senior Policy Specialist
Elizabeth Carr, Senior Native Affairs Advisor (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians)
Lori Jump, Director of StrongHearts Native Helpline (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians)
Kendra Root, Program Assistant (Muscogee (Creek) Nation)
Princella Redcorn, Communications Officer (Osage)
Tang Cheam, Director of Information and Technology
Lora Helman, Director of Business Services
Annette Scalpane, Accountant (Northern Cheyenne)
Kaycee Sherrard, Logistics Coordinator

Board of Directors

Cherrah Giles, Board Chair (Muscogee (Creek) Nation)
Carmen O'Leary, Board Vice Chair (Cheyenne River Sioux)
Wendy Schlater, Board Treasurer (La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians)
Leanne Guy, Board Secretary (Navajo Nation)
Deborah Parker, Board Member (Tulalip and Yaqui)
Randi Barreiro, Board Member (Akwesasne Mohawk)
Wanette Lee, Board Member (Native Hawaiian)

Leadership and staff develop priorities in support of NIWRC's mission to end violence against Native women by supporting Tribal advocacy and the sovereignty of Indian Nations.

Priorities

- Safety and justice for Native women
- Supporting grassroots tribal advocates
- Sovereignty of Indian Nations

This annual report provides an overview of NIWRC's work in these areas during the 2019 fiscal year (October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019).

2019 AT A GLANCE



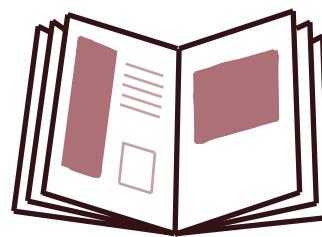
10 Awareness Month and Day Campaigns
9 Resource Outreach Events
6 On-Site Technical Assistance Events



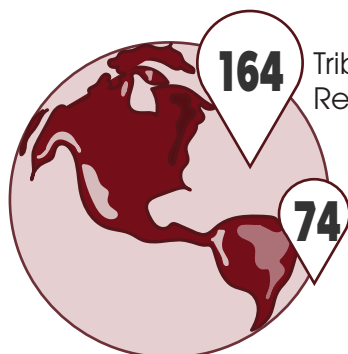
11 Online Webinars
1,448 Webinar Attendees
213,630 Website Views
89,659 Website Visitors



2,693 Calls Answered Advocates at StrongHearts Native Helpline



3 Publications of Restoration of Native Sovereignty and Safety for Native Women



164

Tribal Areas and Communities Represented by Webinar Attendees

74

Tribal Areas and Communities Represented Across **290** Technical Assistance Requests

YEAR IN REVIEW

- **October 1, 2018** - NIWRC launches sign-on to declare Tillie Black Bear 'Women Are Sacred' Day.
- **October 15, 2018** - Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) issues call on CNN to donate to NIWRC.
- **November 1, 2018** - NIWRC and NCAI file amicus brief in *Gamble v. United States*, a Supreme Court case.
- **January 31, 2019** - NIWRC announces it has received no distribution royalties as promised from the film *Wind River*, a production of The Weinstein Company which declared bankruptcy in March 2018.
- **March 6, 2019** - StrongHearts Native Helpline, a collaborative project of NIWRC and the National Domestic Violence Hotline, establishes its call center located in Eagan, Minnesota, and expands hours of operation.
- **March 25, 2019** - NIWRC and the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center issue statement on 20-year-old Yup'ik woman Sophie Sergie, who was brutally sexually assaulted and murdered in a dormitory at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1993, as a state-wide call to action to address the issue of missing and murdered Native women and girls.
- **April 20, 2019** - NIWRC receives the 2019 Angie Debo Civil Libertarian Award from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Oklahoma at their annual meeting and reception.
- **May 2, 2019** - Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT) introduces resolution to designate May 5, 2019, as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls.
- **May 2019** - NIWRC launches monthly VAWA Twitter Storms to highlight the need for reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for Indian country.
- **June 2019** - Library of Congress selects NIWRC website for inclusion in the Library's collection of materials related to the Women and Gender Studies web archive.
- **July 24, 2019** - Senators Bob Casey (D-PA) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) introduce the reauthorization of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), S. 2259.
- **August 13-15, 2019** - NIWRC hosts Specialty Institute, "Coming Together to Create a Cultural Response to Address the Impact of Domestic Violence on Women and their Children," in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- **August 21-22, 2019** - NIWRC participates in 14th Annual Government-to-Government Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation in New Buffalo, Michigan.
- **September 11, 2019** - Tribal leaders, NIWRC, NCAI and members of Congress host "VAWA at 25: Honoring Our Native Women Survivors," an event to recognize the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Violence Against Women Act in Washington, D.C.



Awareness Campaigns

Each year, NIWRC develops culturally-specific public awareness campaigns to share resources and organize activities as part of our work to end violence against Native women. In 2019, NIWRC continued this tradition of developing a number of resources tailored for Indian Country during 10 awareness months and awareness days. This work includes issuing statements that are shared across our website, social media and mailing list, along with providing sample proclamations, webinars, and resource and reading lists specific to the campaign. For fiscal year 2019, NIWRC’s public awareness activities included highlighting:

- October: Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM)
- October 1: Tillie Black Bear ‘Women Are Sacred’ Day
- January: Human Trafficking Prevention and Stalking Awareness Month
- February: Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month
- March: Women’s History Month
- March 8: International Women’s Day
- March 20: HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- April: Sexual Assault (SAAM) Awareness Month
- April: Child Abuse Awareness Month
- May 5: National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls

Some of the highlights during fiscal year 2019 include our Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) campaign in October. For DVAM, NIWRC developed social media graphics for 30 Days of DVAM to promote community involvement and education, as well as coordinated a joint DVAM statement and

Twitter Chat in partnership with our project, the StrongHearts Native Helpline, and the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center to uplift Native advocate voices.


For International Women’s Day, NIWRC partnered with the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC DV) to recognize and celebrate this global day marking the achievements of women and inspiring action to achieve greater gender equality and justice. The collaborative campaign included a Call for Artwork that honored the struggles and successes that women face. Together, NIWRC and NRC DV selected “The Silenced Sister” by Cody Hammer (Cherokee/Creek) for the International Women’s Day 2019 Postcard. Hammer’s artwork was chosen from 41 entries and 35 artists.

Resource Networking and Outreach Events

Throughout the year, NIWRC staff set up displays to distribute resources, brochures, publications and other outreach materials for Tribes and advocates, and to expand our network of partners and become familiar with their work and resources. These outreach events also enrich our knowledge about the work, challenges, and resources within Native communities. Staff networked and distributed materials at nine events in FY19:


- 2019 National Congress of American Indians Mid Year Conference and Marketplace, Sparks, NV
- Black Hills Wacipi/ Pow Wow, Rapid City, SD
- 4th Annual Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Tribal Governments Program National Summit, Mending the Sacred Hoop, Omaha, NE

NIWRC Honors Tillie Black Bear During Domestic Violence Awareness Month




"As women doing this work. We have to make those connections beyond those shelter doors. That's what it's all about, we do the work in the trenches, but we have to make those connections outside those shelter doors. This is the way you can stop violence against women."

-Tillie Black Bear (Sicangu Lakota), Wa Wokiye Win (Woman Who Helps Everyone)




SIGN ON to support Oct. 1st as Tillie Black Bear Women Are Sacred Day!
<http://bit.ly/TillieSignOn>



Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Month

Under federal law, sex trafficking is:

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age. (22 U.S. Code §7102).



#PURPLETHURSDAY

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

#TRIBALDVAM
 #DVISNOTTRADISH
 #N8VDVAM




STRONGHEARTS
 Native Helpline



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
 — 2019 —

NIWRC **NRCDV**




Wear RED on Sunday, May 5th on social media using:

#MMIW
#MMIWG
#WhyWeWearRed

Support May 5th to become the National Day of Awareness for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls in the United States!



NIWRC
 National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
www.niwrc.org

- 2019 National Congress of American Indians Annual Convention and Marketplace, Denver, CO
- California's American Indian and Indigenous Film Festival, Pechanga, CA
- Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) New Grantee Orientation, Silver Springs, MD
- 18th Session of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), New York, NY
- Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) Indian Nations Conference, Tribal Law and Policy Institute, Palm Springs, CA
- 10th Annual Inter-Tribal Sexual Assault Awareness Walk for Honor, Walk for Justice, La Jolla Indian Reservation, CA



Webinars and Presentations

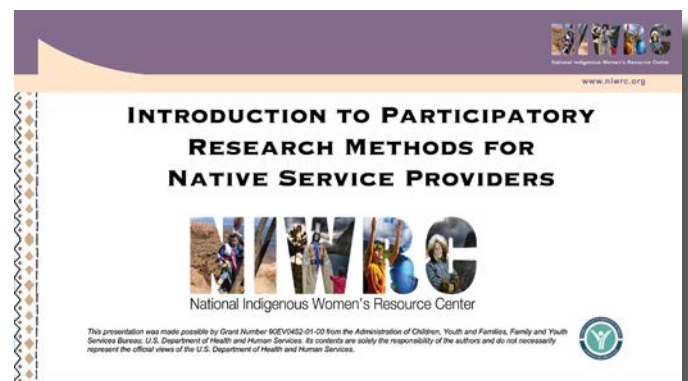
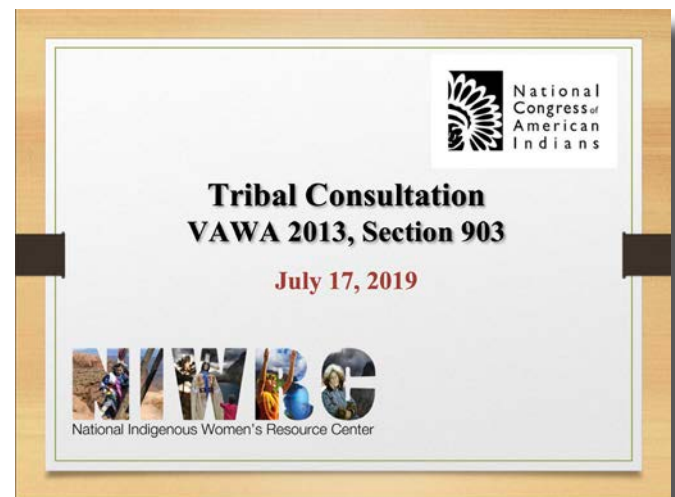
The voices, knowledge and expertise of Native advocates, survivors and allies is facilitated in the development of NIWRC's online webinars, on-site technical assistance events, the annual Peer-To-Peer conference, the Specialty Institute, policy development, systems engagement, coordination with federal agencies, and other formal and informal collaborations. Staff are intentional in their approach to the development and provision of technical assistance, training, policy advocacy, systems engagement and resources in a way that recognizes and uplifts the unique Native cultures and environments to promote survivor-centered advocacy, programs, community, and system initiatives to end violence against Native women.

NIWRC staff develop and plan online webinars based on information requests, emerging issues and conversations with collaborative partners. Our staff guide agenda building and facilitate each webinar. To ensure maximum participation, all webinars are recorded and placed in NIWRC's Resource Library available on our website. In fiscal year 2019, 1,448 attendees joined NIWRC's webinars representing 164 tribal areas and communities from across the country.

- **December 12, 2018** - Confidentiality Between Victim Advocates & Survivors in the Tribal Criminal Justice System, presented by Roberta Valente, Policy Consultant for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and member organization of the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence.
- **February 13, 2019** - Learning to Love Ourselves: Incorporating Compassionate Care in Our Work, presented by Dr. Bonnie Duran, Opelousas/Coushatta descendent, Professor, University of Washington School of Social Work & Indigenous Wellness Research Institute.
- April 23, 2019 - Fostering Resilience in Children Traumatized by Domestic Violence in Collaboration with Non-Offending Parent, presented by Brenda Hill, Siksika, NIWRC Director of Technical Assistance and Training
- May 2, 2019 - National Day of Awareness Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women to Guide our Advocacy for Change, presented with NIWRC's Rose Quilt, Director of Research and Policy; NIWRC Board Chairwoman Cherrah Giles; Malinda Limberhand (Northern Cheyenne), Mother of Hanna Harris; Juana Majel Dixon, National Congress of American Indians Violence Against Women Task Force Co-Chair; Michelle Demmert, NCAI VAW Task Force Co-Chair; Virginia Davis, NCAI Senior Policy Advisor; Tami Jerue, Executive Director, Alaska Native Women's Resource Center; Carmen O'Leary, Executive Director, Native Women's Society of the Great Plains; Leanne Guy, Executive Director, Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition; Christopher Foley, Staff Attorney, Indian Law Resource Center.
- May 23, 2019 - Creating your own Non-Profit Organization to Address Violence Against Indigenous Women, presented

by NIWRC and joined by the Native Women's Society of the Great Plains, Native Alliance Against Violence, and Orlene Gray, consultant.

- June 20, 2019 - Disaster Planning & Preparedness, presented by Suzanne Everson, R10 Regional Emergency Management Specialist.
- July 27, 2019 - Tribal Consultation | VAWA 2013, Section 903 Webinar, presented by Elizabeth Carr, Senior Native Affairs Advisor, NIWRC; Michelle Demmert, NCAI Violence Against Women Task Force Co-Chair; Juana Majel Dixon, NCAI Violence Against Women Task Force Co-Chair; Kelbie Kennedy, Policy Counsel, NCAI
- July 29, 2019 - Crime Victims in Indian Country and the Rights They are Owed, presented by Leslie Hagen, National Indian Country Training Coordinator, U.S. Department of Justice.
- July 30, 2019 - Mending the Rainbow: Working with the Native LGBT/Two-Spirit Community, presented by Elton Naswood, Capacity Building Division, Office of Minority Health Resource Center.
- August 21, 2019 - Empowering Children in Shelter, presented by Amanda Takes War Bonnett, Oglala Lakota, Public Education Specialist, Native Women's Society of the Great Plains.
- May 15, 2019 - An Introduction to Participatory Research Methods for Domestic Violence Programs, presented by Dr. Kelly Hallman, Phd., Health Policy Researcher consultant.





On-Site Technical Assistance

Each year, NIWRC’s Technical Assistance and Training Team distributes a solicitation to tribal domestic violence programs to apply for on-site technical assistance tailored to the needs of the program and community. In FY19, there were 43 applicants, and funding allowed for four (4) in-person events at no cost to the tribe or program. If applicants were in close proximity to each other and had similar issues, NIWRC worked to coordinate their attendance at the chosen site. All applicants were provided resources, referrals, information and support if not selected for on-site assistance that year. The FY19 on-site events included:

- August 6-7, 2019 - Prairie Island Indian Community, MN – Focus areas included shelter program development; policy and response to survivors with substance abuse and/or mental health issues. Gwendolyn Packard, Ihanktonwan Dakota, NIWRC Technical Assistance and Training Specialist and Brenda Hill, Siksika, NIWRC Director of Technical Assistance and Training.
- September 10-12, 2019 - Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, Belcourt ND – Focus area was on policy about working with survivors with mental health and substance abuse issues. Janet Routzen, Sicangu Lakota, former Director of White Buffalo Calf Woman Society and tribal prosecutor, co-facilitated with Gwendolyn Packard, Ihanktonwan Dakota, NIWRC Technical Assistance and Training Specialist, and Tara Azure, Turtle Mountain Chippewa, NIWRC Technical Assistance Coordinator.
- July 18-19, 2019 - Nez Perce, ID – Intersection of and response to sex trafficking and domestic violence were

the focus of this on-site event. Jeri Moomaw, founder and Executive Director of Innovations Human Trafficking Collaborative (IHTC), presented and facilitated with Gwendolyn Packard, Ihanktonwan Dakota, NIWRC Technical Assistance and Training Specialist.

- June 10, 2019 - Bay Mills Indian Community, Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, MI, was chosen for the 2019 Peer-To-Peer Conference, Examining the Critical Role of Advocacy in Ending Domestic Violence in Our Communities. Emphasis was on shelter development and advocates’ work with courts concerning domestic violence issues. Janet Routzen, Sicangu Lakota, former Director of White Buffalo Calf Woman Society and tribal prosecutor, co-facilitated with Gwendolyn Packard, Ihanktonwan Dakota, NIWRC Technical Assistance and Training Specialist. Attendees were mostly advocates with family/child welfare, healthcare providers, tribal court, coalition members also attending. Topics included history, culture, trauma – informed work, advocacy provision, confidentiality, coordinated response.
- Additional on-site assistance was provided to the Indian Health Service in Crownpoint, New Mexico, on shelter development by NIWRC’s Technical Assistance and Training Specialist Gwendolyn Packard, Ihanktonwan Dakota.
- Additionally, staff select an on-site event as the host site for NIWRC’s Peer-To-Peer Conference based on emerging trends and the development of local coordinated response. This conference allows for additional sessions and utilizes tribal experts as presenters in addition to NIWRC staff and consultants.



What People are Saying...

“I gained a lot of information and was able to network with other Native American peers. I’m one of a few Native Americans in my DV agency. I felt welcomed and “at home” with other Native American advocates. This was a great journey for me and my two teenaged daughters who attended the conference with me. We would like to attend another training in the future.”

-Participant, Peer-To-Peer Conference

“Sometimes, I feel like the networking with other attendees is the best part of any event. The providers were excellent with checking in with everyone and ensuring that all were connected and included in activities and discussions.”

- Participant, Peer-To-Peer conference

Technical Assistance and Training for Tribal Coalitions

Based on NIWRC outreach with the tribal coalitions, three on-site technical assistance events were completed for the Montana Native Women’s Coalition, the Seven Dancers Coalition (based in New York), and the American Indians Against Abuse (based in Wisconsin). As a result of the dialogue with tribal coalitions and OVW, NIWRC provided customized on-site technical assistance and training to reflect the unique issues identified by each tribal coalition as follows:

- **Montana Native Women’s Coalition:** focused on grant financial and documentation requirements.
- **American Indians Against Abuse:** focused on financial

documentation and requirements, along with wellness in the workplace.

- **Seven Dancers Coalition:** focused on wellness in the workplace. The Seven Dancers Coalition on-site visit was attended by an OVW staff member.

Online Technical Assistance and Information Requests

In FY19, NIWRC received 290 technical assistance and information requests representing 74 tribal areas and communities, including Native Hawaiians. During this year, staff reported an increase in requests for general information, policy recommendations, statistics on violence, staff interviews, and awareness activity recommendations regarding missing and

murdered Indigenous women (MMIW) in particular from tribal and non-Native communities and organizations. Our team also received several requests for internship or student involvement/support for our work.

Other areas of request for technical assistance included grant compliance, grant funding, ally building, non-Native support recommendations, shelter policy and domestic violence code examples, advanced advocacy training and resources, shelter program building and networking, sexual assault response team set up, teen dating, youth leadership, and Domestic Violence Awareness Month planning and activities. Throughout the year, NIWRC received several requests for presenters or recommendations for presenters for their program's training and events.

This year, NIWRC received an influx of media requests for interviews in response to Sen. Elizabeth Warren's (D-MA) issues call on CNN to donate to NIWRC in October 2018, as well as from NIWRC's announcement in January 2019 that the organization had not received any distribution royalties in connection with the movie *Wind River*.

Specialty Institute

NIWRC's Specialty Institute is an annual event developed based on patterns of technical assistance and information requests received, with consideration of emerging issues in the field to end violence against Native women. In FY19, the Specialty Institute, "Coming Together to Create A Cultural Response to Address the Impact of Domestic Violence on Women and their Children," was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Nine Native experts presented on topics including Indigenous perspectives of family, 2SLGBTQ Native Youth, child welfare systems, the Indian Child Welfare Act, the Violence Against Women Act and sovereignty, support for non-offending parents, foster care systems, and sex trafficking. At the event, staff presented *Neurobiology of Trauma: Impact on Behaviors and Relationship*, and *Distinctions: Domestic Violence, IPV and Battering Tactics Impacting Survivors and Children*.

Partnerships and Collaborative Work

NIWRC regularly collaborates with members of tribal coalitions, national Native organizations, the Domestic Violence Resource Network, national and culturally specific resource centers focused on domestic violence, and federal partners. In fiscal year 2019, highlights of our collaborative work with our partners included:

- NIWRC partnered with the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC DV) and the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center to create the National Workgroup on Safe Housing for American Indian and Alaska Native Survivors of Gender-Based Violence. Together, the three organizations convened a meeting in Phoenix, Arizona on June 4-5, 2019 to establish a National Workgroup on Safe Housing for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Survivors of Gender-Based Violence. The workgroup was made up of 15 grassroots Native advocates and housing experts, including the Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation on the Oglala Lakota reservation in South Dakota, the District Alliance for Safe Housing, National Alliance for Safe Housing, the Avanyu, LLC in New Mexico, NIWRC, NRC DV, and AKNWRC.
- This meeting culminated in a draft report titled, *National Workgroup on Safe Housing for American Indian and Alaska Native Survivors of Gender-Based Violence: Lessons Learned*, authored by Caroline LaPorte, J.D., and Heidi Notario, NRC DV Contributing Editor, and NIWRC's Gwendolyn Packard. Expected for release in early 2020, the draft report includes recommendations to the Domestic Violence & Housing Consortium about the types of technical assistance, training, resource development and other support needed to enhance response for Native victims and survivors. This work is ongoing and the workgroup intends to seek funding for continued meetings and resource development.
- NIWRC partnered with the National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma and Mental Health to co-facilitate the presentation, *Substance Use Coercion as a Barrier to Safety*,



Recovery, and Economic Stability for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence: Implications for Policy, Research and Practice, at the Technical Expert Meeting in October 2019, in addition to the presentation, The Opioid Epidemic: Implications for Resource Center Work, for the Domestic Violence Resource Network on January 17, 2019.

- NIWRC partnered with Futures Without Violence Promising Futures and provided technical assistance and training to grantees under the Specialized Services for Abused Parents and their Children Pilot Project, including the following:
 - Reviewed and edited Guiding Principles with Project’s Leadership Committee, including for discussion at a June 2019 grantee meeting in Boston, MA;
 - Participated in Project Cohort calls, including preparations for June 2019 grantee meeting in Boston, MA;
 - Assisted with facilitating June 2019 grantee meeting in Boston, MA;
 - Targeted technical assistance to Alaska tribal grantees, the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC), including assistance in preparation for, during and after the FVPSA Office’s monitoring site visit in Juneau, AK in August 2019; and
 - Working with the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center to arrange for their participation in the June 2019 grantee meeting in Boston, and assisting with targeted technical assistance with SEARHC.
- NIWRC works closely with the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program throughout the year. This work in fiscal year 2019 included:
 - NIWRC staff participation in the FVPSA State Administrator and State Coalition and Tribal Program Meeting in Boise, Idaho, providing the opportunity to network with advocates from Shoshone-Bannock, Nez Perce and Coeur D’Alene Tribal programs.
 - NIWRC staff presented at the FVPSA Tribal Grantee Meeting in Seattle, WA, in August 2019.
 - NIWRC staff presented two sessions titled, The Opioid Epidemic: Impacts and Implications for Domestic Violence Survivors and Programs, and Advancing Practice: Responding to the Opioid Crisis on the Ground, at the State Administrators and State Coalitions Grantee Meeting on May 24, 2019.
 - NIWRC staff participated in the FVPSA Regional Peer-to-Peer Grantee Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, July 30-31, 2019
- NIWRC staff also participated in the University of Washington Indigenous Wellness Research Institute’s Research Roundtable on Trauma-Informed Approaches in Tribal Communities, held in Seattle, Washington, in 2019.

Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions (TDVSAC)

Throughout 2019, NIWRC was chosen to provide targeted

technical assistance to the grantees of the Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition Grant Program (TDVSAC). This work involved comprehensive training and technical assistance for tribal coalitions across the United States to build their capacity and knowledge in the areas of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and sex trafficking. Tribal coalitions work to provide culturally appropriate training, technical assistance and support to tribal governments, tribal victim services providers, and tribal and coalition membership programs within a given state or region. Currently, there are 19 tribal coalitions working to enhance the response to violence against women at the tribal, federal, and state levels.

In fiscal year 2019, NIWRC provided support to tribal coalitions to ensure that their statutory, policy, and programmatic needs were met to address emerging issues concerning violence against Native women. NIWRC further provided interactive, educational and peer networking opportunities to broaden the tribal coalitions’ expertise and skills to effectively train and educate tribal leaders and coalition membership. This work had a significant level of federal agency involvement in the implementation of all activities.

Coordination with Tribal Partners

NIWRC continues to strengthen alliances and work in close collaboration with our tribal partners, striving locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally to end violence in the lives of Native women and their families. Ongoing coordination with tribal entities and projects include work with the National Congress of American Indians, the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center, the Indian Law Resource Center, the Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence, and our project, StrongHearts Native Helpline, to:

- Develop and maintain NIWRC’s policy agenda to support governmental (tribal/federal/international), nonprofit and community responses to violence against women and social change.
- Work with staff, board, consultants, and external partners to:
 - Identify, research, analyze and monitor policy priorities and related policy activity;
 - Draft policy agenda and supporting documents;
 - Provide training and technical assistance regarding policy priority areas, including during NCAI Executive, Mid-Year and Annual Conventions, annual VAW government-to-government consultation, and United Nations and Inter-American Commission on Human Rights events; and
 - Engage in advocacy efforts to advance NIWRC’s policy and research goals.

Alaska Native Women's Resource Center



In partnership with Alaska Native tribes and Native advocates, NIWRC played a key role in helping to create the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC) in 2013. Six years later, NIWRC continues to work closely with the AKNWRC to assist in building their capacity as a resource center. This involves increased advocacy to ensure the voices of Alaska Native victims, survivors and advocates are heard and that the needs of Alaska Native tribal communities and villages are considered and included with respect to conversations involving the federal trust responsibility to assist Indian tribes to safeguard the lives of Native women. Because of NIWRC's close partnership and advocacy with AKNWRC, there have been changes at the tribal, state, federal, and international levels that have raised Alaska Native tribal issues to ones of national concern, not just concerns buried within the state of Alaska. This partnership has included assistance with training and technical assistance to Alaska tribes, policy analysis/development and system engagement, development of Alaska Native specific material, and planning for annual events and public awareness activities, including:

- NIWRC staff presented at AKNWRC's annual Unity Meeting: Increasing the Safety of Alaska Native Women preceding the Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention in October 2018 and AKNWRC's symposium
- Alaska Native Voices; Enhancing Tribal Responses to Gender-based Violence in September 2019.
- Development of material for public awareness activities, including Tillie Black Bear 'Women Are Sacred' Day, FVPSA/Domestic Violence Resource Network 35th Anniversary webinar, blog, and newsletter announcement.
- Assistance with the development of AKNWRC's book, Alaska Native Women: Ending the Violence, Reclaiming a Sacred Status.
- NIWRC assisted with providing policy updates at the NCAI Alaska caucus during the NCAI Annual Convention and Marketplace in October 2018 and Mid-Year Conference in June 2019.
- Development of an advocacy module for the AKNWRC curriculum through discussions with Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition and Praxis International Symposium, September 2019.

- AKNWRC and NIWRC issued a joint call for justice in the murder of Sophie Sergie, 20-year old Yup'ik woman who was murdered in April of 1993 in a dorm bathroom at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks. Sophie was found sexually assaulted, stabbed in the face and shot in the back of the head. On March 25, 2019, NIWRC and AKNWRC issued a joint statement in support of Sophie Sergie's family and an Alaska State response to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.





Pouhana O Na Wahine



In partnership with Native Hawaiian advocates, NIWRC has played a key role in organizing a volunteer hui (group) of advocates to form the Pouhana O Na Wahine (Pillars of Women), committed to addressing domestic violence and related injustices in the Native Hawaiian community. In 2019, NIWRC has continued its partnership with the hui to advocate for the development and funding of a Native Hawaiian Resource Center on Domestic Violence. Activities and discussions with the Pouhana O Na Wahine and NIWRC include:

- Developed articles highlighting Pouhana O Na Wahine for NIWRC's *Restoration of Native Sovereignty and Safety for Native Women* magazine;
- Supported a dual NIWRC Board and Pouhana O Na Wahine member to participate as a protector at Mauna Kea;
- Issued a joint petition in August 2019 with seven other organizations to protect Mauna Kea as sacred ground;
- Supported in-person meetings for Pouhana O Na Wahine, August 31-September 1, 2019; and
- Provided scholarship funding to Pouhana O Na Wahine members to attend trainings and conferences, including the 18th Annual Native Hawaiian Convention in September 2019.

NIWRC has also assisted with strengthening a network to support the Pouhana O Na Wahine through connections with the offices of Senators Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Brian Schatz (D-HI), other Native Hawaiian organizations, and the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, as a mentoring organization.







UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 18th Session
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Violence Against Indigenous Women in the United States:

How Indigenous nations and women are leading the movement to end the epidemic of violence in Indian country and Alaska Native villages

Side Event
April 24, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
United Nations, Conference Room 6



Violence against indigenous women is at unprecedented levels in the United States. More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetimes, including more than half who have experienced sexual violence. The murder rate for indigenous women in some tribal communities is 10 times the national average. The panel will discuss these extreme levels of violence, particularly the urgent situation of Alaska Native women who are subjected to the highest rate of forcible sexual assault in the U.S. and missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native women. The panel also will highlight good practices and failures of United States law to respect the rights of indigenous women, including those rights recognized in the UN Declaration. Finally, panelists will describe how indigenous nations and women in the United States are leading the movement to end this epidemic of violence by securing reforms in United States law to protect the right of indigenous women to live free of all forms of violence and discrimination and to strengthen indigenous nations' ability to restore safety and justice to indigenous women.

On an international level, NIWRC coordinates closely with the Indian Law Resource Center to advocate in support of the protection of the right of Indigenous women to live free of all forms of violence and discrimination and to strengthen Indigenous nations' ability to restore safety and justice to Indigenous women.

On March 24, 2019, NIWRC co-sponsored a side event with the Indian Law Resource Center and several partners for "Violence Against Indigenous Women in the United States: How Indigenous nations and women are leading the movement to end the epidemic of violence in Indian country and Alaska Native villages," during the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 18th Session. The side event included the voices of Paula Julian, NIWRC Policy Specialist; Terri Henry, a member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, a founding member of the National Congress of American Indians Task Force on Violence Against Women, and Chair of the Indian Law Resource Center Board of Directors; and Tami Truett Jerue, the Executive Director of the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center.

Networking and Alliance Building Efforts

NIWRC continued to support and coordinate with the TDVSACs about important events or meetings to engage locally, regionally or nationally.

- **STOP Meeting:** NIWRC staff attended a May 2019 Joint Meeting of STOP Administrators, State and Territory

Coalition Directors hosted by OVW in partnership with the Alliance of Local Service Organizations and in collaboration with the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission. This was the first STOP meeting to extend an invitation to tribal coalitions. Having the tribal coalitions and NIWRC present provided a valuable opportunity to speak to the importance of tribal specific issues concerning STOP implementation and how to improve planning, outreach to tribes for meaningful consultation, and to coordinate appropriately with tribal coalitions and programs regarding state STOP implementation plans.

- **CAAN Meeting:** Since 2015, NIWRC has collaborated closely as a partner with the Battered Women's Justice Project regarding the Coalition of Advocates and Attorneys Network (CAAN) meetings to highlight legal policy efforts nationwide and across tribal lands. For the August 2019 CAAN meeting, NIWRC coordinated with the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC) to offer a session on sex trafficking and the important work that MIWSAC, NIWRC, Indian tribes and tribal coalitions are doing to address sex trafficking. NIWRC staff also provided national legislative information to the CAAN attendees.

New Grantee Orientation

NIWRC worked in close coordination with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), Mending the Sacred Hoop (MSH), and other tribal technical assistance providers to provide the 2019 OVW Tribal Affairs Division New Grantee Orientation on February 26-28, 2019 in Silver Spring, Maryland. In addition to the combined sessions, which covered grant fraud awareness, financial management, accounting, and federal civil rights laws with Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) grantees, NIWRC offered four specialized sessions on:

- managing tribal coalition awards
- executive leadership track
- sustainability for TDVSACs
- listening session with the OVW Tribal unit

The New Grantee Orientation was successful in that NIWRC, along with OVW, TA providers, and consultants, provided comprehensive and critical information to the TDVSACs in understanding and managing their grants and grant requirements.

Roundtable Discussions

NIWRC coordinated closely with OVW to develop two Roundtables: Stalking and the Executive Leadership. These roundtable events were held in Seattle, Washington, June 18-20, 2019, with the TDVSACs. The Seattle area served as the host site to ensure that the work of the tribal coalitions remained tied to or near tribes/tribal lands, as well as to importantly recognize

the work of the WomenSpirit Coalition, a local tribal coalition in Washington state. WomenSpirit served as the host for the roundtables by providing a traditional opening and closing ceremony, and sharing in-depth information about their work.

- **Stalking Roundtable:** Stalking was identified as one of the priority issues for OVW and accordingly, NIWRC provided an overview of stalking and provided time for targeted discussions; systemic challenges regarding stalking crimes including a judicial panel discussion; safety planning for stalking victims and tools, tribal codes, and resources for tribes, including best practices.
- **Executive Leadership Roundtable:** The Executive Leadership Track aimed to build the operational, programmatic, and financial skills of the TDVSAC Executive Directors in managing and administering their OVW grant programs. For this track, NIWRC focused on the History of Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions; AI/AN Women's Leadership; Understanding the Role of the Board of Directors; Managing Conflict and Problem Solving; Program Evaluation and Building Community Partnerships, Community Capacity and Sustainability.

Resource Development

In 2019, NIWRC staff continued to focus its development of resource materials to support tribal grassroots advocates and tribal programs and shelters. One of the more comprehensive projects this year included the creation of a curriculum, *Advocacy in Indian Country*, to meet the training needs of Native, community-based domestic violence programs where high turn-over and limited affordable, timely training are common challenges. This culturally-based curriculum includes slides with facilitator notes, background reading, handouts, and exercises. Topics range from the root cause of violence against Native women and people, colonization, the role of advocates, dynamics and tactics of intimate partner violence, impact and response to trauma, advocacy skill building, special populations, shelter policy to social change and coordinated community responses. These materials can also be adapted by advocacy programs for use in community education, within school settings, and in-service training for agencies involved in coordinated community responses. Currently, this curriculum is under review by the FVPSA office. A *Training-of Trainers* online workshop is planned to support facilitation of the *Advocacy in Indian Country* curriculum once released.

Portions of the *Advocacy in Indian Country* curriculum were adapted for the StrongHearts Native Helpline to assist in the development of their advocate staff training.

Additional resources developed in fiscal year 2019 include:

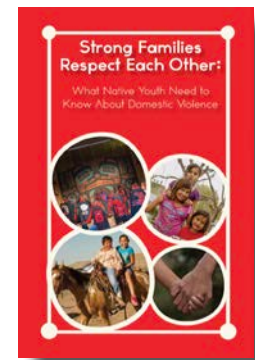
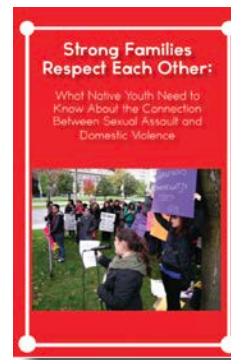
- **MMIWG Special Collection** - This Special Collection was developed to highlight the issues, concerns, recommendations and resources for addressing Missing

and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) within Native communities. The Special Collection organizes information, resources, tips and curricula drawn from partner organizations, experts from the field, and other allies. It houses resources on cultural issues, national sources, statistics, topical issues and approaches, existing programs, and available material and resources to create awareness and promote important discussions about MMIWG. This collection will expand as resources and new information become available.

- **Special Collection: WAS Talks** - The WAS Talks Special Collection is designed as a collection of video resources featuring voices from the safety for Native women movement that were recorded during NIWRC's June 2018 Women Are Sacred Conference. This Special Collection is a new video resource initiative of the NIWRC, a project inspired by TED Talks: Ideas Worth Spreading. The collection is developed to highlight the issues, resources and other suggestions by tribal survivors, advocates, researchers, the legal community, social workers, law enforcement, community/family members, child welfare workers, philosophers, community leaders, politicians and tribal leaders. The videos can also be shared by students, professionals and schools as part of their own outreach projects.
- **Women Are Sacred 2019 Monthly Calendar with Awareness Months and Days** - The 2019 Women Are Sacred calendar includes awareness months and days reflecting the safety for Native women movement along with beautiful color photographs, artwork and images. Awareness months and days include introductions, definitions and resources on Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Stalking Awareness Month, Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.
- **Tribal Community Response When a Woman Is Missing: A Toolkit for Action** - Coping with the disappearance of a loved one or community member is very difficult. The fact that American Indian and Alaska Native women experience higher rates of domestic violence and sexual assault than any other population of women in the United States has broad ramifications. One consequence of this reality is that domestic and sexual violence occurs on a spectrum of abusive behavior and can include abduction and murder at the extreme end of that spectrum. This toolkit is designed to help families and communities take immediate action.
- **Full Faith and Credit, Protection Orders, and Safety for Native Families** - This booklet provides an overview of the Full Faith and Credit provision under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which requires every court in the United States to recognize and enforce valid protection orders of other courts. This means that all Indian Nations

and states must enforce a protection order issued by another tribal court. Likewise, all Indian nations and states must enforce a protection order issued by another state court.

- ***Strong Families Respect Each Other: What Native Youth Need to Know About Domestic Violence*** - This booklet was produced by NIWRC in partnership with the Native Youth Sexual Health Network. This booklet contains definitions on domestic violence, examples of controlling violence, what to do if you're experiencing domestic violence in any form, information for family and friends of people experiencing domestic violence, and how Native youth can lead the change to break the silence around domestic violence in their communities.
- ***Strong Families Respect Each Other: What Native Youth Need to Know About the Connection Between Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence*** - The booklet was produced by NIWRC in partnership with the Native Youth Sexual Health Network. This booklet contains definitions of domestic violence and sexual assault, examples of sexual assault, myths and truths about sexual assault, what to do if you have been sexually assaulted, what to do if you know or think a friend or family member has experienced sexual assault, the power of Native women as lifegivers, and mobile applications focused on domestic violence education and prevention.



Due to the number of inquiries by students, researchers, non-Native organizations and allies, state administrators, and state coalitions for information about violence against Native women and related topics, staff is in the process of developing a new *Special Collection: Cultural Competency/Humility and Ally-Building* that is expected to be available through NIWRC's Resource Library online in 2020. Staff are also updating three additional resources originally created by Sacred Circle, the first National Indian Resource Center (NIRC) Addressing Domestic Violence and Safety for Indian Women, including *From the Roots Up: Shelter & Advocacy Development in Indian Country* booklet, *What's Trauma?* brochure, *Privacy, Confidentiality & Privileged Communication: Keystone to Safety* booklet, which are expected for release in FY2020.

Advocacy, Policy Development, and Systems Engagement

NIWRC's Policy Team provides national leadership to end violence against American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian women by providing political clarity about the root cause of violence, and centering Indigenous worldviews and grassroots organizing to effect tribal and national changes. Staff vigorously advocate for the restoration of tribal sovereignty and safety for Native women, including educating on the federal trust responsibility to assist Indian tribes and Native Hawaiians to safeguard the lives of Native women. NIWRC's advocacy has included coordinating meetings with federal agencies, Hill briefings, Senate and House Hearings, and regular contact with federal policymakers to increase their understanding of Indian tribes and violence against Native women issues. Advocating from an Indigenous framework to impact federal policies, and building the national movement through unity in action is essential to building local, regional, national, and international movements for social change.

Moreover, NIWRC emphasizes strengthening tribal sovereignty for the continued progress in ending violence against Native women. In its role, NIWRC is uniquely positioned to monitor national issues impacting the safety of Native women and provide critical analyses of policies for ongoing policy development, intervention, organizing efforts, support, technical assistance, and training to Indian tribes, tribal coalitions and tribal programs, Native Hawaiian advocates, and federal and tribal law and policymakers about intimate partner violence and intersecting issues including sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, trafficking, and missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

Furthermore, we uphold our relationships and coordinate closely with the broader movement and important partner organizations such as the National Congress of American Indians Violence Against Women Task Force, the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, the Indian Law Resource Center, the Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and the National Task Force to End Domestic and Sexual Violence Against Women to address domestic violence, sexual violence, and intersecting issues to remove barriers to safety.



#VAWA2019 H.R. 1585



#VAWA4Natives #VAWA2019



National Legislative Work

With the growth and maturation of the violence against women movement the past 30 years to restore tribal sovereignty and increase women's safety, including NIWRC's leadership since 2011, we are seeing an increase in legislation and Senate and House Hearings to address violence against Native women. Throughout 2019, NIWRC provided legislative updates including an update to tribal leaders, as well as to advocates in Michigan as part of the Uniting Three Fires Annual Tribal Leadership Summit. This event took place on Mackinac Island, Michigan, in September 2019 with more than 50 attendees. NIWRC also sent out action alerts for major legislative actions and calls to action to mobilize survivors and advocates.

All bills that were pending as the end of fiscal year 2019 moved into the next year for continued negotiations and consideration. It is important to note that while several bills remain unauthorized, including the Violence Against Women Act and Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, the funding for important programs related to those bills remains intact and continued through the next fiscal year, funded through the appropriations process including unprecedented tribal increases under FVPSA, largely due to NIWRC and our sister organizations' increased advocacy to educate law makers about disparities facing Indian tribes and Native women.

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)

Reauthorized several times since it became federal law in 1984, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) provides critical support for shelters, coalitions, training and technical assistance centers, children's services, emergency response hotlines, and prevention initiatives. The last FVPSA reauthorization occurred in 2010 and expired in 2015. FVPSA is the only federal grant program dedicated to domestic violence shelter and supportive services and is the primary source of funding for these services for tribes, including funding for:

- a National Indian Resource Center (NIRC) Addressing Domestic Violence and Safety for Indian Women, currently NIWRC;
- a national Indian domestic violence hotline, currently NIWRC's project, the StrongHearts Native Helpline; and
- the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center.

Since 2015, NIWRC has worked in coalition with tribal and national organizations dedicated to ending violence against women to introduce a reauthorization of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act that includes the following more robust enhancements:

- Increasing the overall funding authorization level to address

very low per-program funding levels and provide access to FVPSA funds for more tribes and programs not currently funded.

- Strengthening the capacity of Indian tribes to exercise their sovereign authority to more fully respond to domestic violence in their communities by increasing the current 10% tribal allocation to 12.5% off the top of appropriations.
- Authorizing recognition and meaningful funding for tribal coalitions to provide Indian tribes and tribal organizations with technical assistance and training on developing responses to domestic violence.
- Authorizing recognition and permanent funding for the currently funded Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center.
- Authorizing recognition and permanent, separate funding for the currently funded StrongHearts Native Helpline to serve as the national Indian domestic violence hotline.

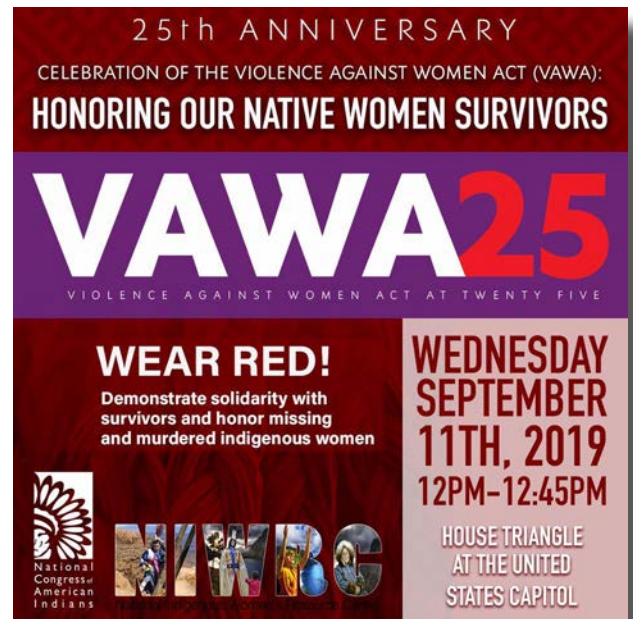
Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

In fiscal year 2019, NIWRC hosted VAWA Twitter Storms on the first Tuesday of the month to elevate the attention on the need for VAWA reauthorization. As part of this work, NIWRC prepared tweets and hosted weekly Twitter Storms to illustrate the need for reauthorization of VAWA for Indian Country and increase pressure on the Senate to bring H.R. 1585 to vote.

To honor the upcoming anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act and to elevate the attention on the need for VAWA reauthorization, NIWRC along with the National Congress of American Indians organized the event, 25 Years of VAWA: Honoring Our Native Women Survivors, with Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK) and Congresswoman Debra Haaland (D-NM). More than 100 attendees, including lawmakers Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-WI) and Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN), joined the press conference and traditional shawl ceremony held on the lawn of the United States Capitol.

Annual VAWA Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation

The Annual Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation is a critically important venue to address violence against Native women through the annual consultation between tribal governments and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women; the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Each year, NIWRC coordinates and consults with tribal leaders, grassroots advocates, tribal coalitions, and members of the NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women to identify critical issues to dialogue with federal agencies, including recommendations and outstanding issues for systemic improvements since the issues of safety for Native women are woven into federal and/or state laws and policies.



25th ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA):
HONORING OUR NATIVE WOMEN SURVIVORS

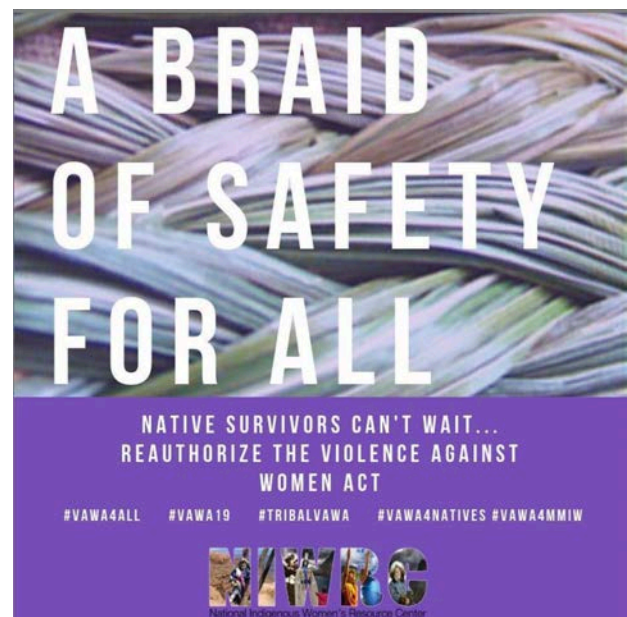
VAWA25
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT AT TWENTY FIVE

WEAR RED!
Demonstrate solidarity with survivors and honor missing and murdered indigenous women

**WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER
11TH, 2019
12PM-12:45PM**

HOUSE TRIANGLE
AT THE UNITED
STATES CAPITOL

National Congress of American Indians

**A BRAID
OF SAFETY
FOR ALL**

NATIVE SURVIVORS CAN'T WAIT...
REAUTHORIZE THE VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN ACT

#VAWA4ALL #VAWA19 #TRIBALVAWA #VAWA4NATIVES #VAWA4MMIW

NIWRC
National Indigenous Women's Resource Center



In preparation for the Annual Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation, NIWRC’s Policy Team provided a webinar, “Tribal Consultation | VAWA 2013, Section 903”. Staff provided an overview of Section 903 and the significance of Tribal Consultation including how to adequately prepare and also discussed priority issues. In close coordination with NCAI, NIWRC further developed a Tribal Consultation Priorities Overview document and disseminated copies, along with the NIWRC’s *Restoration* magazine and fact sheets, at a Tribal Leaders Briefing preceding the consultation.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)

The crisis of missing and murdered Native women and girls is alarming and a tragic reflection of the spectrum of violence committed against Native women and girls. MMIW is not new and is directly connected to contact, colonization, assimilation and genocide. Over hundreds of years, inhumane federal policies toward Indian nations resulted in the loss of lives, destruction and sovereignty of Indian Nations. While history cannot be undone, changes to current federal policies can increase the safety of Native women.

To continue the groundswell for action, NIWRC’s Policy Team mobilized and organized around missing and murdered Native women and girls throughout fiscal year 2019. Staff partnered with those concerned about safety and justice for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women and girls

who are missing or have been murdered. Our continued calls for justice, in addition to our ongoing development of analysis to understand the root causes of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, will continue in partnership with survivors, survivor families, tribal leaders, coalitions and partners.

On May 2, 2019, in advance of May 5th — in advance of the National Day of Awareness for Missing Native Women and Girls, NIWRC organized a webinar to increase awareness of this crisis, titled, “National Day of Awareness Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women to Guide our Advocacy for Change”. This webinar featured the voices of Rose Quilt, NIWRC Director of Research and Policy; NIWRC Board Chairwoman Cherrah Giles; Malinda Limberhand (Northern Cheyenne), Mother of Hanna Harris; Juana Majel Dixon, National Congress of American Indians Violence Against Women Task Force Co-Chair; Michelle Demmert, NCAI VAW Task Force Co-Chair; Virginia Davis, NCAI Senior Policy Advisor; Tami Jerue, Executive Director, Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center; Carmen O’Leary, Executive Director, Native Women’s Society of the Great Plains; Leanne Guy, Executive Director, Southwest Indigenous Women’s Coalition; Christopher Foley, Staff Attorney, Indian Law Resource Center.

In fiscal year 2019, NIWRC’s Policy Team also presented on the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls at the following events:

- 3rd Annual Native Women’s Wellness Gathering Empowering All Generations, November 28-29, 2018, Tuolumne, CA
- Women and Crime class presentation, California State University at Fullerton, April 11, 2019, Fullerton, CA
- Understanding the Injustices of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women to Organize and Respond as a Grassroots Movement, Webinar for California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, April 23, 2019
- United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 18th Session Side event: Violence Against Indigenous Women in the U.S.: How Indigenous Nations and Women are Leading the Movement to End the Epidemic of Violence Against Them, April 24, 2019, United Nations Headquarters, NY
- 1st Annual Addressing Intimate Partner Violence in Native Communities Conference, May 6-7, 2019, Santa Rosa Rancheria, CA
- NCAI Mid-Year Conference and Marketplace, Public Safety and Justice Subcommittee Meeting, June 25, 2019, Sparks, NV

Restoration of Native Sovereignty and Safety for Native Women

Restoration of Native Sovereignty and Safety for Native Women is the strategic political publication of the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center dedicated to informing tribal leadership and Native communities of emerging and ongoing issues impacting the safety of Native women. The magazine



provides the necessary political analysis to address such issues with the goal of supporting social justice organizing to create the changes needed to increase the safety of Native women.

The guiding framework of *Restoration* links the contemporary spectrum of violence committed against Native women to the historical pattern of governmental violence used to diminish the sovereign authority of Indian Nations to safeguard the lives of their women citizens. The name of the publication reflects the grassroots strategy of strengthening the sovereignty of Indian nations to hold perpetrators accountable to restore the safety of Native women.

Restoration was founded in 2003 during the organizing efforts to include the historic Safety for Indian Women Act in the VAWA of 2005. Several national tribal organizations united in this effort and realized that the primary barrier to the passage of the tribal title was the lack of a shared understanding of the legal obstacles embedded in the infrastructure of the United States. In 2003, the Sacred Circle National Resource Center,¹ Clan Star, Inc., the National Congress of American Indians Task Force on Violence Against Women and non-Native organizations,² recognized that for tribal leaders and grassroots advocates to fully participate in the national movement they required continuous briefings on the reasons for and the status of the amendments. Advocates and tribal leaders needed detailed explanations of how the barriers embedded in federal Indian law made Native women vulnerable in their daily lives.

The framework of *Restoration* is grounded in a tribal/Indigenous worldview. The proposed solutions, changes, or reforms are developed from a tribal perspective of strengthening the support needed for Native women. While rising to support many broader related attacks on Indian tribes, this tribal framework has guided the movement to focus on specific advocacy for the safety of Native women. *Restoration* has maintained this tribal framework for almost two decades.

Restoration has consistently supported the growth of a national social justice movement for the safety of Native women. *Restoration* is published three times per year. It primarily provides information regarding critical tribal legislative reform efforts, urgent issues such as the crisis of MMIW, and responding to attacks on tribal sovereignty. *Restoration* is distributed to tribal leaders at the National Congress of American Indians and Alaska Federation of Natives conferences, annual consultations sponsored

¹ Sacred Circle National Resource Center recognized the importance of the National Congress of American Indians to congressional efforts and the importance of conferring with tribal leaders since any legislative amendments generally impacted all Indian tribes.

² The National Task Force to End Domestic and Sexual Violence Against Women (NTF) was a strong supporter, and *Restoration* included its logo for many years. In 2003, the national tribal movement did not have a strong relationship to Congressional champions of VAWA, and support from non-Native allies was extremely helpful. Fourteen tribal coalitions existed in 2003 that were funded under the OVW Tribal Coalitions program which was launched in 2001.

by the U.S. Department of Justice and Department of Health and Human Services, academic programs, national conferences, and other advocacy and community events. It is also distributed to congressional and federal agency staff to increase awareness of changes required to restore safety for Native women.

In fiscal year 2019, *Restoration* content highlighted the organizing and support efforts for:

- StrongHearts Native Helpline
- Pouhana O Na Wahine
- Legislative updates on the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Family Violence Prevention and Service Act (FVPSA)
- Analysis to address missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG)
- Updates on tribal cases before the Supreme Court of the United States
- Preparation for Annual VAWA Tribal Consultation
- International efforts

StrongHearts Native Helpline



As a collaborative project of the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center and the National Domestic Violence Hotline, StrongHearts Native Helpline was created by and for Native Americans, a population with some of the highest rates of domestic violence in the United States, as a project under the umbrella of NIWRC. Indian Tribes, as sovereign nations, face significant jurisdictional hurdles when addressing violent crimes in their communities. Gaps in Native-centered supportive services create unique barriers for Native victims seeking help.

During fiscal year 2019, StrongHearts Native Helpline answered 2,693 calls from across the United States. StrongHearts is the first culturally appropriate domestic violence and dating violence helpline for American Indians and Alaska Natives, offering peer support, crisis intervention, personalized safety planning, and referrals to tribal and Native-centered supportive services to callers.

In 2019, NIWRC was awarded two Office of Victims of Crime grants to expand StrongHearts services to more effectively meet the needs of callers. With this funding, StrongHearts intends to expand its hours of operation to 24/7/365 and launch chat advocacy in 2020.

2,693 Calls Answered by StrongHearts Native Helpline in 2019 (4,365 Calls Received Total):

Of All StrongHearts Calls Received in 2019

- Calls Taken 62%
- Outside of Business Hours 24%
- Missed Due to Limited Staffing 15%

Note: Percentages do not add up to 100% because there is a small number of calls during our hours that do not hit call queue.

Trends and Findings:

- 2019 highlighted the need for StrongHearts Native Helpline to operate 24/7. This is evident in StrongHearts' missed call rate, the number of calls received during out of business hours, and the lack of callers interested in connecting with a non-Native helpline.
- 22% of those assisting victims who called StrongHearts on their behalf were under 25 years old, whereas only 14% of victims who called StrongHearts for themselves were under 25 years old. This shows a hesitancy of younger victims to call StrongHearts directly. Implementing chat services will help us better reach young callers (according to Pew Research Center, 57% of teens claim text or chat as their first method of communication).³
- American Indians and Alaska Natives face the highest rate of sexual violence in the country⁴, yet currently, there is no culturally-specific national helpline or direct service provider for Native victims of sexual violence. Sexual violence and intimate partner violence are intricately linked, which is why StrongHearts, through NIWRC, aimed to secure funding to expand its advocacy to serve victims of sexual violence.
- In 2019, StrongHearts' top caller needs recorded from Native victims of intimate partner violence were peer support, shelter, and legal advocacy. To adequately address these needs in tribal communities, the full restoration of inherent tribal authority and sovereignty is required. To continue restoring inherent tribal sovereignty, StrongHearts recommends expanding tribal jurisdiction to address legal loopholes that result in disparate rates of violence against Native victims, and increasing funding to direct tribal services to enable tribal programs to provide adequate and culturally appropriate victim services.

NativeLove



³ Anderson, M. (2015, August 17). For teens, phone calls are reserved for closer relationships. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/facttank/2015/08/17/for-teens-phone-calls-are-reserved-for-closer-relationships/>

⁴ Rosay, A. B. (2016, June 1). Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men. Retrieved from <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/violenceagainst-american-indian-and-alaska-native-women-and-men>

Since 2013, NIWRC’s NativeLove project has worked to end violence against Native youth by empowering them to redefine NativeLove by drawing on cultural strengths and teachings to restore healthy lifeways and relationships. The focus of NativeLove is primarily youth-driven activism meant to inspire, empower, and mobilize tribal youth to engage in meaningful discussions with their peers, families, and communities. This activism works to raise awareness about ending violence to restore balance in relationships and promote healthy lifestyles. The NativeLove project was very active in 2019, including participation in the Annual United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) conference, youth on-site engagement sessions in Alaska, and a feature of NativeLove on the TV series *Yellowstone*. Some of this year’s activities included:

- For the UNITY conference in July 2019, the NativeLove team and consultants presented, *Mapping a Loving and Supportive Community: An Open Conversation on Bullying on LGBTQ2S+ Youth*. Our NativeLove Youth Ambassador also offered a peer session, *Addressing Healthy Relationships Through NativeLove*. The NativeLove staff also set up an exhibitor booth at UNITY to offer the NativeLove Social Media Challenge 2019. With scores of challenge entries from the UNITY conference, the team awarded one winner for the challenge.
- In July 2019, the NativeLove team engaged with Native youth during its on-site visit to Yakutat, AK. The Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center coordinated with NativeLove for the on-site culture camp to engage with youth on healthy/unhealthy relationships, intimate partner violence (IPV), and intersecting issues. Our NativeLove team and NativeLove Youth Ambassador provided a peer session and facilitated a discussion about youth IPV and other related issues. The culture camp was uniquely situated on the community’s traditional homelands and youth sang traditional songs, learned their history, wove cedar, and gathered their traditional foods.
- NIWRC coordinated with the producers of the television show *Yellowstone* to feature NativeLove by having actors wear a NativeLove T-shirt on Episode 8 of Season 2 series in August 2019. Taylor Sheridan, Executive Producer and Co-Creator of *Yellowstone*, has continued to support NIWRC on various projects to help raise awareness about NIWRC’s mission. All proceeds from subsequent sales of the NativeLove T-Shirt helped to fund the project.

VAWA Sovereignty Initiative

In an effort to defend the constitutionality and functionality of all Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) tribal provisions, NIWRC launched the VAWA Sovereignty Initiative in 2016. Following the historic victory in restoring the inherent tribal authority of Indian tribes to prosecute non-Native defendants for certain crimes (partial Oliphant fix) – known as Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction with the reauthorization of VAWA in 2013, NIWRC shifted its focus to enhancing the tribal provisions further and defending the important advancements in federal law and policy related to the protection of Native women and children.

Because many tribes do not have adequate resources to assess all of their legal vulnerabilities in implementing VAWA, a national initiative was necessary to protect VAWA and tribal jurisdiction over non-Indians nationwide. In collaboration with the attorneys at Pipestem Law, the VAWA Sovereignty Initiative allows NIWRC to prepare for the defense of VAWA and tribal sovereignty through the monitoring of federal court cases to ensure that as soon as the first challenge hits the courts, Indian country is ready to respond.

As part of its VAWA Sovereignty Initiative work in fiscal year 2019, NIWRC filed an amicus brief in a case that had the potential to undermine tribal sovereignty and negatively impact the safety of Native women:

Gamble V. United States

In November 2018, NIWRC and NCAI filed an amicus brief in *Gamble v. United States*. Gamble, who had been convicted by both the State of Alabama and the United States of violating similar firearm laws, challenged his federal conviction in the Supreme Court, asserting that his subsequent federal conviction—because it followed a state conviction—violated his rights under the U.S. Constitution’s Double Jeopardy Clause. The Supreme Court’s precedent on point, however, commands that the “separate sovereign” doctrine applies to duplicate state and federal prosecutions—or duplicate tribal and state/federal prosecutions—such that these duplicative violations for the same crime do not violate the Double Jeopardy Clause. Many were surprised the Supreme Court agreed to hear this case since the “separate sovereign” doctrine has controlled for more than 150 years and the Court had repeatedly declined invitations to overturn it. To be sure, the loss of the “separate sovereign” doctrine could have had significant implications for Native women and children, if the Court had overturned the doctrine entirely. The amicus brief filed by NIWRC and NCAI asserted that overturning the Court’s long-standing precedent regarding the separate sovereign doctrine, which has allowed both tribal and the federal governments to prosecute for violations of their respective criminal laws, would have significant ramifications in Indian country.



The ability of both sovereigns to prosecute has heightened importance for Tribal Nations due to sentencing limitations placed on tribal courts by the federal Indian Civil Rights Act and the well-documented challenges the federal government has investigating and prosecuting inherently local crimes. Changing this rule would have destabilized an already precarious jurisdictional scheme at the expense of victims, particularly those who experience serious domestic violence or sexual violence. That is, the eradication of the “separate sovereigns” doctrine would require a Tribal Nation to choose whether to prosecute a case before the U.S. Attorney has had sufficient time to perform the necessary investigation to determine whether they will prosecute under federal law and sentencing authority. The Tribal Nation could have been forced to move forward with prosecution, and without the “separate sovereigns” exception, such a prosecution would then preclude the more meaningful and deterrent sentencing authorized under federal jurisdiction. And thus, until or unless tribal criminal jurisdiction—and sentencing authority—is fully and completely restored, federal prosecutions will remain an essential tool in preserving the safety of Native women and children in their own homes.

During oral argument, Justice Breyer referred directly to the amicus brief by NIWRC and NCAI, stating “...think of the brief here with the Indian tribes. We’re saying that we need this kind of thing for abuse of women.” In a 7-2 opinion, the Court declined to overturn the dual-sovereignty doctrine.

FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position	
September 30, 2019	
Assets	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 396,375
Grants & Contracts Receivable	\$ 354,981
Other Expenses	\$ 13,675
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 17,102
Total Assets	\$ 782,133
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 265,331
Accrued Liabilities	\$ 66,901
Deferred Revenue	\$ 42,041
Compensated Absences Payable	\$ 56,509
Total Liabilities	\$ 430,782
Net Assets	
Net Assets without donor restriction	\$ 351,351
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 782,133

Statement of Activities	
For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2019.	
Revenue	
Contributions and Grants	\$ 3,195,796
Other Revenues, Net	\$ 269,897
Total Revenue	\$ 3,465,693
Expense	
Program Expenses	
Domestic violence/sexual assault advocacy	\$ 1,183,054
Helpline services	\$ 1,367,144
Total Program Expenses	\$ 2,550,198
Supporting Services	\$ 592,612
Total Expense	\$ 3,142,810
Change in Net Assets	\$ 322,883

Support and Revenue Comparison

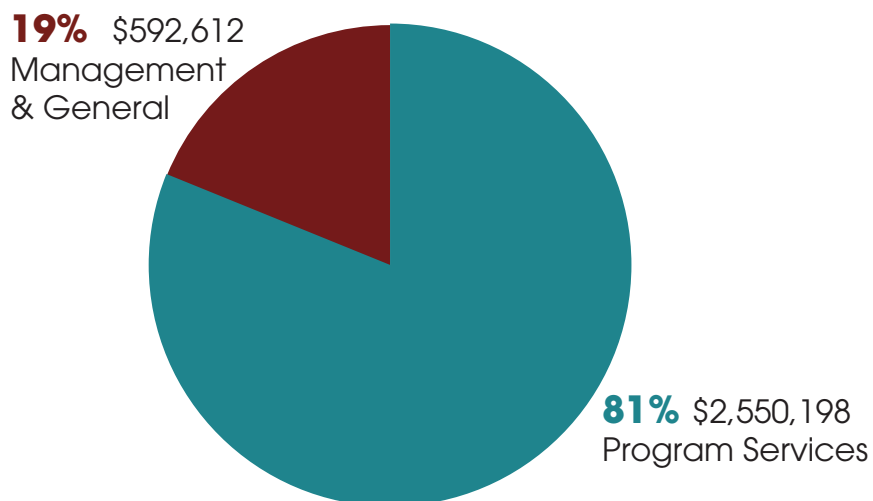
	FY 2019		FY 2018	
	dollars	percent	dollars	percent
Contracts/grants - federal	\$ 2,831,631	81.70%	\$ 2,419,604	79.61%
Contributions - private non-federal	225,023	6.49%	90,109	2.96%
Grants - private non-federal	139,142	4.01%	209,867	6.90%
Other	269,897	7.79%	319,900	10.52%
TOTALS	\$ 3,465,693	100.00%	\$ 3,039,480	100.00%

Expense Comparison

	FY 2019		FY 2018	
	dollars	percent	dollars	percent
Domestic violence/sexual assault advocacy	\$ 1,183,054	37.64%	1,406,934	47.70%
Helpline services	1,367,144	43.50%	964,729	32.71%
Total Program Services	2,550,198	81.14%	2,371,663	80.42%
Management and General	592,612	18.86%	577,579	19.58%
Total Supporting Services	592,612	18.86%	577,579	19.58%
TOTALS	\$ 3,142,810	100.00%	\$ 2,949,242	100.00%

Services	
Program Services	\$ 2,550,198
Management & General	\$592,612

PERCENTAGES DATA





National Indigenous Women's Resource Center