



Native American Development
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March 09, 2023

NATIVE, Inc.
SB 2012
House Appropriations Committee
Human Resources Division

Mr. Chairman Nelson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lorraine Davis, Founder, and CEO of a statewide Native American-led community-based organization called NATIVE, Inc. serving people living in the Bismarck and Fargo metro areas with homeless, behavioral health, and criminal justice prevention services to adults, and youth, and families. I have attached brochures of NATIVE, Inc. and the Great Plains Indians Youth and Family Engagement Center for your review.

I am here today in **support** of Senate Bill 2012 as it relates to Human Services, Children and Family Services and Behavioral Health Services. In continued and expanded funding to the ND Department of Health and Human Services budget, you will be helping so many North Dakotans get the appropriate services they need. It is through State, Tribal, and nonprofit organization partnerships that make this work a success.

NATIVE, Inc. is a partner with the ND DHHS with several contracts. NATIVE, Inc. currently has 17 employees (i.e., 14 in Bismarck and 3 in Fargo). We are service providers of the Free through Recovery Program, Community Connect Program and 1915(i) Programs. NATIVE, Inc. is a major service provider toward meeting the cultural needs of Native American populations in North Dakota (ND). Native Americans are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice systems both juveniles and adults, and in homelessness. Also, Native Americans have lower scores through 3-12 grades public education system in ND. Although graduation rates have improved over the last few years, they still have lower graduation rates compared to other subgroups and are only a few enrolled into the Choice Ready initiative.

NATIVE, Inc. is newer to Children and Family Service programs. We are currently forming a partnership with the Burleigh Human Service Zone and Standing Rock Sioux Tribes' Child Protection Program through referrals from their agencies to our organization to provide support services and programs from our Great Plains Indians Youth and Family Engagement Center to their clients. We are also in discussion of a partnership with the ND Children and Family Services division regarding the Kinship Program, Title VI-E Prevention Program, and the Certified Shelter Care Program for youth in Bismarck.

NATIVE, Inc. has been providing adult behavioral health prevention and prison recidivism programs since 2017. In 2020, we began providing juvenile delinquency prevention services to youth in the Bismarck region which led to the creation of the Great Plains Indians Youth and Family Engagement Center. We are planning to expand these programs into the Fargo metro area.

Free Through Recovery Program

Due to the funding allocated every biennium since 2017, NATIVE, Inc. has been able to serve an average of 30 clients at any given month.

Community Connect Program

Due to the funding allocated every biennium since 2019, NATIVE, Inc. has been able to serve an average of 121 clients at any given month.

1915(i) Program

Due to the passing of Medicaid Expansion, NATIVE, Inc. has been able to become a provider of the 1915(i) program with a waiver to provide all service components of the 1915(i) program as we are ready to do so. We just received our final Care Coordination Training for this program. As of today, we will be able to provide 1915(i) care coordination, family and peer supports and housing support services to up to 40 clients. We are currently seeking to hire a second housing specialist.

Although housing services do not fall under the ND DHHS other than the 1915(i) housing supports and ND Rent Help program, NATIVE, Inc. plays a major role as a homeless provider which includes rapid rehousing through rental assistances, street outreach and housing stabilization services.

Opioid Settlement Funds

NATIVE, Inc. encourage legislatures involved in the designation of use of these funds to consider expanding the need for intervention, recovery and prevention including innovative ways that have not been implemented to-date.

NATIVE, Inc. recommends an increase to the Human Service Zones, Division of Children and Family Services and ND Behavioral Health budget and the continued support for Medicaid Expansion. This will continue to foster equitable services to best meet all the needs of people and families impacted by mental health and addiction but also to alleviate the ongoing need for institutionalization.

Thank you for your time and commitment toward addressing human service needs within ND.

I stand for any questions.