



Native Community Development, Inc. dba NATIVE, Inc. serving urban Indians and other disproportionate populations in North Dakota.

Bismarck Office  
2403 East Thayer Avenue  
Bismarck ND 58501  
Tel: (701) 595-5181  
Website: www.ndnadc.org

Fargo Office  
115 University Dr. North, Ste. 102  
Fargo, ND 58102  
Tel: (701) 412-2735  
Website: www.ndnadc.org

March 19, 2025

**HB 1012**  
**Senate Appropriations - Human Resources Division**  
Mr. Chairman Dever and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lorraine Davis, Founder and CEO of NATIVE, Inc. serving the urban Indian population and other underserved populations in Bismarck and Fargo, North Dakota. NATIVE, Inc. has been a partner with the ND Behavioral Health Division as a community service provider of the Free through Recovery Program, Community Connect Program and 1915i Program serving in the Bismarck and Fargo areas since 2017. NATIVE, Inc. provides culturally responsive services and programs to our clients. NATIVE, Inc. was created to meet the cultural needs of Native Americans living in urban areas of ND by providing traditional healing (spiritual) services through various ceremonies, talking circles and by way of providing cultural programs-- arts and crafts classes, such as, hand drum making classes, regalia making classes, beading classes, star quilt making classes just to name a few—these types of classes are intended to create a cultural connection and space in urban communities and all are welcome to learn and create new healthy and supportive relationships. This is also intended to increase cultural identities amongst Indigenous populations and for non-Natives to learn about them. NATIVE, Inc. has a budget line item in this bill to cover \$1 M toward a cultural center in section 7.

**I am here today in support of HB 1012 with an amendment to Section 7 line 11 to: least fifty percent of funds needed to purchase the land for a cultural center, the project will be completed within.**

**Secondly, I request this committee to consider an amendment to include \$900,000 budget line item to fund Native American culturally programming in Bismarck area for referrals and requests for foster parents and for participants and their families involved in the Free through Recovery, Community Connect and 1915i programs.**

There are no other funds at the federal level nor at the foundation level that funds Native American cultural programming. The one opportunity that we had to use was from a federal government grant that we were fortunate enough to obtain and successfully depleted it last year and we do not have the opportunity to reapply for this funding for the same geographical area—federal grant guidelines. Although NATIVE, Inc. was fortunate to obtain this federal grant to provide cultural programming in the Fargo and Grand Forks areas ending in September 2027. There is no cultural programming funded for the Bismarck area. **This funding request is only to cover only the Bismarck area.**

Due to the disproportionate representation of Native American adults in prison, the growing numbers of Native women into the prison systems, 40% of Native American youth are in the correctional system and many of the schools are dealing with a high volume of at-risk youth, and in 2022, and currently with over 30% dealing with homelessness and housing problems, 48% of child in foster care are Native American--28% of these are from state district courts and

20% are from Tribal Courts, it is critical to provide cultural and traditional healing programming amongst Native Americans living off the reservations referred to as the urban Indians within our state.

Thank you for your time and commitment toward addressing human service needs within ND. I stand for any questions.