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Mission:

The Mission of the Indian Affairs Council is to protect the sovereignty of the 11 Minnesota Tribes and ensure the well-being of American Indian citizens throughout the state of Minnesota.

Statewide Outcome(s):

Indian Affairs Council supports the following statewide outcome(s).

Minnesotans have the education and skills needed to achieve their goals.

Context:

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) consists of a 28-member board of directors and two offices consisting of four full-time staff located in Bemidji and St. Paul, Minnesota. The MIAC provides a liaison to the eleven sovereign tribal nations and between the leaders of those governments and the leaders of the state of Minnesota. While working across jurisdictions, the MIAC seeks to better the lives of the American Indian citizens of the state by providing support, information, and education to the leaders of the state of Minnesota that includes accurate and relevant information on the status of the American Indians in Minnesota. The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council operates primarily through funding provided by the state general fund and through grant opportunities. Primary customers are the American Indian citizens of Minnesota, living both on and off of the reservation; the eleven sovereign Tribal Nations of Minnesota including, Red Lake, Leech Lake, White Earth, Mille Lacks, Fond du Lac, Bois Forte, Grand Portage, Shakopee Mdewakanton, Prairie Island, Upper Sioux, and Lower Sioux; Governor's office; federal, state and local governments; legislatures; and the general public.

Strategies:

The MIAC uses several strategies to deliver its mission and support statewide outcomes:

Citizen/public outreach

- Quarterly board meetings open to members of the public focusing on connecting communities working across jurisdictions, review of research and information about the state of American Indians in Minnesota, engagement, and policy.
- Develop and participate in forums, conferences, and education trainings to enhance knowledge and understanding of the sovereign tribes and American Indian people of Minnesota.

Research and Information

- Obtain and distribute data and information for use by decision makers and citizens.
- Participate in developing reports to decision makers and citizens.

Results:

The MIAC measures its success in both qualitative and quantitative ways. Qualitative measures include its effectiveness in and level of impact in policy making and the legislative process, state programs, and aid in providing services. Qualitative measures also include the level of engagement the MIAC has in policy making and other related activities. Quantitative measures exist primarily through outside sources providing research and collected data on American Indian people in Minnesota. Research data obtained from outside sources, including but not limited to, education, economics, health and families, is crucial to the work of the MIAC. Research data helps to facilitate understanding on the issues and necessary solutions and actions of the board and communities.

Performance Measures	Previous	Current	Trend
Minnesota American Indian Graduation Rates	41% (2007-2008)	45% (2010)	Improving
5-year Average College Participation Rates of Minnesota High School Graduates enrolled in Minnesota Postsecondary Institutions (American Indian)	36% (2000-2004)	55% (2006-2010)	Improving

Performance Measures Notes:

Statistics and Data found in a variety of sources presented to the council.

Current Data obtained from Minnesota Measures, 2011 Report on Higher Education Performance including data from numerous educational sources; Advisory Task Force on Minnesota American Indian Tribes and Communities and K-12 Standards-Based Reform reporting on data obtained from the National Center for Education Statistics.

The MIAC works in a variety of areas and tracks data pertaining to numerous statewide outcomes, such as economic and job status, poverty, health, and more. The focus of this agency report is on education.