



CONTENTS

2021 Overview	03	Practice Humility	08
Who We Are	04	Be A Good Relative	09
Financial Overview	05	Center Indigeneity	10
Our Values	06	Embrace Fun	11
Honor Sovereignty	07		

The photos included in this report feature members of the Lower Sioux Indian Community. Lower Sioux's new Intergenerational Cultural Incubator space, an example of Native nation rebuilding in action, served as the backdrop for our photo session.

Photos by Jacob Laducer (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa).
Original cover artwork created by Tommy Greyeyes, 100 Storms Creative: 100storms.com.



NATIVE GOVERNANCE
CENTER

2021

We're Over It.

We get the sense that we're all, collectively, feeling a little burned out and tired from a difficult year. So, to keep our summary of 2021 short and sweet: "We're over it."

Rather than rehashing and reflecting upon the truckload of challenging world events we faced last year, we're instead going to focus on the positives.

First, and perhaps most importantly, we came together as a team in 2021 to redesign our values. Our existing set of values felt a bit stale; they were created before most of our staff joined the team and prior to a period of significant organizational growth. We also realized that we talked (and continue to talk) a lot about Indigenous values in our programming, but we hadn't meaningfully defined our own values as an Indigenous-led organization. We wanted to change that.

After sharing many "headdesk" giphy's, Slack messages, and endless revisions to what we thought were final sentences, our values task force emerged with a set of values that resonated with the full team. We're proud of our values. In fact, we're so proud that we've decided to use them as the guiding structure for our 2021 impact report.

Aside from working on our values, we embraced fun, unapologetically. (This, uncoincidentally, is one of our values.) Our executive director agreed to don a flower hat and jump into a dunk tank for our Give to the Max Day campaign. We incorporated as many Reservation Dogs memes as we could into our programming and communications. And, we coordinated our best group Halloween costume theme yet.

We also channeled our creativity to meaningfully grow several of our key program areas. For example, we launched a new Indigenous Leaders in Governance program and Tribal Finance Pilot program within our Tribal Governance Support focus area. We expanded our Community Engagement events and resources to bring even more content to our communities and the public at large. And, we completely redesigned our Rebuilders curriculum to include a greater focus on Indigenous values, culture, kinship, and health.

We're excited to share our 2021 Impact Report with you and hope it inspires you to find new ways to embrace fun, examine your values, and put your inspiration into action this year.



NATIVE GOVERNANCE CENTER

Who We Are

Native Governance Center is a Native-led nonprofit dedicated to assisting Native nations in strengthening their governance systems and capacity to exercise sovereignty. We serve Native nations that share geography with Mni Sota Makoce, North Dakota, and South Dakota. We're working to cultivate a Native nation rebuilding movement so that all Indigenous people can thrive on their own terms.

CORE PROGRAM AREAS

Leadership Development

We provide leadership development training for Indigenous changemakers through our Native Nation Rebuilders program.

Tribal Governance Support

We engage elected Tribal leaders, administrators, and citizens in strengthening their Tribal governance systems.

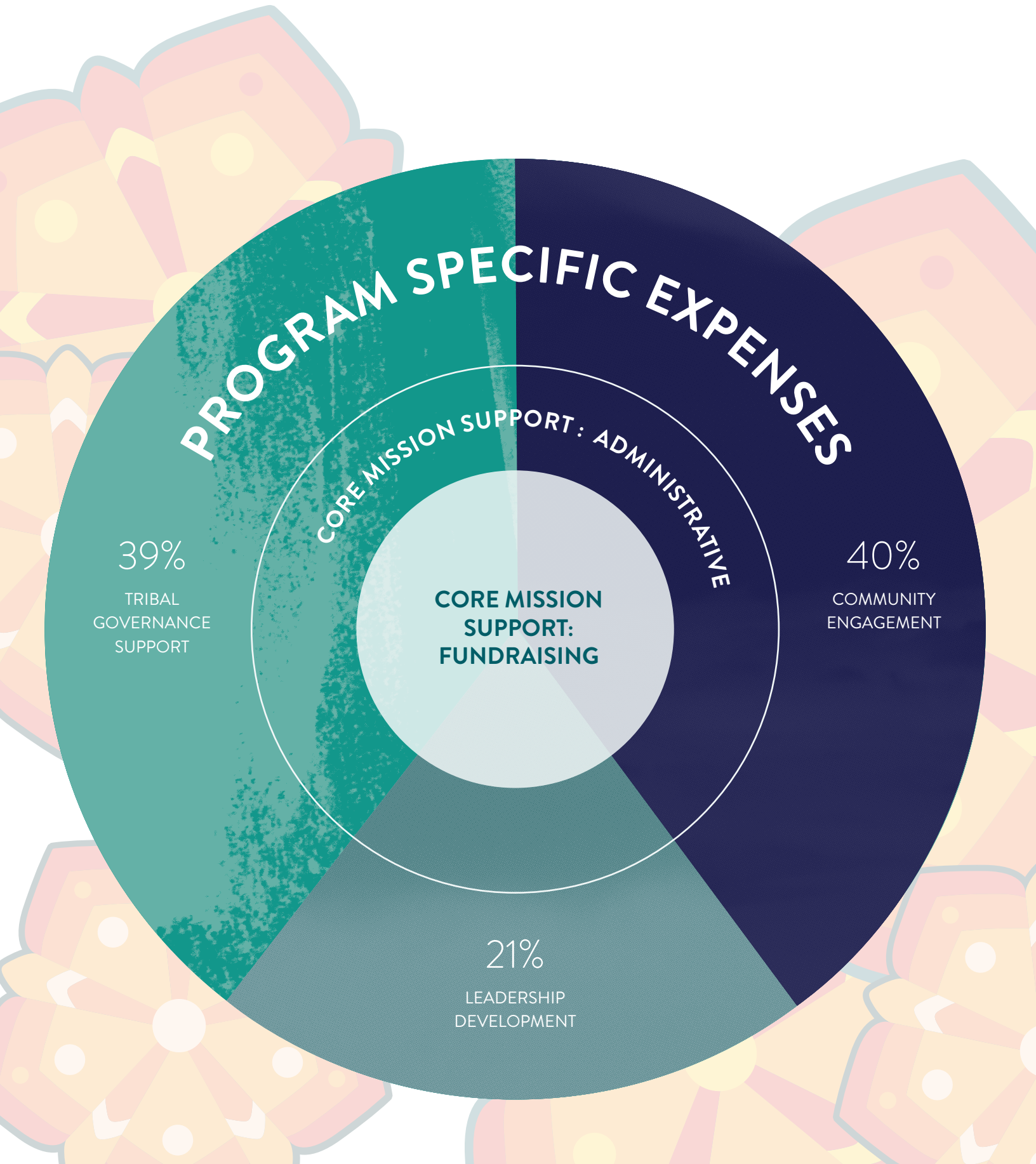
Community Engagement

We bring mission-driven, accessible, educational content to the broader community.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

This is a high-level view of where we directed our funds to support our mission.



Our Values

In 2021, we redesigned our organizational values.

We wanted to create a set of values that would guide our work as a team, help hold us accountable to ourselves and each other, encourage personal and organizational growth, and let our stakeholders know what to expect when working with us.

We're excited to share them with you!

HONOR SOVEREIGNTY

We honor the inherent sovereignty of every Native nation. We show respect for and learn from each nation's unique history, culture, and insight.

PRACTICE HUMILITY

We recognize that we will not always know the answer. We embrace moments that humble us, seeking knowledge and wisdom to move forward.

BE A GOOD RELATIVE

Being good relatives is foundational for how we work. We build kinship through trust, mutual respect, and mindful listening.

CENTER INDIGENEITY

We embody and ground ourselves in Indigenous worldviews, uplifting Indigenous culture and practices across our work.

EMBRACE FUN, UNAPOLOGETICALLY

We balance the hard work of decolonization with the good medicine of laughter and fun.



HONOR SOVEREIGNTY

*We honor the inherent sovereignty of every Native nation.
We show respect for and learn from each nation's unique history, culture, and insight.*



*The average number of Tribal
leaders and staff who participated in
each of our 2021 ILG sessions*

Indigenous Leaders in Governance (ILG) Program

We launched our new Indigenous Leaders in Governance program in 2021. The program, consisting of a mix of virtual workshops and technical assistance, educates elected Native leaders on the fundamentals of strengthening Tribal governance and sovereignty. Recognizing that each Native nation in our region is independent and unique, we customize our program content to fit our Tribal partners' needs.

As a result of completing our virtual workshop series in 2021, participants identified making time for “productive planning,” “infusing traditional practices into their leadership roles,” and “encouraging community involvement,” among other next steps, as priorities for their leadership.

Tribal Finance Pilot Launch

We launched a new Tribal Finance pilot program in 2021 in partnership with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. The program empowers Native nations to strengthen their financial leadership and infrastructure. The pilot will serve four Native nations; programming will incorporate the unique needs of each nation.

We Are Still Here Minnesota Narrative Change Projects

WASH-MN is a special project of Native Governance Center. One of WASH-MN's goals is to increase the general public's awareness of and knowledge about sovereignty so that Native nations see better outcomes. In 2021, WASH-MN partnered with Understand Native Minnesota, Minnesota Public Radio, and the Minnesota Council of Foundations on narrative change projects.



PRACTICE HUMILITY

*We recognize that we will not always know the answer.
We embrace moments that humble us, seeking knowledge and wisdom to move forward.*

We Are Still Here Minnesota Working Groups

WASH-MN convenes four working groups comprised of Indigenous thought leaders from across the state: K-12 education, philanthropy, governance & policy, and pop culture & media. WASH-MN recognizes that collectively leading and sharing knowledge is key to achieving policy priorities. In 2021, the working groups provided legislative testimony and advocated for the adoption of Indigenous Education for All (IEFA) legislation in Minnesota.

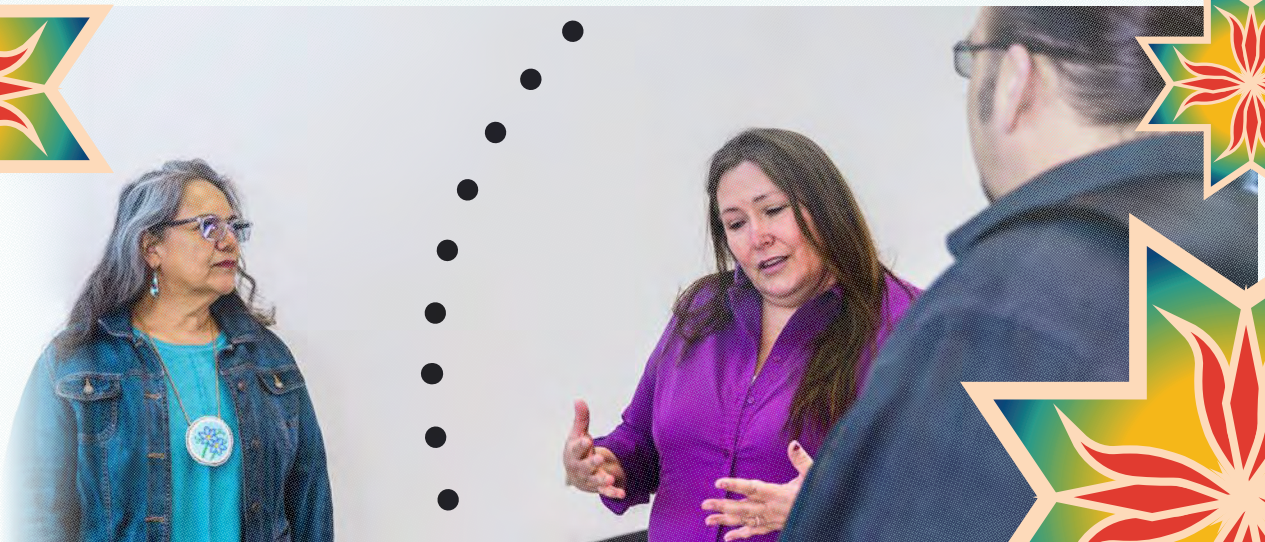
Native Nations Listening Tour Report

Several years in the making, our 2021 Native Nations Listening Tour Report reflects input from **19 Native nations** and 98 Tribal leaders, Tribal employees, or community members. The report summarizes key governance-related needs in our region and contains our recommendations for how we'll work to meet those needs. We prioritize listening to our community when designing our programming.



Tribal Civics Guide Creation

In response to Native nations' need for Tribal Civics-related materials, we convened five Indigenous experts in our network to help us create a Tribal Civics Resource Guide. The guide is designed to help Native people and nations create their own civics engagement program to increase community participation and buy-in around governance. We're proud to say that one of our Rebuilders, Levi Brown, inspired us to create our guide after he successfully implemented a Civics course for his nation. Here's Levi's take on Civics: "Reaching out, communicating with each other, and providing knowledge give your people their power back and help unravel historical trauma."





BE A GOOD RELATIVE

*Being good relatives is foundational for how we work.
We build kinship through trust, mutual respect, and mindful listening.*



Community Engagement Events

In 2021, we hosted five virtual community engagement events that reached a combined live audience of more than 2,000 people. Our events educate our non-Native community members on how they can be better relatives and support Tribal sovereignty. In late 2021, we followed up with individuals who attended our May 2021 How to Talk about Native Nations event: **100% of respondents** reported that they made changes to their language related to Native nations following our event.

Presentations, Interviews, & Resources

We launched a new online resource library to make it easier for our community to learn more about key topics related to Tribal sovereignty and governance. We also published 14 original articles and resources, delivered 9 community presentations, and participated in 16 media interviews.

Here's what some of our supporters said about our resources:

"I'm thankful for your organization's generosity in educating the community."

"I edited my website to follow your style guide and greatly appreciated it."

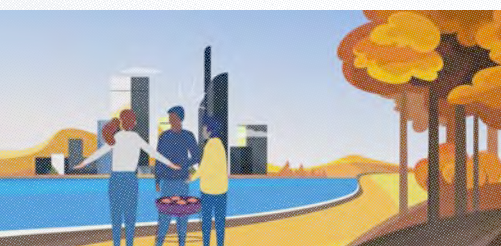
"I've been using your work as a resource in my effort to make our local government a more welcoming and collaborative place for Indigenous people."

Rebuilders Customized Coaching

During year two of our two-year cohort experience, we provide one-on-one coaching to guide Rebuilders in completing an action plan to strengthen their community. We customize this coaching to fit the needs and style of each individual Rebuilder. In 2021, Rebuilders reported that our coaching helped them feel supported and better articulate their plans to an external audience.

Animated Explainer Videos

We created three animated explainer videos in 2021 in partnership with Indigenous voiceover and graphic artists. Our videos explain topics related to our work in an accessible, shareable format. Since their release, our three videos have been viewed almost 8,500 times.



Pictured: Stills from our explainer videos, titled *What is Native Narrative Change?*, *Language Matters: How to Talk About Native Nations*, and *Beyond Land Acknowledgment*. You can watch this series on our YouTube channel, Native Governance Center.

CENTER INDIGENEITY

*We embody and ground ourselves in Indigenous worldviews,
uplifting Indigenous culture and practices across our work.*

Updated Rebuilders Modules

Our program team created five new modules and workbooks for our Rebuilders program, completely redesigning the curriculum to include a greater focus on Indigenous values, culture, kinship, and health. We debuted the first module in December 2021; 18 Indigenous changemakers participated in the new module.

ILG Knowledge Keeper Presentations

Our Indigenous Leaders in Governance (ILG) program includes knowledge keepers from each of our partner nations. We invite knowledge keepers to present to their communities on traditional Indigenous governance: understanding how governance functioned prior to colonization helps Native nations envision new models that fit their community needs. As a result of attending one of our 2021 workshops, participants indicated an interest in continuing to work with the knowledge keeper on Indigenizing their governance.

Dakota History Symposium Support

We facilitated nine planning meetings to help a committee of Dakota Oyate prepare for a two-day Dakota History Symposium event. More than 200 community members attended the Symposium, which helped preserve and share Dakota cultural teachings and history for future generations.



EMBRACE FUN, UNAPOLOGETICALLY

We balance the hard work of decolonization with the good medicine of laughter and fun.

Website Redesign

We redesigned our website in partnership with the Native-owned company, St. Paul Media, to better reflect our brand, values, and organizational voice. From design ideas to user personas, our small but mighty website team kept the process *fun*. Since the launch in 2021, we've seen an increase in website traffic, meaning that we're now sharing our content with an even larger audience.

Explore our new look at nativegov.org!

Team Celebrations

We used more memes, kudoboard, surprise songs, and costumes than ever before to celebrate our team members in 2021. Our work wouldn't be possible without our amazing team; recognizing their achievements is part of our culture.

Our Executive Director, Wayne L. Ducheneaux II, ready to make his dunk tank debut for the #TendingToTheSeeds campaign.

Give to the Max Day

Give to the Max Day is Mni Sota Makocce's biggest giving holiday and our most important day of the year for individual donations. Our 2021 campaign, "**Tending to the Seeds**," embraced fun through a dunk tank challenge, brightly colored artwork, and donor giveaways. More than 160 individuals supported our campaign, making it our most successful year ever.

GTMD Total Earnings

2021: \$32,233 Raised!

2020: \$16,657

2019: \$10,805

2018: \$10,820

2017: \$9,156






NATIVE GOVERNANCE CENTER

 /nativegov

 @nativegov

 @nativegov

1730 New Brighton Blvd, Suite 104-236

Minneapolis, MN 55413

651.571.0826 | hello@nativegov.org

NATIVEGOV.ORG

