



Indigenous Visioning

Indigenous Parent Leadership Initiative
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Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Indigenous Visioning and All Nations Rise, we thank you for the opportunity to share our strong support for **Article 13, Section 18 of the Senate Health and Human Services omnibus budget bill, Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant Program**. This historic program focuses on improving measures of well-being for children of color and American Indian children in Minnesota prenatal to grade 3 through a community and equity-centered approach across the state.

It is historical because the grant program is guided by a Community Solutions Advisory (CSA) Council comprised of 12 community members who bring professional expertise and lived experience in racial equity, early childhood development and advocacy. The council has been involved from the beginning of the grant program from RFP creation, reading and scoring applications, and ongoing support and advocacy for more streamlined implementation and processes.

As a grantee, we want you to know about the positive impact that Community Solutions funding has brought to the White Earth Ojibwe Nation tribal community through the creation of the Indigenous Parent Leadership Initiative (IPLI). IPLI is a 21 week journey that integrates child development, leadership, democracy skills and Anishinaabe culture into a parent curriculum to empower the parent voice. Through interactive adult learning practices, twenty-two Parents, Grandparents, Foster Parents and Caregivers in the White Earth tribal community learned the importance of the developing child and how local, state and tribal policies and systems affect children & families through a nationally accredited evidence-based civics curriculum. Parents create individual community projects to practice their civic and cultural teachings and help strengthen their leadership skills. IPLI is the first of its kind in Minnesota and White Earth is the second tribal nation in the United States to implement the Parent Leadership Training Institute curriculum. The initiative inspires parents to become empowered to use their voice as change agents and be role models for their children while bringing about positive change within their own lives, their children's lives and the health of their tribal communities.

"This 21 weeks of the Indigenous Parent Leadership Initiative has been challenging but there comes growth with that. I feel confidence now after learning how to use my voice and build community. It was a blessing getting to know everyone and learning how to network. Everyone is so resourceful! I am grateful!"

~Autumn O. 2022 Graduate

"The Indigenous Parent Leadership Initiative has really changed my life for the better and given me more opportunities to learn and lead as a parent in my tribal community. I look forward to the future and seeing more parents in my tribal community experience this process and become parent leaders."

~Mykee Brown, 2023 Graduate

We thank you for your commitment to making Minnesota a better place for children and families. We need to continue to leverage more community led solutions beyond the pilot group of grantees as an upstream way to support children and families.

Miigwech (Thank you) for supporting children, families, and communities.

Barb Fabre, CEO
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All Nations Rise

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Indigenous Visioning