

American Indian OIC

Organization Profile: American Indian Opportunities Industrialization Center (AIOIC) was founded in 1979 to address the education and employment disparities faced by American Indians. Today it is a nationally recognized leader in workforce development, providing career-focused education and employment counseling to nearly 1,000 students each year through its Takoda (Dakota for “friend to all”) programs.



Proposed Project: AIOIC is seeking support to design, construct, furnish and equip a new facility for American Indian OIC in the Native American Cultural Corridor in south Minneapolis. The new facility, whether built on the existing site or on an alternative parcel nearby, will expand AIOIC’s useable space from 29,700 square feet to 59,050 square feet.

Benefits: The project will double AIOIC’s space, allowing the organization to serve more of those in need, strengthening the community.

The additional capacity, for example, will allow AIOIC’s Takoda Prep High School to fulfill Minneapolis Public Schools’ request to expand, boosting enrollment by 300 percent. Enrollment growth of 25 percent also is projected in both the Takoda Institute training program and Takoda Adult Basic Ed/GED.

It’s about reaching more people – both in south Minneapolis and beyond – but also fueling results. AIOIC has a proven track record. Its high school students are 40% more likely to graduate and 20% more likely to enroll in post-secondary education than their peers. AIOIC’s programming also leads to higher education and lower recidivism for youth with criminal justice contact.

The labor market is demanding more skilled workers – and the agency’s expanded facilities will ensure that students have the up-to-date skills needed to step into the jobs of today ... and tomorrow.

Funding Request: \$34.5 million

Previous Appropriations for this project: \$0. (During the 2021 legislative session, AIOIC received a two-year appropriation of \$167,000 annually for its Adult Career Training programs, and two-year funding of \$250,000 annually to support our Adult Basic Education program and Adult Career Trainings.)

