

A Journey Toward Wellness

Project: Adolescent Recovery and Wellness Center



Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.

Mission Statement

To enhance the quality of life for all Native people.

Vision Statement

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. shall be a diligent advocate for the advancement and promotion of tribal nations and communities by honoring the seventh-generation perspective.



Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. (GLITC) was established as a Wisconsin 501 (C) (3) non-profit to provide a means by which Member Tribes could unite against the threat of termination and act as a mechanism for tribes to work through the challenges of governance and services for their communities.

Over the years, GLITC's services have grown across many sectors to enhance the quality of life for all Native people from womb to tomb.

- Aging and Disabilities
- Economic Development
- Education, Health and Research
- Elders Services
- Epidemiology
- Family Health
- Vocational Rehabilitation

In late 2019, the GLITC Board of Directors, made up of the Tribal Chairperson/President from each Member Tribe, identified six priority areas: Housing, Drug Crisis, Mental/Behavioral Health, Economic Development, Healthcare and Emergency Management Support Planning. All these priorities have worsened because of the pandemic. Immediate action is needed to minimize the overwhelming impacts to Native Americans and their families, to tribal communities and economies, and to support the health and well-being of future generations.

Organizational Values: Culture Respect Diversity Collaboration Teamwork Stewardship

Preserving the Next Seven Generations

The focus of this campaign is on the development of the Adolescent Recovery and Wellness Center (ARWC), which directly aligns with GLITC's established priorities of Drug Crisis, Mental/Behavioral Health, and Healthcare. The completion of this project will help meet an urgent need for our Member Tribes, Native American youth, and non-Native youth of Wisconsin, due to a combination of three existential threats:

- Historical Trauma – Native Americans perennially experiencing higher rates of suicide, homicide, domestic violence, child abuse, alcoholism and drug use – grounded in long-term effects of historical trauma, the result of *unresolved grief across generations, and long-standing structural inequalities and racism*.¹
- Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) – The misuse of and addiction to opioids—including prescription pain relievers, heroin, and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. Native Americans are 50% more likely to die from an opioid overdose than non-Natives.
- The COVID-19 pandemic and aftermath – Mental health effects of isolation and an increase of drug use.

As a result of these three co-occurring health and social conditions, construction of a residential care facility to save Native American youth and prevent another wave of lost generations is needed.

Cultural Connectivity

We are pleased to announce that the GLITC Adolescent Recovery and Wellness Center, almost 20 years in the making, is finally becoming a reality. Our vision - *Culture is Prevention* - will be woven into both the facility design and the life enhancing programs to be offered.

The facility design vision integrates multiple tribal wellness themes and harnesses the healing power of nature and the four elements - wind, fire, water and earth. A color palette representing the four seasons brings to mind the transitions we all go through in life and reminds us of the potential for rebirth and healing.

¹ Leggat-Barr, K., Uchikoshi, F., & Goldman, N. (2021). COVID-19 risk factors and mortality among Native Americans. *Demographic Research*, 45, 1185–1218. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48640810>

Adolescent Recover



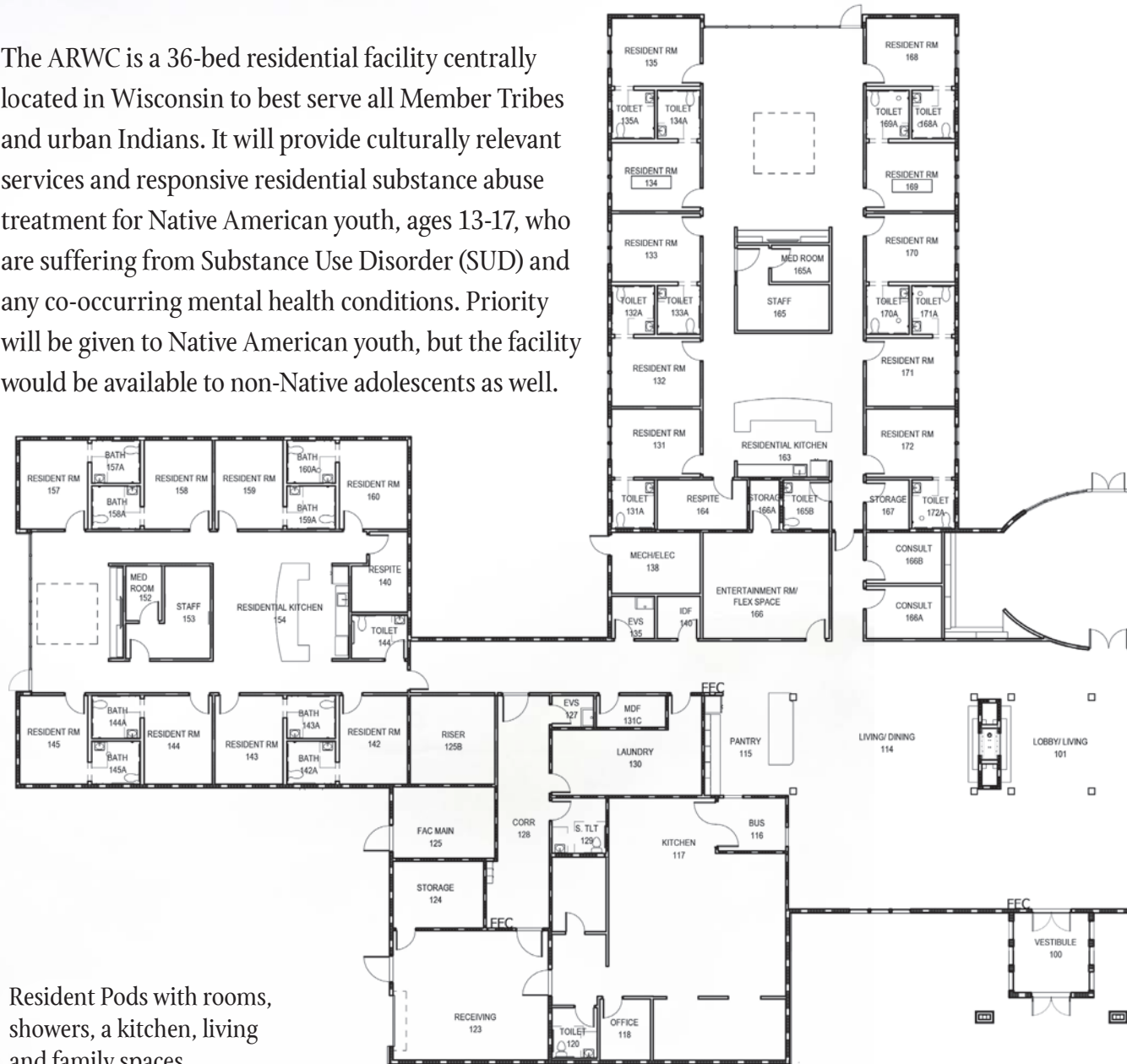
The ARWC is a 36-bed residential facility centrally located in Wisconsin to best serve all Member Tribes and urban Indians. It will provide culturally relevant services and responsive residential substance abuse treatment for Native American youth, ages 13-17, who are suffering from Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and any co-occurring mental health conditions. Priority will be given to Native American youth, but the facility would be available to non-Native adolescents as well.



Connection to nature through exterior and interior courtyards and other daylit spaces helps reduce stress and anxiety in a recovery setting.



Resident Pods with rooms, showers, a kitchen, living and family spaces.



ry & Wellness Center



Communal gathering and dining spaces that are bright and inviting.





Cultural Competence Framework

Cultural competency must be built into the mission, operating procedures and management of the facility. The ability to develop and maintain a culturally competent organization and treatment method is of the utmost importance in establishing an effective center for Native Americans. This is to be respectful and responsive to the health beliefs and practices – cultural, traditional and linguistic needs – of diverse populations.

Treat the Person – Not the Disease

Each person with a dependency on alcohol, drugs, and other substances has their own story, their own history, their own cultural identity. All of these need to be considered to individualize treatment and provide the most appropriate wrap-around recovery care services for the individual and their family as they re-enter their communities.

Our healing practices will strengthen cultural connectivity to improve mental/behavioral wellness and reduce risky behaviors such as alcohol, commercial tobacco and other substance abuse. Youth will be provided the necessary tools, life skills, rehabilitation services, and cultural mentorship to strengthen their cultural identity, enabling them to lead healthy and productive lives. One of our goals is to create a recovery model that is highly adaptable and will fit numerous settings across the country.

ARWC programs will model characteristics of the best treatment programs

- Accredited, licensed or certified
- Offer medications for opioid addiction
- Use treatments that are evidenced-based and proven to work
- Include family and friends in the treatment process
- Provide long-term treatment and support
- For Native Americans – incorporate cultural elements and traditional healing practices as well as community support

Sustainability

All Member Tribes have pledged support for the ARWC. Once operational, the ARWC will meet regulatory requirements, enabling it to accept reimbursements for services. Funding sources could include IHS, Medicaid and private insurance, as well as Title IV-E for adjudicated minors. We are developing a unique, highly adaptable model to address the national SUD epidemic.

Support Needed

This ongoing effort and vital need provide an opportunity for you to be a part of the healing process to redress past inequities experienced by Native Americans and Tribal Nations. The Adolescent Recovery and Wellness Center is part of the solution to the national opioid crisis. Be part of the solution. Together, through cultural connectivity and a dedicated focus on healing the whole person, we can save future generations of Native American youth. Funding and key partnerships are critical for long-term sustainability and support through the next seven generations and beyond.

GLITC Executive Committee

President:

Shannon Holsey
President, Stockbridge-Munsee Community

Secretary/Treasurer:

Tehassi Hill
Chairman, Oneida Nation

Vice President:

Michael Wiggins, Jr.
Chairman, Bad River Band of the
Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians

GLITC CEO:

Bryan Bainbridge
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Learn more about GLITC and this Journey to Wellness:

www.glitc.org/ARWC
Bryan Bainbridge
715-588-1026
bbainbridge@glitc.org



A watercolor illustration of a serene landscape. On the left, two birch trees with white bark and green leaves stand prominently. In the background, a calm lake reflects the sky, surrounded by rolling green hills and distant purple mountains. In the foreground, a large, round, brown drum with a wooden handle lies on a grassy field. The overall style is soft and artistic, with a decorative geometric pattern in shades of green and blue at the top.

PARTNERS, FUNDERS, OTHER KEY SUPPORTERS

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.

State of Wisconsin

Tribal Nations in Wisconsin and Michigan

Community Partners