

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2023



Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.

Presented January 2024



Severing Native American Communities in Wisconsin and Michigan Since 1965

Mission Statement

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council's mission is to enhance the quality of life for all Native people.

Our Vision

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

Our Values

Culture
Respect
Diversity
Collaboration
Teamwork
Stewardship

Board of Directors

Robert Blanchard, Chairman
Bad River Band of the Lake Superior
Tribe of Chippewa Indians
P.O. Box 39
Odanah, WI 54861
Telephone: 715-682-7111

James Crawford, Chairman
Forest County Potawatomi Community
P.O. Box 340
Crandon, WI 54520
Telephone: 715-478-7200

Jon Greendeer, President
Ho-Chunk Nation
W9814 Airport Rd
Black River Falls, WI 54615
Telephone: 800-726-7509

Louis Taylor, Chairman
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake
Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
13394 W. Trepania Road
Hayward, WI 54843
Telephone: 715-634-8934

John D. Johnson, Sr., President
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa Indians
P.O. Box 67
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538
Telephone: 715-588-3303

Jim Williams, Jr., Chairman
Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa Indians
P.O. Box 249, Choate Road
Watersmeet, MI 49969
Telephone: 906-358-4577

Gena Kakkak, Chairwoman
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 910
Keshena, WI 54134
Telephone: 715-799-5114

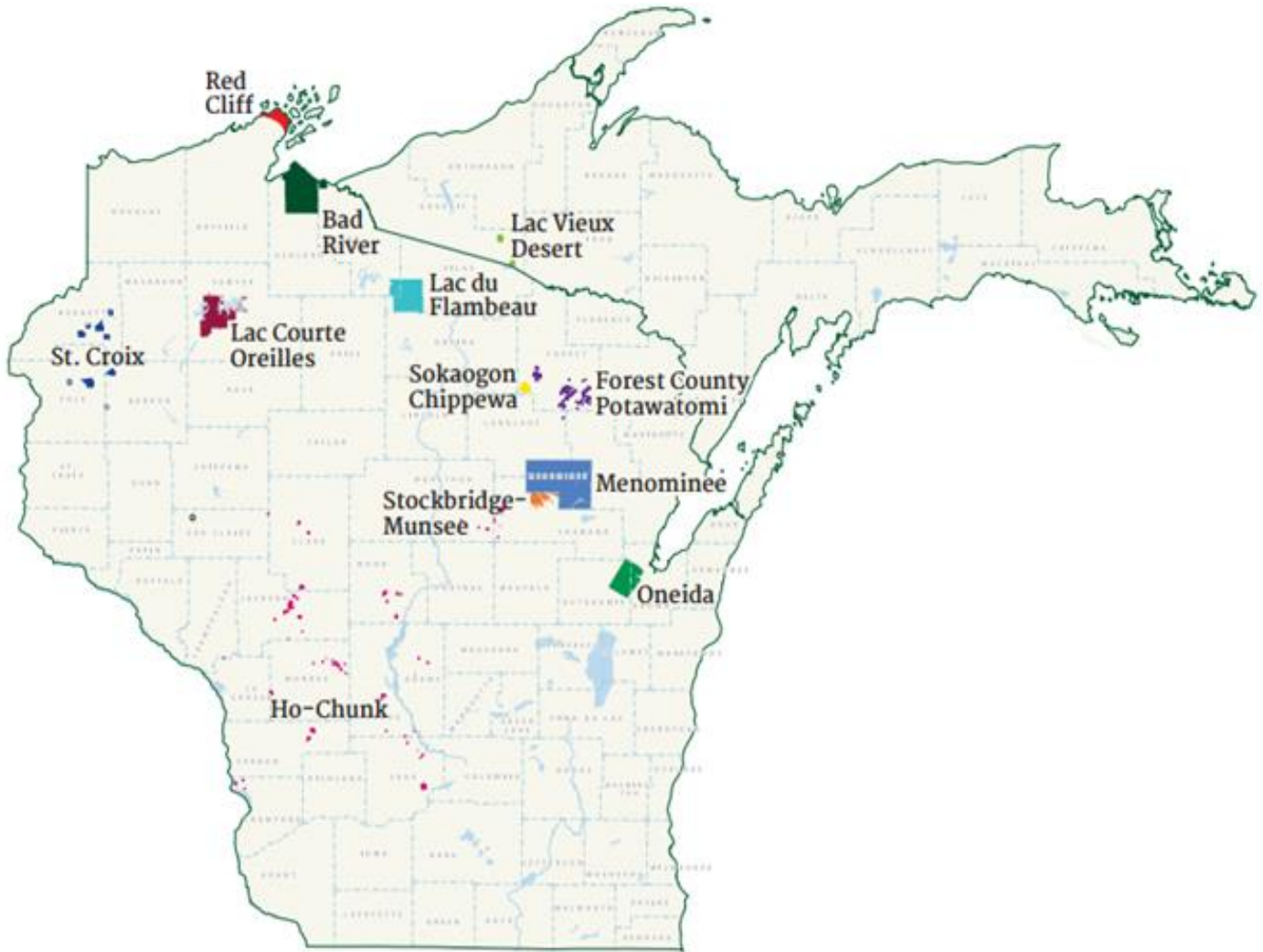
Tehassi Hill, Chairman
Oneida Nation
P.O. Box 365
Oneida, WI 54155
Telephone: 902-869-4364

Nicole Boyd, Chairwoman
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa Indians
88385 Pike Lake Road, Hwy 13
Bayfield, WI 54814
Telephone: 715-779-3700

Thomas Fowler, Chairman
St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
24663 Angeline Avenue
Webster, WI 54893
Telephone: 715-349-2195

Robert VanZile, Jr., Chairman
Sokaogon Chippewa Community
3051 Sand Lake Road
Crandon, WI 54520
Telephone: 715-478-7500

Shannon Holsey, President
Stockbridge-Munsee Community
N8476 MoHeCoNuck Road
Bowler, WI 54416
Telephone: 715-793-4111



The following federally recognized tribes are the members of GLITC:

- Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- Forest County Potawatomi Community
- Ho-Chunk Nation
- Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
- Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (Michigan)
- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
- Oneida Nation
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
- St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
- Sokaogon Chippewa Community
- Stockbridge-Munsee Community

Financial Reports

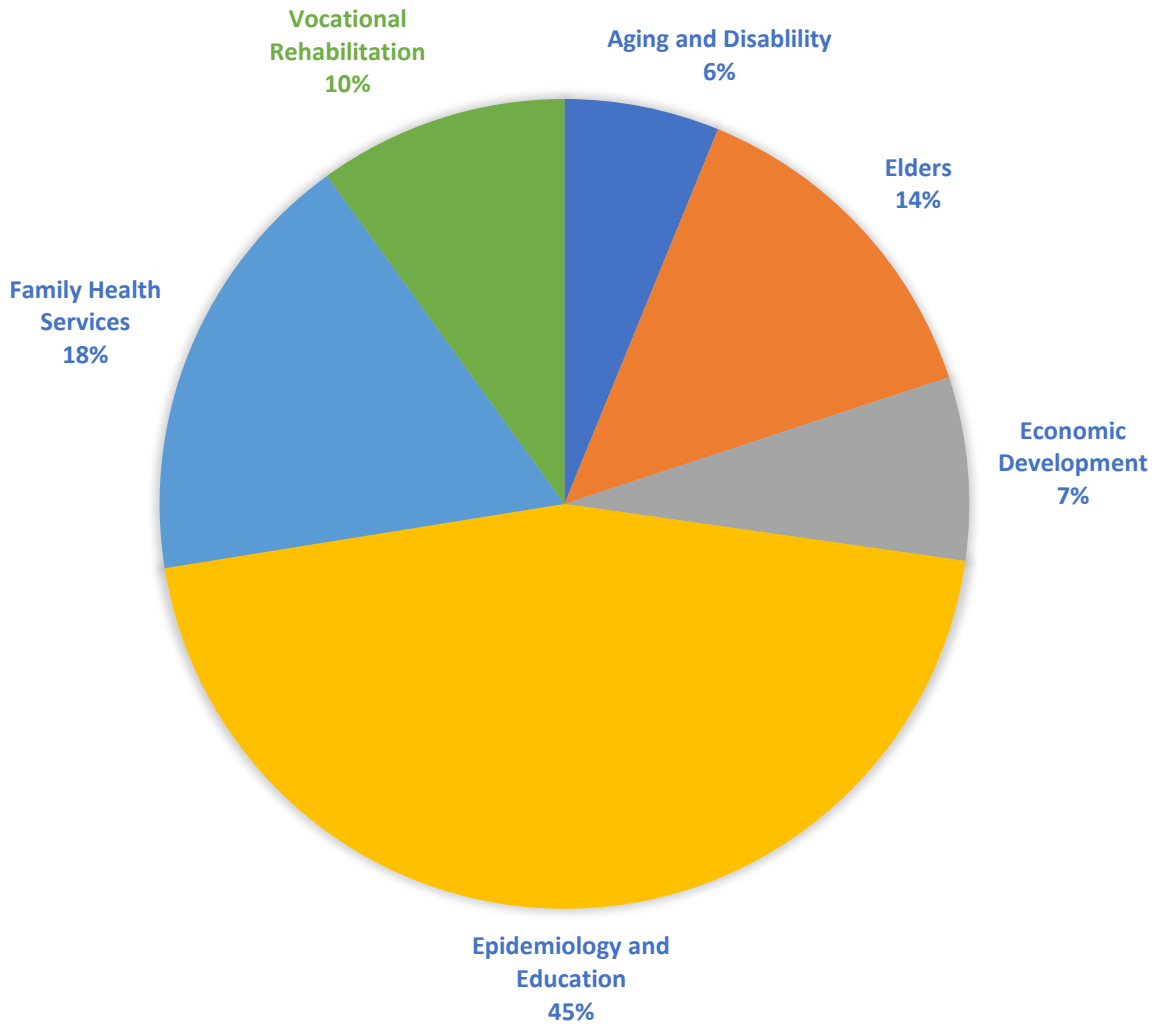
Program Title	Dept	Program Director	Contract Start	Contract End	Authorized Funding in FY2023
Aging Disability Resource Specialist	AD	M. Wolf	10/1/2022	9/30/2023	90,000
Agriculture Tourism and Food	ED	B. Bainbridge	1/1/2021	12/31/2023	50,000
American Indian Economic Develop. Tech. Asst.	ED	C. LaVake	1/1/2023	12/31/2023	79,500
American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation	VR	K. Labelle-Milek	7/1/2023	6/30/2024	314,900
American Indians with Disabilities	VR	K. Labelle-Milek	10/1/2019	9/30/2024	1,728,102
American Rescue Plan	AD	K. Heard	10/1/2022	9/30/2023	159,764
Breastfeeding: The Traditional Way	FH	C. Nemec	1/1/2023	12/31/2023	30,000
Community Navigator Program	ED	C. LaVake	9/1/2021	5/31/2024	100,000
Cooperative American Indian	FH	C. Nemec	10/1/2022	9/30/2023	8,908
Cancer Work Groups	EPI	A. Poupart	7/1/2021	3/31/2024	687,956
Disability Benefit Specialist	AD	M. Wolf	10/1/2022	9/30/2023	260,412
Tribal Dementia Care Specialist	AD	M. Wolf	10/1/2022	9/30/2023	80,000
Elder Benefit Specialist	AD	M. Wolf	10/1/2022	9/30/2023	84,400
Economic Development Assistance	ED	D. House	1/1/2023	12/31/2023	153,000
Epidemiology Program	EPI	K. Lenz	9/30/2021	9/29/2026	2,415,157
Equitable Recovery Grant	ED	S. Reilly	3/3/2021	12/31/2024	840,798
Family Foundation Home Visit	FH	S. Mayotte	10/1/2016	9/30/2026	1,606,470
Foster Grandparent Program - State	E	P. Takamine	1/1/2022	12/31/2022	68,064
Foster Grandparent Program - Federal	E	P. Takamine	7/1/2023	6/30/2026	380,707
Food Stamp Nutrition	FH	C. Schellinger	10/1/2022	9/30/2023	346,510
Good Health & Wellness in Indian Country **	EPI	W. Funmaker	9/30/2019	9/29/2024	1,240,625
Indigenous Birthing Practices	FH	C. Nemec	7/1/2022	6/30/2023	35,000
Indigenous Care Management Model	E	P. Takamine	7/1/2022	6/30/2025	1,047,592
Lincoln Hills Program	FH	N. Oknewski	7/1/2023	6/30/2024	117,300
JUUL Settlement	FH	A. Poupart	3/1/2023	12/31/2023	22,345
EPA's Lead Testing	EPI	W. Funmaker	3/1/2021	2/28/2024	494,000
Medicaid Improvements for Patients & Providers	AD	M. Wolf	9/1/2023	8/31/2024	10,000
Native American Tourism of Wisconsin	ED	K. McGeshick	7/1/2023	6/30/2024	200,000
Notah Begay Foundation	E	P. Takamine	5/1/2023	4/30/2024	75,000
Native American Research Center for Health - #11	EPI	A. Poupart	8/1/2021	7/31/2025	332,368
Native American Research Center for Health - #12	EPI	A. Poupart	9/19/2022	7/31/2026	190,027
Office Capacity Improvement	ED	S. Reilly	6/1/2023	5/31/2024	75,200
Preschool Development Grant	FH	S. Mayotte	1/1/2023	12/31/2023	21,000
Rural Infant Health	FH	L. Ebbert	1/1/2023	12/31/2023	186,328

Senior Companion Program - State	E	P. Takamine	1/1/2023	12/31/2023	10,000
Senior Companion Program - Brown & Brown	E	P. Takamine	1/1/2023	12/31/2023	15,233
Senior Companion Program - Federal	E	P. Takamine	7/1/2023	6/30/2026	318,622
Senior Demonstration Project	E	P. Takamine	7/1/2023	6/30/2026	900,000
State Health Insurance Information	AD	M. Wolf	4/1/2023	3/31/2024	3,500
Senior Medicare Patrol	AD	K. Heard	1/1/2023	12/31/2023	25,000
State Pharmaceutical Assistance	AD	M. Wolf	10/1/2022	9/30/2023	6,000
Strengthening Public Health Systems	EPI	C. Denslinger	8/31/2023	8/30/2028	969,500
Sexual Risk Avoidance	FH	L. Hunter	10/1/2022	9/30/2023	71,842
Tobacco Network	FH	A. Poupart	7/1/2023	6/30/2024	250,000
Tribal Epi Center Public Health Infra. (TEC-PHI) **	EPI	R. St.Germaine	9/30/2022	9/29/2027	539,715
Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program	FH	L. Hunter	9/30/2021	9/29/2026	521,489
Together Strong Dementia	AD	A. Hoon	8/1/2020	1/31/2024	389,747
Tribal Tech. Assistance Center Administration	AD	K. Heard	1/1/2023	12/31/2023	158,948
Umbrella Cooperative Agreement **	EPI	C. Denslinger	8/31/2018	8/30/2025	2,172,000
University of Colorado	EPI	W. Funmaker	1/24/2023	3/31/2024	93,614
UW - GONA	EPI	W. Funmaker	6/1/2023	12/31/2023	24,516
Vaccination Coverage - NPAIHB Agreement	EPI	K. Lenz	1/31/2022	1/31/2024	101,152
WIC - Breastfeeding Peer Counseling	FH	C. Nemec	1/1/2023	12/31/2023	19,240
WIC - Farmer's Market	FH	C. Nemec	1/1/2023	12/31/2023	2,699
Women, Infant, Children	FH	C. Nemec	1/1/2023	12/31/2023	358,072
TOTALS					20,482,322

**** Expanded Authority - Prior period funds available in future periods**

For Management Purposes Only. No Assurances Provided.

FY2023 BUDGET BY DEPARTMENT



Programs

Listed in alphabetical order by department

Aging and Disability Services

Elder and Disability Benefit Specialists, Dementia Care Specialist, Aging and Disability Resource Specialist

Purpose of the programs

The **Tribal Disability and Elder Benefit Specialists (DBS/EBS)** provide information, assistance, and advocacy regarding public and private benefit programs to enrolled tribal members under the legal supervision of a Program Attorney at Wisconsin Judicare's Indian Law Office. They can assist with filing for Disability, Retirement, filing appeals due to denials of claims, and navigating Medicare and Medicaid programs.

The **Tribal Dementia Care Specialist (DCS)** provides support to people with dementia and their caregivers to ensure the highest quality of life possible while living at home. To accomplish this, the DCS has three goals: 1) Train staff and local systems to become dementia-capable; 2) Help the community become dementia-friendly where people with dementia can remain active and safe, and caregivers can feel supported by their community; 3) Provide education and support to people with memory concerns or dementia, and their families, to allow them to live at home safely.

The **Tribal Aging and Disability Resource Specialist (ADRS)** provides objective and unbiased information and assistance and person-centered options counseling for the Lac du Flambeau community. The ADRS also serves as a liaison and customer advocate and can provide function screening needed for enrollment into publicly funded long-term care programs, such as IRIS and Family Care.

The programs are funded by the Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau on Aging and Disability Resources (BADR), Office of Resource Center Development (ORCD).

Program Highlights

- The DBS program can now serve any tribal member 17.5 through 59 years of age within the State, which now includes the urban areas!
- The EBS program is now serving the northern Tribes by dividing the region between two EBS staff, allowing for more concentrated services and engagement in the communities being served!
- The DCS program is established for the Lac du Flambeau Tribe and the State has funding (as of 1/1/2023) for every WI Tribe to have a full time DCS. Memory Cafés, Virtual Dementia Tours have been provided in 2023.
- The ADRS, previously part time with LDF and Mole Lake, changed to full time at Lac du Flambeau and SCC contracted with ORCD to acquire a full time ADRS. The GLITC ADRS is considered a "lead" by ORCD and provided best practices in developing coordination between Tribal ADRSs and ADRCs.

Together Strong: Tribal Dementia Program

Purpose of the program

Together Strong's purpose is to provide culturally tailored resources, education/training, and support to those living with dementia, their families, Caregivers, and Tribal Staff Members.

Program Highlights

- Trained as a Train-the-Trainer for the Virtual Dementia Tour (VDT), to have the ability to train interested tribal staff to deliver the Virtual Dementia Tour. Thirteen trained so far, with an upcoming training requested by Oneida.
- Trained the Tribal Dementia Care Specialists (TDCS) and other tribal staff members to deliver the Virtual Dementia Tour and Savvy Caregiver in Indian Country Caregiver Program.
- Worked on-on-one with Caregivers providing education, resources, and emotional support.
- Collaborated with the TDCS and GLITC staff volunteers to provide The Virtual Dementia Tour Experience in interested Tribal Communities, including Oneida, Red Cliff, Bad River, Sokaogon, St. Croix, Lac du Flambeau, Forest County Potawatomi, and Lac Courte Oreille. Also collaborated with the TDCS and GLITC staff volunteers to provide the VDT to approximately 42 youth in St. Croix, 27 GLITC staff members as well as the GLITC Board of Directors
- Provided technical assistance, resources and training opportunities to the Tribal Dementia Care Specialists as requested and/or as needed.

Tribal Technical Assistance Center

Purpose of the program

The Tribal Technical Assistance Center provides Older American Act technical assistance and training to the eleven Wisconsin Tribal Aging Programs.

We also have funding to provide Senior Medicare Patrol programming to all eleven Tribal Communities to assist with prevention of Medicare fraud and scams.

Currently a department of one, there is a posting open for a second person.

Program Highlights

- Provided technical assistance and training to all eleven Tribal Aging Programs which included virtual and in-person training.
- Coordinated several meetings for the Tribal Aging Unit Association including a Well sky/SAMS training, ServSafe Training, and Tribal Fiscal Training.
- Partnered with Chef Francisco Alegria of Menominee to develop 50 recipes including traditional ingredients and hosted a Tribal Cook's Training for the Elder Program Chefs/Kitchen staff.
- Used ARP funding to purchase 8535 shelf stable meals by request for the eleven Tribal communities' elders.
- Participated in outreach/ educational events at all eleven Tribal communities as Senior Medicare Patrole (SMP) representatives.

Economic Development

American Indian Economic Development and Technical Assistance

Purpose of the Program

The American Indian Economic Development and Technical Assistance Program (AIEDTAP) offers comprehensive support to aspiring Native entrepreneurs looking to start or expand their businesses. This initiative provides tailored training, technical guidance, and essential information. Services encompass personalized mentoring, assistance in business planning, conceptualization, viability assessment, as well as the formulation and execution of business and marketing strategies. The AIE program imparts financial literacy and management skills rooted in Native culture which is crucial for successful entrepreneurship.

Program Highlights

The AIEDTAP made a significant impact, offering individualized technical assistance to 60 aspiring and emerging entrepreneurs in 2023. The assistance covered a diverse range of services:

- **Entrepreneurship Start-up:** Fifteen entrepreneurs received focused support during their initial business phases.
- **Grow/Expand:** Four entrepreneurs were guided in expanding their existing businesses.
- **Mentoring/Coaching:** Fourteen entrepreneurs received personalized coaching and mentorship.
- **Entrepreneurship/General:** Ten entrepreneurs received tailored assistance catering to various specific needs.
- **Financial Literacy/Budgeting:** Twelve entrepreneurs were empowered to enhance their financial knowledge.
- **Business PR/Marketing:** Five entrepreneurs received support covering a wide range of business public relations and marketing.
- The program remains dedicated to nurturing entrepreneurship, ensuring that each participant receives the precise support needed for their business journey. It continues to empower entrepreneurs to create and maintain jobs thereby enabling them as business owners to become more economically independent and financially secure in their communities.

Economic Development Administration

Purpose of the Program

GLITC's Economic Development Administration (EDA) program is a resource for its member tribes as they pursue economic development within their respective tribal economies. Through outreach activities, the EDA program assists member tribes in planning and implementing economic development strategies derived from the member tribes' own comprehensive development planning.

One of the main goals of the EDA program is to update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the GLITC member tribes. To accomplish this, data was gathered on the status of current or future priorities and projects planned. Other activities are performed throughout the year such as group facilitation, research, strategic planning, networking, and advisory functions as it relates toward identification, progression, and implementation of tribal visions, goals, and objectives. The EDA program also helps tribes progress toward the attainment of tribal economic development goals and objectives by identifying and coordinating federal, state, and local resources and funds to optimize the implementation of both the CEDS strategic direction and the tribes' respective strategic direction.

Program Highlights

- Strategic planning for the tribes has been one of the main activities conducted throughout this year. This reporting period, the EDA Director provided facilitation or planning services for the St. Croix, Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Oneida, Sokaogon, and Menominee.
- GLITC hosted two Tribal Community of Practice (COP) events in 2023 (April 20 and September 26). EDA's Tom Baron co-facilitated these events. At the first event, Wisconsin economic development entities were invited to present to the tribes during lunch. At the second event, a training was offered during lunch. The objective is to develop best practices, resource connections, and provide networking opportunities for the tribes. If the tribes want to continue these meetings, GLITC will host these COP meetings on a quarterly basis throughout 2024.
- In February 2023, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's Rural Prosperity department led the development of a Wisconsin project submission to the Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness (CREC) to participate in the EDA Policy Academy. In March, Wisconsin was notified that we were one of six states selected to participate during FY 2023-2024 (Wisconsin was the only state selected that included space for tribes). The EDA Director was appointed to the four-member Core Team that leads the Home Team. The Home Team is comprised of all the regional planning commission directors in Wisconsin and other stakeholders as identified. CEDS development, strategic alignment, and improving communication is the focus of this project. Tribal strategic alignment with these state entities is sought to the degree as permitted by the tribes. Notably, it is finding the model or particulars of how this CEDS strategy develops and if alignment can occur across many entities that will provide some benefit to the tribes. The Core Team has conducted surveys and identified several strategies to move forward. We had our first CREC meeting of all the selected states in Virginia on April 26-29. We then held our first Home Team meeting on August 24 in Stevens Point. The Tribes were then updated again on the Policy Academy at the Community of Practice meeting in September. The Core Team meets every week and are scheduled to gather for another CREC meeting with all the states and our strategic advisors in November in Cleveland. The EDA Director will continue to work on this project until January 2024.

Education, Health, and Research

Great Lakes Native American Research Center for Health

Purpose of the program

- Encourage cooperative research linked to reducing American Indian (AI) health disparities.
- Increase the number of AI students, scientists, health professionals and organizations engaged in biomedical, clinical, and behavioral research.
- Build the capacity of both the academic institutions and GLITC to work in partnership to reduce distrust by AI communities and people toward research.

Program Highlights:

- Great Lakes Native American Research Center for Health (Great Lakes NARCH) continues to facilitate collaboration with and among Tribal Colleges and Universities to identify common goals and collaborative research opportunities to increase research capacity individually and in partnership.
- Great Lakes NARCH participated in many tribal community health fairs, student/educational events, and other public events, such as powwows, to share information regarding program activities and events.
- Great Lakes NARCH is currently funding a Native American lead research project related to intimate partner violence in Native American communities, how barriers in reporting and models of resiliency can positively affect outcomes.

Wisconsin Native American Tobacco Network

Purpose of the program

The Wisconsin Native American Tobacco Network (WNATN) identifies and describes tobacco-related disparities in Native Communities; provides and supports tobacco education and cessation efforts; and shares consistent best practices to reduce disparities in the areas of commercial tobacco, second-hand smoke exposure, and vaping. Outreach is crucial, the need to educate tribal youth on the differences between abusing commercial tobacco and traditional tobacco use, also providing information on how and why big tobacco companies target children with predatory behaviors.

Program Highlights:

- WNATN Program Director spent multiple days and multiple visits throughout the school year with Lac du Flambeau Public School 3rd through 8th grade students regarding the dangers of vaping and misuse of commercial tobacco. Great interaction and relationship building with honest questions and discussions.
- WNATN worked with the state to change word usage to include “commercial tobacco” to delineate the difference with traditional tobacco use, and secured funds from the large JUUL lawsuit to combat vape usage.
- WNATN worked closely with the tribal representatives, meeting monthly, providing technical assistance, and monitoring successful implementation of work plans.

Elders Services

Foster Grandparent and Notah Begay Foundation

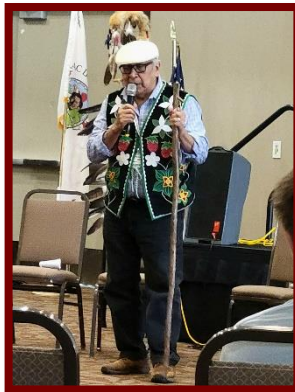
Purpose of the program

- Support Tribal communities through Elder volunteerism.
- Respect and preserve traditional tribal culture and traditions through Elder and Youth engagement.
- Support local tribal economies.

Program Highlights

- Total Elder Volunteers: Three Foster Grandparents, 13 Elder Volunteers
- Total Youth Served: 655
- Total Families/Elder Served: Milwaukee Indian Community School approx. 100, Wisconsin Indian Education Association: approx. 150
- Tribes Served: Red Cliff, Lac Vieux Desert, Lac du Flambeau, St Croix, Oneida Nation, Ho-Chunk Nation, Forest County Potawatomi, Stockbridge Munsee, Menominee, Lac Courte Oreilles

<u>Event Location</u>	<u>No. Adults</u>	<u>No. Staff</u>	<u>No. Youth</u>
St. Croix Trails Event	10	6	36
FGP Program Oneida and Lakeland HS	3	1	16
Shell Lake School District	25	1	100
Red Cliff Boys & Girls Club	50	8	55
Lac du Flambeau Camp Nawakwa	90	3	160



Indigenous Care Management Model - Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies Grant

Purpose of the program

- Develop, implement, and partner with tribal sovereign nations to develop an Indigenous Care Coordination Model for Tribal Elders.
- Respect and preserve traditional tribal culture and traditions while promoting Tribal Elders social interaction and independent living.
- Utilize indigenous contractors to support analysis, evaluation and financial modeling for a sustainable model of Elder Care.
- Partner with minimally three tribal sovereign nations.
- Recruit and hire culturally and economically competent staff.
- Partner with all stakeholders to define an indigenous sustainable model of Elder health and social service care.
- Support Tribal Economies.

Program Highlights

- Established relationships with stakeholder Federal and State Agencies and participated in all meetings relevant to health care reimbursement methodologies.
- Participated in National Indigenous health meetings related to Medicaid, Medicare, and Indian Health Service financial allocation in support of tribal sovereignty.
- Hired four staff and project manager to support all activities.
- Met with all GLITC Tribal Nations to determine interest in ICMM project.
- Executed partnership with one the Oneida Nation to begin Strength, Weaknesses, Threats and Opportunities (SWOT) evaluation.
- Held Elder talking circles at Bad River as well as instituted Elder surveys (Great Lakes Native American Elder Association (GLANAEA) to assess tribal Elder awareness of Health and social well-being needs in their communities and sponsored an Elder eligibility information seminar at Mole Lake Sokaogon.
- Secured, negotiated, and executed agreements with indigenous evaluation and data systems analyst.
- Research indigenous care management models, funding, grant opportunities and systems.



Senior Companion Program

Purpose of the program

- Support Tribal Aging communities through Elder volunteerism.
- Respect and preserve traditional tribal culture and traditions while promoting Tribal Elders social interaction and independent living.
- Support Tribal Economies.

Program Highlights

- Total Stipend Volunteers: 35
- Total Clients Served: 43
- Tribes Served: Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Lac View Desert, Menominee, Oneida, Red Cliff, Sokaogon, and St. Coix
- 2023 Stipend Hours: 24,996.50
- 2023 Stipend Payment Dollars: \$135,940.38
- Volunteer Recognition Event: Menominee Reservation:2022, Red Cliff Reservation: 2023, Oneida Reservation: 2024



Senior Demonstration Project

Purpose of the program

- Support Tribal Aging and youth communities through Elder volunteerism.
- Respect and preserve traditional tribal culture and traditions while promoting Tribal Elders social interaction and independent living.
- Support Tribal Economies.

Program Highlights

- Elder programs awarded approximately \$900,000 in grant funding to recruit Tribal Veteran Elders to volunteer and support Alzheimer's and dementia tribal clients; and recruit Tribal Elders to work with you to promote social and emotional well-being.
- Elder Programs hired Lac du Flambeau tribal member to lead the initiative and inculcate cultural practices to support grant programming.
- Recruit support staff for grant activities.
- Initiate compliance review to assure compliance to all grant activities.
- Begin scheduling of three more Elder and youth tribal events for 2024.



Epidemiology

Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country

Purpose of the program

The Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC) grant is a five-year cooperative agreement (fiscal years 2019-2024) that supports healthy behaviors for American Indian /Alaskan Native (AI/AN) communities to reduce risk factors by attaining long-term goals. The goals are obesity reduction, smoking cessation, reduction of pre-diabetes, and reduction of high blood pressure and high cholesterol. These goals utilize community clinical linkage and policy system and environmental changes while sub-awarding to seven communities throughout the region.

Program Highlights

- **Knowledge Sharing:** Completion and distribution of the Pow Wow Fitness video with Fiworld champion hoop dancer Dallas Arcand.
- **Team-Based Care:** First national in-person meeting of all GHWIC programs in Anchorage, Alaska since the beginning of the pandemic.
- **Empowering Tribes and Tribal Clinic Initiatives:** Visited seven sub-awardees communities to learn of their GHWIC successes for their tribal members.

Indian Health Services (IHS) Epidemiology Cooperative Agreement

Purpose of the program

Established in 1996 as one of the first Tribal Epidemiology Centers, GLITEC's foundation rests on the Indian Health Service (IHS) **Epidemiology Cooperative Agreement**, a five-year recurring grant. GLITEC supports Tribal Communities across the Bemidji Area, strengthening their data capacity, enhancing disease surveillance, and driving public health initiatives that prioritize their needs. This past year saw a remarkable embrace of cultural heritage and innovation, empowering Tribes, fostering stronger connections, and paving the way for a brighter future where data-driven decisions are grounded in the wisdom of tribal traditions.

Program Highlights

- **Growth and Expertise:** GLITEC expanded its reach with a second Minneapolis office and a diverse team of nine specialists, including a PhD Program Director/Senior Epidemiologist, PhD Program Director/Evaluator, public health specialists, and epidemiologists.
- **On-Demand Impact:** Responding to 146 requests from Tribal Communities, GLITEC provided vital technical and data assistance through support services, training, surveillance, and project development.
- **Data Empowerment:** GLITEC built a secure Tableau dashboard customized for Tribal leaders, delivering crucial data for informed decision-making.
- **Cultural GONA:** GLITEC planned the first culturally-based Gathering of Native Americans (GONA) on Oneida Nation land, exploring the post-COVID-19 impact of historical trauma on mental health and addiction. Guided by GONA's core values, tribal participants will co-create a vision for a future grounded in Tribal self-determination and healthcare sovereignty.

Lead Testing in Tribal Schools and Childcare Centers Program

Purpose of the program

The Lead Testing in Tribal Schools and Childcare Centers Program was established as part of GLITEC's EPA approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). The priorities of this program include reducing Bemidji Area children's exposure to lead in drinking water; increasing knowledge among the Tribal Education Agencies (TEA) staff and community members about lead in drinking water, maintenance, and water testing programs; establishing routine TEA practices such as point-of-use filter maintenance, cleaning, communication, and other practices; fostering partnerships and building relationships among TEAs and communities.

Program Highlights

- **Empowered Staff:** GLITEC staff received comprehensive water testing training, enabling proactive lead monitoring through a secured partnership with the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene for accurate water sample analysis.
- **Multifaceted Outreach:** Multiple recruitment rounds with targeted incentives occurred and utilized an extensive program outreach campaign, including emails, phone calls, letters, postcards, social media, health fairs, and presentations.
- **Online Knowledge Hub:** GLITEC launched the "Lead Testing in Tribal Schools and Childcare Centers" eLearning course, educating facility staff and parents on lead risks, prevention, and testing importance.
- **Building Informed Communities:** Developed animated video for Tribal community members, simplifying lead awareness through education on dangers, exposure sources, and response protocols.

Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services in Indian Country Cooperative Agreement

Purpose of the program

The Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services in Indian Country (SPH) Cooperative Agreement aims to strengthen Tribal public health systems central to reducing health disparities in Tribal Communities. By creating a strategic foundation on which to not only develop solutions in data interoperability and data governance, but also build capacity and resources for Tribal public health programs and services, the Strengthening Public Health Cooperative Agreement will identify, and address barriers related to Tribal public health data and improve the ability of public health systems to develop, deliver, and evaluate programs and services. This five-year program was awarded in August 2023.

The SPH Cooperative Agreement also has supplemental funding for overdose prevention, which aims to advance tribal overdose surveillance, increase access to overdose prevention programs that address health disparities and social determinants of health, and improve overdose outcomes and reduced health disparities.

Program Highlights

- Funding was awarded in August 2023 and will aim to support Tribal Communities in several areas:
 - Strategic planning around data modernization.
 - Facilitation of interoperability and data exchange between Tribes and local and state health departments.
 - Provide resources and training opportunities to strengthen capacity and infrastructure to develop, implement, and evaluate Tribal public health programs and services.
 - Provide 11 subawards up to \$50,000 per year for overdose prevention projects. Projects will be funded for up to two years.

Tribal Epidemiology Center Public Health Infrastructure

Purpose of the Program

The Tribal Epidemiology Center Public Health Infrastructure (TECPHI) grant is a five-year cooperative agreement through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that closed in FY23. TECPHI builds public health capacity and infrastructure of GLITEC and Tribal/urban Indian communities to conduct and bolster disease surveillance, epidemiology, prevention and control of disease, injury, disability, and program monitoring/evaluation.

Program Highlights

- **Cultural Teachings within Health:** Cultural strengths and resiliency were main topics of survey results. Language and cultural practices based on Tribal-specific teachings empowered the Tribal entities for their own publications, surveys, grant awards, and partnerships.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** TECPHI responded to 280 technical requests. Topics most requested: Substance Use Disorder, Mental Health; Historical Trauma, Cultural practices in survey assessment, Cultural social determinants of health, and resources.
- **Team-Based Care:** TECPHI funding supports 17 GLITEC staff; 34 Tribes in three states and Urban areas.
- **Empowering Tribes and Tribal Clinic Initiatives:** 95 Data Use Agreements (DUAs) were utilized for Tribal health initiatives. During FY2027-23, over 146 DUAs helped to bring successful community health assessments and improve Tribal decision-making.

The Tribal Public Health Capacity Building and Quality Improvement Umbrella Cooperative Agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Saving Lives Project)

Purpose of the program

The Umbrella Cooperative Agreement (Saving Lives Project) aims to reduce opioid use through partnerships, data quality improvement projects, and capacity building. This goal is addressed through four strategies areas: (1) support regional and tribal opioid response plans to assess and address enhanced opioid surveillance, and to aid in the adoption and deployment of evidence-based interventions to improve public health outcomes, (2) strengthen epidemiological surveillance and public health infrastructure to address issues of data quality and timeliness, (3) increase the use of evidence-based and culturally appropriate opioid overdose prevention and interventions within tribal and urban clinics, and (4) support the implementation of innovative community-based strategies. Umbrella Cooperative Agreement was awarded a 12-month no-cost extension in August 2023.

Program Highlights (Three to five highlights)

- Seventeen Tribes and three Urban Indian clinics awarded up \$50,000 each to implement short-term opioid overdose prevention projects with a data quality improvement component.
- Held the second annual Great Lakes Area Opioid Conference: Journeying Toward Wellness June 27-30 in Green Bay. The conference included multiple pre-conference training courses and focused on increase knowledge around opioids and other substances use, mental health, and supporting collaborative response efforts to promote regional health and wellness.
- Provided Narcan kits to communities to support opioid overdose prevention activities. These kits contained Narcan, CPR barrier masks, gloves, instruction cards, and other helpful tools and resources to reverse an opioid overdose. Additional kits or materials are available upon request.

Family Health

Cooperative American Indian Health

Purpose of the program

Assist in developing, testing, or demonstrating solutions to American Indian Health Problems.

GLITC Program Outcome: Increase breastfeeding duration rates by increasing access to education and support in tribal communities.

Program Highlights

- Maintained quarterly meetings of the Native Breastfeeding Coalition of Wisconsin.
- Supported virtual education sessions on breastfeeding and traditional foods.
- Indigenous Milk Medicine Week celebrations (Embracing Sacred Roots) included over 75 stories submitted for virtual latch event, yard signs distributed in tribal communities, online education sessions, and several community in-person events.



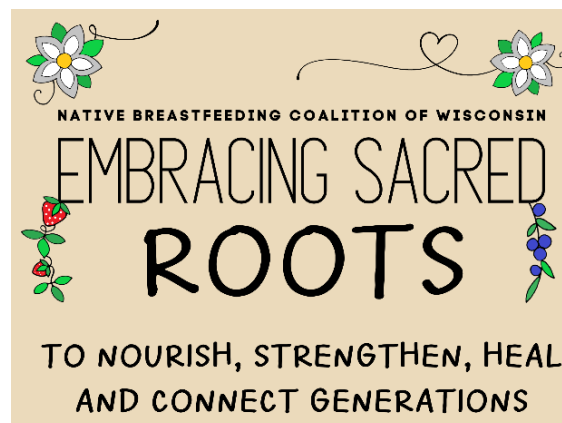
EMBRACING SACRED ROOTS

Mickey is my 4th baby and the first one I've been able to successfully BF longer than 3 months. He is almost 7 months now, and we have a goal of 1 year. We struggled through a tongue tie, engorgement, and a plugged duct. He wasn't gaining a lot of weight the first few weeks but with the help and support of my husband and older children, Mickey and I figured it out.

I nurse my son hoping my older children will see BF as "normal" and will maybe BF their children when/if they decide to have babies of their own.

This is from Santana Chapman with Grace-Ellen and Mickey in picture

#IMMW23 #EMBRACINGSACREDROOTS
#FROMTHESTARS #INDIGYMILKHEALS



NATIVE BREASTFEEDING COALITION OF WISCONSIN

EMBRACING SACRED ROOTS

TO NOURISH, STRENGTHEN, HEAL AND CONNECT GENERATIONS

Family Foundations Home Visiting

Purpose of the program

The mission of the Program is to protect children through parent education and to enhance the quality of life for all Native families in the Tribal Communities in Wisconsin through evidenced based home visiting. We currently have home visiting programs in 4 tribal communities and 1 county. We enroll prenatal to the age of three months and work with them until the child turns five years of age.

Program Highlights

- All five programs are accredited through Healthy Families America
- We have 18 staff within the five programs, with three of the programs as remote locations under GLITC: Bad River, Lac du Flambeau, and St. Croix
- Suzette Mayotte was recognized by Governor Evers for her work within the home visiting program in the five communities on 8/10/23 at his residence in Madison.

Indian Tribes of Wisconsin - Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake Schools

Purpose of the program

To provide programming and curriculum to Lincoln Hills School/Copper Lake School (LHS/CLS) that pertains to the Native American youth in care of LHS/CLS with traditional Native American cultural events and activities. To teach all youth and staff at LHS/CLS who want to learn about the Native American history of all the tribes in Wisconsin.

Program Highlights

- One-on-one activity with Native youth has been very productive this last reporting period. All youth (Native and General Population) have learned to be respectful during smudging.
- We didn't have any repeat Native returns to LHS/CLS.
- Oneida Nation had two representatives come and tour the facility. Would like to have more Tribes or Nations come for tours. Believe this would help open up lines of communication for the Indian Tribes of Wisconsin Program and the youths' communities.
- We serviced Oneida, Lac Du Flambeau, Lac Courte Oreilles, Potawatomi, Menominee, and Stockbridge-Munsee this last year, along with several Tribes from New Mexico.

Rural Infant Health 2023

Purpose of the program:

- Advance equity and racial justice.
- Assure access to quality health services.
- Cultivate supportive social connections and community environments.
- Enhance identification, access, and support for individuals with special health care needs and their families.
- Improve perinatal outcomes.
- Foster positive mental health and associated factors.
- Promote optimal nutrition and physical activity.

Program Highlights:

- Four nurses at tribal sites were able to get their CLC (certified lactation counselor) certificate.
- A tribal site was able to get a breastfeeding pumping room and it is being used at a high capacity and have more than four employees utilizing it every day.
- As of 2023, there are eight buildings at another tribal site with a sole use lactation room for staff, along with retail locations having bins with lactation space supplies if needed.
- Another tribal site has two newly training doulas, and they are collaborating with them and meeting with pregnant women.

Sexual Risk Avoidance Education – Teen Outreach Program

Purpose of the program

This program was designed to facilitate the Teen Outreach Program (TOP) to Lac du Flambeau sixth grade students to reduce risky behaviors and bring community learning opportunities to youth. This was the last year of a state-funded grant.

Program Highlights

- We were able to reach 70 youth in the Lac du Flambeau School and Minocqua-Hazelhurst-Lake Tomahawk (MHLT) School with curricula.
- Created summer programming in Lac du Flambeau, incorporating cultural traditions, crafts, and history for ten youth with the collaboration of community members and the Lac du Flambeau Library and Museum.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention (SNAP-Ed)

Purpose of the program

To improve the likelihood that persons eligible for SNAP (Food Share) will make healthy food and lifestyle choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) and USDA food guidance. This is accomplished through direct and indirect nutrition education and Policy, Systems and Environment Change (PSE) projects.

Activities are evidence-based and are delivered through individual and group-based strategies, comprehensive multi-level interventions, and/or public health approaches.

Program Highlights

- 1,931 educational contacts were made through a total of 103 direct education sessions in 2023.
- 51 Indirect education accounted for an additional 5,723 reported contacts at community events, newsletter distributions, or community displays.
- Collaborations with 17 distinct partners across the six tribes (Bad River, Lac du Flambeau, Red Cliff, St. Croix, Sokaogon, Stockbridge Munsee).
- Support for nutrition educator/outreach positions serving six tribal sites (Bad River, Lac du Flambeau, Red Cliff, St. Croix, Sokaogon, Stockbridge Munsee) totaling 4.0 FTE.
- Nutrition education materials, lesson plans, lesson reinforcement items, technical support from GLITC nutritionist and office materials, and computer equipment as needed.
- Ultimately the reduction of health care costs by decreasing nutrition related risks of chronic disease.

Tribal PREP (Personal Responsibility Education Program) for Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Purpose of the program

This is the second year of our five year federally funded grant and the first year of implementation for this grant cycle. The program goal is to delay pregnancy until age 22 while teaching youth ages, ten to 19, and pregnant or parenting youth, aged to 21, about Healthy Relationships, Healthy Life Skills, Academic and Career Success, Adolescent Sexual Health, Financial Literacy, and Open Caregiver/Trusted Adult – Child Communication using culturally appropriated curricula and activities.

Program Highlights

- We implemented curricula in Lac Courte Oreilles, Oneida Nation, St. Croix, and Stockbridge-Munsee Community.
- We submitted for final Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for implementation in Ho-Chunk Nation.
- We provided curricula training to over 35 youth counselors, teachers, and community members in all five tribal communities.
- We presented a workshop, “Culture Is Prevention”, at the Annual Grantee Conference in Atlanta, GA in June.

WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)

Purpose of the program

The WIC Program promotes and maintains the health and well-being of nutritionally at-risk pregnant, breastfeeding, and post-partum women, infants, and children up to age five. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support, supplemental nutritious foods, and referrals to other health and nutrition services.

Program Highlights

- Return to in-person services in August 2023. Participants are offered a variety of appointment types to meet their needs.
- Provide additional support to families through WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program and Farmers Market Nutrition Program.
- Program Director represents WIC Indigenous Agencies on the National WIC Association Board of Directors and is the current chairwoman of the National Indigenous and Native American WIC Coalition.
- Nutrition staff attended National Indigenous and Native American WIC Coalition National Conference in Oklahoma City, OK in July 2023.
- Despite continued funding challenges in Congress, participants have retained the fruit and vegetable cash value benefit. Research has shown that this benefit has increased the intake of fruits and vegetables in children by at least ¼ cup per day.

How does WIC help parents breastfeed?

#NationalBreastfeedingMonth

National WIC Association

- Overcoming common workplace challenges
- Advocating with employers
- Supporting childcare providers

WIC-enrolled toddlers are eating

1/4 CUP MORE

fruits and vegetables as a result of the enhanced WIC fruit and vegetable benefit.

#WICStrong

National WIC Association

Vocational Rehabilitation

American Indians with Disabilities

Purpose of the program

The program provides vocational rehabilitation services to gainful employment for eligible Native Americans. The individuals must have a documentable disability that makes it difficult to obtain, maintain, or advance in gainful employment, be an enrolled tribal member of a federally recognized tribe, and live on or near the reservation in the service areas.

Program Highlights

- VRNA counselor's caseloads continue to rise with 126 referrals/walk-ins this fiscal year, 164 signed applications and 113 of those applications found eligible for the VRNA program averaging 48 days to determine eligibility. Of those found eligible, 56 IPEs were developed this year. Of the 21 consumers enrolled in a training program, six have achieved a certificate or degree this fiscal year. VRNA was able to successfully close 46 consumers with employment outcomes, surpassing this goal.
- Some of VRNA's accomplishments include implementing approved training kitchens in many tribal locations. These communities asked for kitchen equipment that best suits their cultural customs. The kitchens have been utilized for teaching tribal youth how to make different medicines, how to clean their deer harvests, and how to provide for their families. They also learn responsibilities to keep the kitchens and equipment clean and safe.
- Continuing to grow the equipment lending program and cultural gardens has helped tribal communities teach cultural skills to the youth.
- VRNA has helped some tribes with maple syrup equipment and one school superintendent looked over operations for maple syrup and included this in math and science for high school credits for graduation as many Native American students were in jeopardy of not graduating – this gives real life experience with math and science.
- One of VRNA's success stories: A consumer who wanted to start a local coffee business and during their time with the program, they were able to rent a location in town and expand their business to include breakfast and lunch options.

American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation, also known as Vocational Rehabilitation for Native Americans

Purpose of the program

American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation (AIVR), more commonly known as Vocational Rehabilitation for Native Americans (VRNA) is an employment program funded under the Department of Education and State Department of Workforce Development. VRNA has been funded since 1999 and covers the Tribes of Wisconsin that do not have their own Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation program. VRNA has added Milwaukee County to its service area and is actively recruiting a counselor for this area.

Program Highlights (Three to five highlights)

- VRNA has over 30 shared cases with state DVR, meaning that both VRNA and DVR are sharing costs to help Native American clients get gainful employment.
- VRNA has been able to invite and take many DVR staff members to different Tribal VR (TVR) conferences, paving the way for other tribes to work closely with their state DVR.
- State DVR invites VRNA and the other Wisconsin TVR programs to their conferences for training and collaboration.
- VRNA partners with the State DVR to help with summer youth work programs. This past year VRNA and DVR sponsored over 100 tribal youth programs in Red Cliff, Bad River, and St. Croix, helping with transportation, uniforms, and wages.

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Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.
PO Box 9
2932 Highway 47 North
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538

Phone **715-588-3324** / 800-472-7207

Fax 715-588-7900

Website www.glitc.org

