

# Annual Report

## Fiscal Year 2025

Presented January 2026



Great Lakes  
Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.



# Statement From Our CEO

The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC) has been in existence for 60 years. What started as a means by which member tribes could unite against the threat of termination has evolved into a tribal organization that advocates for its member tribes. Throughout its history, GLITC has focused on tribal self-determination and improving the relationships between tribes and state and local governments, academic institutions, and other agencies. In more recent years, the treaty and trust responsibilities that are owed to tribes by the federal government have become a new organizational focus.

GLITC is strategically aligned with the needs and priorities of our member tribes. This is reflected in the services GLITC provides and our efforts to improve policy, especially in health care.

As with most organizations, growth and success come with barriers, challenges, and struggles. The loss of our SNAP-Ed program through federal budget cuts has been felt throughout tribal communities. We also face an ongoing challenge in diversifying our funding to continue to fulfill our mission in providing and expanding services based on tribal needs.

Fiscal year 2025 had many highlights. Some are listed below:

- Construction has begun on the Adolescent Recovery and Wellness Center.
- Advocacy for health care policy continues at the federal and state level.
- Several of our programs have received national and state recognition for our work with youth and Elders, dementia care and awareness, food sovereignty, WIC advocacy, and breastfeeding services.
- The Family Foundations Home Visiting Program was awarded a new grant from Roots and Wings to translate an existing children’s book series into five additional Indigenous languages.
- GLITC’s indirect cost rate has changed, allowing more funds for direct services.

To be better stewards of our funding in the current financial climate, GLITC is moving forward with a deeper understanding of what it takes to support our member tribes and ensure the organization’s sustainability for another 60 years.



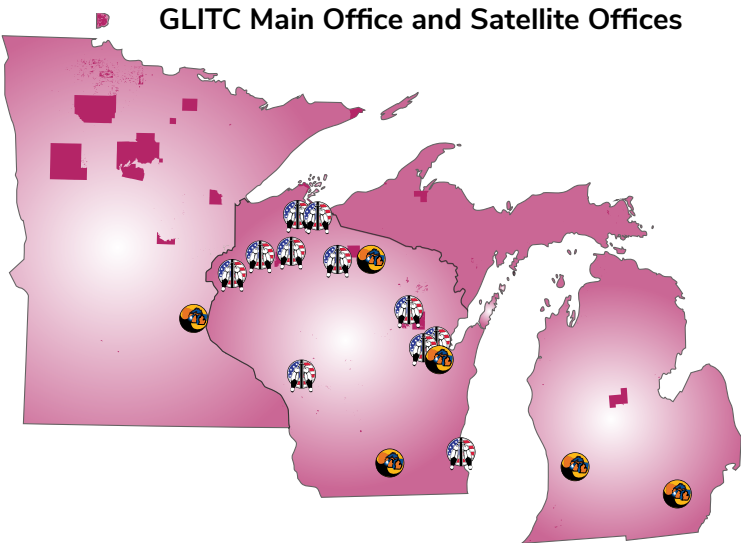
**Bryan J. Bainbridge**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council  
GLITC Phone: 715-588-3324 / 800-472-7207



**Bemidji Area Population Numbers for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Individuals**

Location	AI/AN Alone	AI/AN in Combination With Another Race
Wisconsin	45,831	97,988
Lac Vieux Desert	411	556
Bemidji Area	181,970	458,570
Chicago	35,083	93,340
Detroit	12,703	53,679
Milwaukee	5,981	19,375
Minneapolis-St. Paul	16,020	50,074

Data sources: American Community Survey



## Financial Report

Department	Funding	Percent of Total Funding
Administration - Operating*	\$4,702,670.00	11%
Adolescent Recovery Wellness Center	\$15,700,000.00	36%
Aging and Disability	\$704,938.00	2%
Economic Development	\$1,444,078.00	3%
Elders Services	\$4,881,077.00	11%
Epidemiology and Education	\$10,519,028.00	24%
Family Health	\$3,713,654.00	8%
Vocational Rehabilitation	\$2,121,180.00	5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$43,786,625.00</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Administration is based on actual expenses in FY2025. For management purposes only. No assurances provided.



# Board of Directors – Year in Review

GLITC is a consortium of federally recognized Indian tribes in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. For its entire 60-year history, GLITC has been managed by a Board of Directors, which is comprised of the tribal chairperson or president of each member tribe. The organizational goals are established by the Board of Directors based on the ever-changing priorities and needs of the individual tribes and their people. Each board member speaks for the interests of his or her tribe.

## Board of Directors

**Liz Arbuckle, Chairwoman**

Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians

**Brooks Boyd, Chairman**

Forest County Potawatomi Community

**Jon Greendeer, President**

Ho-Chunk Nation

**Gary Clause, Chairman**

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

**John D. Johnson Sr., President**

Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

**Jim Williams Jr., Chairman**

Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

**Joey Awonohopay, Chairman**

Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

**Tehassi Hill, Chairman**

Oneida Nation

**Nicole Boyd, Chairwoman**

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

**Conrad St. John, Chairman**

St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

**Robert VanZile Jr., Chairman**

Sokaogon Chippewa Community

**Shannon Holsey, President**

Stockbridge-Munsee Community



▲ The GLITC Board of Directors meets every other month on a rotating basis at one of the 12 tribal governments' headquarters in Wisconsin or Michigan. The exception to this is the annual meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, that is held in conjunction with the State of the Tribes address. This fiscal year had more meetings than usual, with the Board of Directors meeting nine times in total. During these meetings, they discussed issues including natural resources, food sovereignty, health care, education, economic development, and government-to-government relations with both the federal and state government.



▲ On March 18, 2025, St. Croix Chairman Thomas Fowler gave the 21st annual State of the Tribes address to the Wisconsin Legislature. He spoke of the tribes as self-governing entities and about their relationship with the state regarding protection of tribal lands and natural resources, education, economic development, and health care. He acknowledged tribal languages, traditions, values, beliefs, ceremonies, and stories.

The idea of a “State of the Tribes address” began in the early 2000s during conversations between Stockbridge-Munsee President Bob Chicks and Assembly Speaker John Guard as a way to open communications with the tribes as governments. The first address was given by Red Cliff Chairman Ray DePerry in 2005. GLITC was selected to facilitate and coordinate the event and has been doing so ever since. The first State of the Tribes address was a historic step in the development of tribal-state relations in Wisconsin. This address allows the Tribes, speaking as governments, to highlight accomplishments and suggest a further agenda for joint action with the state Legislature. One of the original goals of the speech was for it to become a regular line of communication that enhances opportunities for collaboration that lead to a better life for all the people of Wisconsin.



# Aging and Disability Department

The Aging and Disability Services department serves tribal community members and Elders by providing benefit specialist services (navigating private and government benefits programs), education on preventing fraud and scams of Medicare recipients, and dementia education and support for caregivers and Elders with a dementia diagnosis. In addition, the Tribal Technical Assistance Center Program provides Older Americans Act technical assistance and training to the Tribal Elder Programs of Wisconsin.



Description of Programs	Program Name	Funding Source	FY2025 Funding
<b>Dementia Care Specialist Program:</b> Gives support to people with dementia and their caregivers to ensure the highest quality of life possible while living at home.	Dementia Care Specialist Program*	Wisconsin Department of Health Services	\$80,000
<b>Disability Benefits Specialist Program:</b> Provides information, assistance, and advocacy regarding public and private benefit programs to enrolled tribal members age 17 1/2 to 59 years old. They can assist with filing for disability, filing for retirement, filing appeals due to denials of claims, and navigating Medicare and Medicaid programs.	Disability Benefits Specialist Program*	Wisconsin Department of Health Services	\$260,412
<b>Elder Benefits Specialist Program:</b> Provides information, assistance, and advocacy regarding public and private benefit programs to enrolled Tribal Elders older than 55. Staff members can assist with filing for retirement, filing appeals due to denials of claims, providing benefits counseling, and navigating Medicare and Medicaid programs.	Elder Benefits Specialist Program*	Wisconsin Department of Health Services	\$84,400
	Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA)	Administration for Community Living	\$22,728
	State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHP)	Administration for Community Living	\$21,000
	State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program (SPA)	Wisconsin Department of Health Services	\$6,000
<b>Senior Medicare Patrol Program:</b> Gives information and education to Elders, caregivers, and family members on ways to prevent, detect, and report Medicare fraud and scams.	Senior Medicare Patrol Program	Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources	\$15,000
<b>Tribal Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) Program:</b> Provides Tribal Elder Program Directors with technical assistance and training on the Older Americans Act regarding its programming under Title III and Title VI.	TTAC Program	Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources	\$215,398

Statistical information acquired from the most recent notice of award

\*Program's current funding includes estimated Medicaid Match

## Accomplishments

▼ The Dementia Care Specialist Program partnered with the Epidemiology Department and Lac du Flambeau Aging to hold a Dementia Brain Health Event in September. This event was an educational opportunity that helped the community learn about healthy aging, dementia, and caregiving.



▼ The three Tribal Disability Benefit Specialists served 163 new clients in 2025. If a monetary value were placed on the services they provided, it would be more than \$437,000. They were also able to attend 20 events in 2025, reaching around 2,028 community members from all 11 tribal communities in Wisconsin.



▲ The Tribal Elder Benefit Specialist (pictured on the right) served 92 clients in 2025. She attended 27 events in all seven tribal communities she serves, reaching 1,742 community Elders.



▲ The TTAC program coordinated and hosted six Tribal Aging Unit Association meetings. This included two in-person meetings: one in St. Croix and one in Red Cliff. In addition, two Tribal Fiscal Trainings for Older American Act Title III were coordinated by the TTAC program, and 10 of the 11 Tribal Aging programs and tribal fiscal programs attended. TTAC also held the second annual Tribal Cooks training (pictured above) in Keshena, Wisconsin, with 18 tribal kitchen staff members and Chef Francisco Alegria.



# Economic Development

## Economic Development Administration (EDA)

Description of Program	Program Name	Funding Source	FY2025 Funding
<b>Economic Development Administration (EDA):</b> GLITC's 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 tribes by connecting them with resources and by assisting with planning and implementing economic development strategies derived from the tribes' own economic development planning process or developed in GLITC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process.	EDA	US Department of Commerce	\$153,000

Statistical information acquired from the most recent notice of award

### Accomplishments

- Five tribes received project or strategic planning services.
- GLITC is a key strategic partner with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.



◀ In collaboration with the American Indian Chamber of Commerce, nine reservations held resource events called the Wisconsin Tribal Development “Toolbox Tours” where state, local, and federal resource providers convene with the tribes to discuss and connect tribal projects with available economic development resources. (Pictured: A Toolbox Tour event was held at Stockbridge-Munsee.)

## Native American Tourism of Wisconsin (NATOW)

Description of Program	Program Name	Funding Source	FY2025 Funding
<b>Native American Tourism of Wisconsin (NATOW):</b> NATOW's mission is to promote tribal tourism and economic development while highlighting the beauty, diversity, and cultural dynamism of the 11 federally recognized tribes of Wisconsin.	NATOW	State of Wisconsin	\$200,000

Statistical information acquired from the most recent notice of award

### Accomplishments

- NATOW was a major sponsor of the 2025 Indigenous Business Conference. This conference is traditionally held on Indigenous Peoples Day at the Potawatomi Casino Hotel in Milwaukee. The roots of NATOW are in business development, and this unique conference brings together tribal leadership, local leadership, tribal business leaders, and Hollywood. Leaders came together where three rivers (the Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic rivers) flow into Lake Michigan. Our songs were sung as that day was proclaimed by Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley.



▲ NATOW, alongside our partner Travel Wisconsin, was able to share our mission and our culture with those who visited the Wisconsin State Fair. The Red Nation Boyz and their mentors Isiah and his brother Avery Nahwahquaw filled the building with our songs. The dancers showed the crowd how beautiful, talented, and powerful our dancers are.



▲ Paul R. Smith (pictured with Governor Tony Evers) began as Executive Director of NATOW in June 2025 and is focused on advancing the mission of NATOW.



# Education, Health, and Research Department

GLITC’s Education, Health, and Research department is funded by grants that help promote Native health through education and research. The work focuses heavily on enhancing the Great Lakes food sovereignty efforts, supporting Native students who pursue research and health careers, assisting tribes in capacity building, providing outreach and education on the dangers of commercial tobacco and vaping, and promoting traditional tobacco and quit-smoking efforts.

Description of Programs	Program Name	Funding Source	FY2025 Funding
<b>GLITC Food Sovereignty Program:</b> The Waabigwanii Gitigaanin Garden and Greenhouse program is working to build a thriving food sovereignty program that aims to increase tribal community members’ relationship with the land and improves access to traditional health and wellness through cultural knowledge and identity.	Community Cancer Work Group	Medical College of Wisconsin - Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin	\$603,758
<b>Great Lakes Native American Research Center for Health (NARCH):</b> The overarching goal of the Great Lakes NARCH program is to encourage and support Native students to pursue research and health careers and to assist tribes in building capacity to control and conduct the research done in their communities.	Great Lakes NARCH 11	National Institutes of Health	\$332,368 (Ended 7/31/25)
	Great Lakes NARCH 12	National Institutes of Health	\$189,205
	Great Lakes NARCH 13	National Institutes of Health	\$903,484
<b>Wisconsin Native American Tobacco Network (WNATN):</b> WNATN focuses on providing outreach and education to Wisconsin tribal communities about the dangers of commercial tobacco and vaping while also promoting and supporting the use of traditional tobacco and quit-smoking efforts.	Tobacco Network	Wisconsin Department of Health Services	\$250,000

Statistical information acquired from the most recent notice of award

## Accomplishments

### GLITC Food Sovereignty

- This program has implemented greater communication and outreach via a monthly newsletter, regular Facebook updates, regular communication with community gardeners, and a new program webpage on the GLITC website to house updates and important resources.

### Great Lakes NARCH

- Great Lakes NARCH was awarded a new five-year cycle of funding from the National Institutes of Health at the end of FY2025.
- Great progress has been made on the Great Lakes NARCH-funded pilot research project regarding intimate partner violence. Interviews and data collection continue as this project begins its final year.

### WNATN

- WNATN increased the number of participating tribes from six to 10. Also, for the first time, WNATN is in partnership with the Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center, which is utilized by over 17,000 Natives in the Milwaukee area.
- WNATN partners with designative representatives in multiple communities who help educate people on the differences between commercial and traditional tobacco as a means of prevention. Together, we have hosted or appeared at over 75 community events around the state, reaching thousands of tribal community members.

WNATN held the Net-Na-Maw Tobacco Talks Conference as one of its quarterly meetings. It was held at the Menominee Resort Casino. The conference’s goal was to promote traditional tobacco while educating on the risks of commercial tobacco. The conference featured Native American speakers, drum groups, local veterans of the Menominee Nation, University of Wisconsin educators, and Marathon County educators. The event was so successful that the Traditional Tobacco Conference will become an annual event.

The GLITC Food Sovereignty program distributed 85 food boxes with weekly harvested foods and 35 bags of staff-harvested, donated apples to local families.



The annual, regional, tribal colleges and universities (TCU) meeting was held in person in June 2025 at the Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College. Great Lake NARCH’s TCU quarterly video conferences work throughout the year to build collaboration that culminates into this annual in-person meeting. Updates are given by each of the participating TCUs to highlight their current research projects and to provide opportunities for collaboration in those projects. In addition, eight TCU students gave poster presentations on their research projects and answered questions posed by fellow researchers and participants.



The GLITC Food Sovereignty program held seven workshops around food sovereignty topics, such as mushroom foraging, food preservation through canning, cooking from the garden, seed saving, and deer butchering. These workshops collectively reached over 60 community participants.



The GLITC garden produced over 1,225 pounds of food during the 2025 growing season. A wide array of foods were grown including peas, tomatillos, flint corn for drying and processing, wild strawberries, bush and pole beans, cabbages, carrots and other root vegetables, herbs, medicinal plants, and multiple varieties of tomatoes, summer and winter squash, pumpkins, lettuce, and peppers.



# Elder Services Department

The Elder Services programs administer funding focused on Tribal Elders and Youth. The programs focus on developing an Indigenous care management model for Tribal Elders, reintroducing Oneida Nation culture through Oneida Nation culture camps with Youth, holding Elder and Youth engagement events to strengthen Youth tribal identity, and recruiting Tribal Elder volunteers to be cultural Youth mentors or senior companions to Elders — including those with dementia — for the purpose of improving social and emotional well-being or promoting independence through social interaction.

Description of Programs	Program Name	Funding Source	FY2025 Funding
<b>Foster Grandparent Program (FGP):</b> FGP recruits Elders to volunteer as mentors to the youth in youth settings, such as in a school, daycare, library, or youth center. The primary focus is to improve social and emotional well-being.	FGP – Federal	AmeriCorps Seniors - Corporation for National and Community Service	\$380,707
	FGP – State	Wisconsin Department of Health Services	\$76,364
<b>Margaret A Cargill Philanthropies Foundations (MACF) Indigenous Care Management Model (ICMM):</b> The MACP ICMM program is developing an Indigenous care management model to support and sustain tribal aging health and Long Term Care needs.	ICMM	under MACF and Title	\$2,400,000
<b>Oneida Senior Demonstration Project (OSDP):</b> OSDP recruits Tribal Elders and Youth to develop a Cultural Mentoring program to preserve Oneida Nation culture and build Oneida Nation tribal infrastructure capacity.	OSDP	AmeriCorps Seniors	\$776,924
<b>Senior Companion Program (SCP):</b> SCP recruits Elders to volunteer to serve and help other Elders in the community. The primary focus is to help Elders stay in their homes longer.	SCP – Brown and Brown	The Robert W. and Susan T. Brown Family Foundation	\$14,537
	SCP – Federal	AmeriCorps Seniors - Corporation for National and Community Service	\$318,622
	SCP – State	Wisconsin Department of Health Services	\$11,423
<b>Senior Demonstration Program (SDP):</b> SDP recruits Tribal Elders to serve either other Tribal Elders who have dementia or tribal youth/adults. The Elders who serve tribal youth/adults teach an aspect of the culture, such as dance roach making, beaded vest making, and corn husk doll making.	Senior Tribal Demonstration Program – Federal	AmeriCorps Seniors - Corporation for National and Community Service	\$902,500

Statistical information acquired from the most recent notice of award

## Accomplishments

- FGP, SCP, and SDP were able to get a memorandum of understanding for all tribal programs in Red Cliff. This saves time by reducing the number of steps that need to occur before placing a volunteer in a tribal program.



▲ OSDP recruited Oneida Elder volunteers, completed background checks, and then enrolled a total of 10 volunteers. Eight are volunteering at the Oneida Nation recreational center, and two are at the Oneida Nation High School.



▲ ICMM submitted the only Wisconsin tribal response to the Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program's request for information. This resulted in a Wisconsin tribal set-aside of \$27.5 million in federal funds for rural expansion, as well as the potential for additional funds for tribal capacity building. Governor Tony Evers emphasized the importance of including tribes in the RHT Program.



▲ FGP, SCP, and SDP traveled to Lac Vieux Desert to make birch bark picture frames for The Gathering Place, which provides important resources to Tribal Elders.



▲ MACF completed and distributed Oneida Nation's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis that evaluated Tribal Elders' long-term care options.



▲ FGP, SCP, and SDP had two Volunteer Recognition Events, one in Lac du Flambeau and one in Oneida Nation.



- Met with Democratic and Republican senators and congressional members to advocate for and educate about AmeriCorps and GLITC tribal programs. This resulted in multiple benefits including preserving the AmeriCorps budget and obtaining tribal exemptions from executive orders regarding Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).



# Epidemiology Department

The mission of the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center (GLITEC) is to support tribal communities in their efforts to improve health by assisting with data needs through partnership development, community-based research, education, and technical assistance.

Description of Programs	Program Name	Funding Source	FY2025 Funding
<b>Colorado Resource Center for Tribal Epidemiology Centers:</b> Colorado Resource Center for Tribal Epidemiology Centers allows GLITEC to expand its research capacity through the University of Colorado's Resource Center by offering support, training, and opportunities for research. The university provides targeted technical assistance to enable GLITEC to conduct locally relevant, scientifically meritorious studies and to disseminate the results thereof.	Colorado Resource Center for Tribal Epidemiology Centers	University of Colorado	\$171,500
<b>Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC):</b> The GHWIC grant aims to reduce the rates of death and disability from commercial tobacco use, diabetes, heart disease and stroke, and reduce the prevalence of obesity in American Indian/Alaska Native communities through policies, systems, and environmental changes with a cultural approach. Oral care is also part of this grant due to its linkages to other chronic diseases.	GHWIC	US Department of Health and Human Services	\$1,240,625
<b>Healthy Brain Initiative (HBI) Road Map Champions Program:</b> The aim of the HBI Program is to implement public health strategies focused on brain health, caregiving, and dementia. This is achieved through community discussions, training sessions, presentations, and the development of resource materials.	HBI – Michigan	Alzheimer's Association	\$50,000
	HBI – Minnesota	Alzheimer's Association	\$50,000
	HBI – Wisconsin	Alzheimer's Association	\$50,000
<b>Indian Health Services (IHS) Epidemiology Cooperative Agreement:</b> The Epi Cooperative Agreement is a cooperative agreement between IHS and GLITC to serve American Indian/Alaska Native tribal and urban communities by managing public health activities with other public health authorities.	IHS Epidemiology Cooperative Agreement	Indian Health Service	\$3,011,397
<b>Lead Testing in Tribal Schools and Childcare Centers Program:</b> The Lead grant allows GLITEC to offer free drinking water testing for tribal childcare centers, after-school programs, Boys and Girls Clubs, tribal schools, and other similar tribally operated programs and facilities. The goal of this program is to protect the health of all children and people who use educational facilities.	Lead	Environmental Protection Agency	\$494,000
<b>Native Collective Research Effort to Enhance Wellness (NCREW):</b> NCREW funding supports tribal communities in research focused on traditional healing practices for culturally appropriate substance use recovery services and mental health support for overall wellness. Its work supports the future Adolescent Recovery and Wellness Center (ARWC) and Tribal Institutional Review Board (IRB).	NCREW	National Institutes of Health	\$264,826
<b>Public Health Preparedness (PHP):</b> The PHP grant supports GLITEC in convening tribal health officials and partners across the region to identify major disaster risks and resources available and to mitigate or manage them. This program facilitates the development and implementation of a regional five-year work plan to improve public health preparedness and response using evidence-based strategies and interventions for tribal and urban Indian populations.	PHP	Regents of the University of Minnesota	\$48,650

<b>Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services in Indian Country Cooperative Agreement (SPH):</b> The SPH grant aims to strengthen tribal public health systems and service to reduce health disparities. This is done through improving the capacity and infrastructure of tribal communities to prevent disease, promote health, and respond to emergent threats and chronic disease.	SPH	US Department of Health and Human Services	\$969,500
<b>TEC Consortium to Increase Vaccination Coverage Across American Indian/Alaska Native Adult Populations Currently Experiencing Disparities (iVAC):</b> Through the iVAC grant, GLITEC works on various activities to support and promote the increase of vaccines among American Indian/Alaska Native adults.	iVAC	Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board	\$100,000
<b>Tribal Epidemiology Center Public Health Infrastructure (TECPHI):</b> TECPHI is a grant that builds the public health capacity and infrastructure of GLITEC and tribal/urban Indian communities. This helps GLITEC and communities to conduct and bolster disease surveillance; epidemiology; program monitoring/evaluation; and prevention and control of disease, injury, and disability.	TECPHI	US Department of Health and Human Services	\$939,715

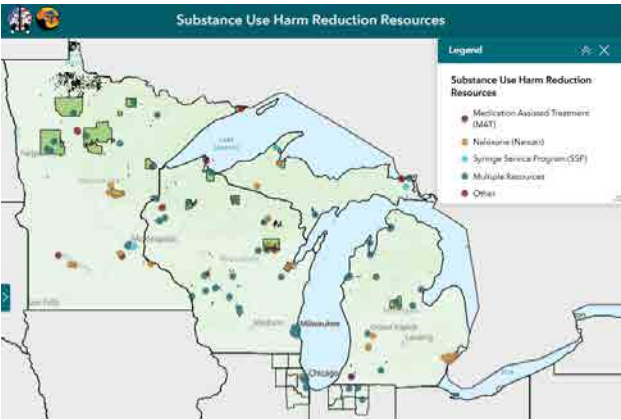
Statistical information acquired from the most recent notice of award

## Accomplishments

- GLITEC received 309 technical assistance requests, exceeding the 216 requests received in FY2024. The number of requests has increased for the last six years, beginning with 64 requests in FY2019. This demonstrates both the growing demand for and trust in GLITEC's support. These projects spanned critical public health domains, including organizational capacity, research and evaluation, public health communication, substance use and mental health, dementia and brain health, environmental health, reproductive health, emergency preparedness, and health policy.
- Through a partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), GLITEC has entered into a Master Data Use Agreement with the State of Michigan. This master agreement represents a framework for data sharing between MDHHS and Michigan. It is an important step toward improving tribes' access to public health data. This master agreement is paired with use cases that outline the sharing of specific datasets. This structure was chosen because it allows additional datasets to be added without amending the entire data use agreement. Use cases for specific datasets, such as immunization data and vital records, have been completed.



▲ GLITEC's 4th Annual Great Lakes Area Opioid Conference: Journeying Toward Wellness took place April 29 to May 1, 2025, in Prior Lake, Minnesota. Many people came together to support collaborative response efforts promoting regional health and wellness.



▲ GLITEC released a resource map that shows harm reduction services in the Great Lakes region. This map allows users to view resources such as naloxone (Narcan), public health vending machines, syringe service programs, and medication assisted treatment in their area.



# Family Health Department

## American Indian Health Cooperative Program (COP) Physical Activity and Nutrition (PAN)

Description of Programs	Program Name	Funding Source	FY2025 Funding
<b>American Indian Health Cooperative Program (COP) and Physical Activity and Nutrition (PAN):</b> Together, the COP and PAN contribute to the interventions of the Native Breastfeeding Coalition of Wisconsin. The purpose of the COP is to assist in developing, testing, or demonstrating solutions to American Indian health problems. Effective solutions may be applied by other tribes, tribal agencies, inter-tribal organizations, or agencies or organizations. PAN seeks to increase continuity of care for breastfeeding people and increase food sovereignty for Tribal Nations in Wisconsin.	COP	State of Wisconsin	\$8,908
	PAN	State of Wisconsin	\$10,995

Statistical information acquired from the most recent notice of award

### Accomplishments

- A strategic plan was created for the Native Breastfeeding Coalition of Wisconsin.
- ▼ Materials were created and distributed to celebrate Indigenous Milk Medicine Week (August 8-14, 2025) at 11 tribal sites and Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center.



- ▲ The COP developed a partnership with the Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition to provide food boxes for pregnant and lactating families during Indigenous Milk Medicine Week. In total, 100 boxes were distributed in five tribal communities. This pilot project is being expanded in 2026 with additional partners and funding.

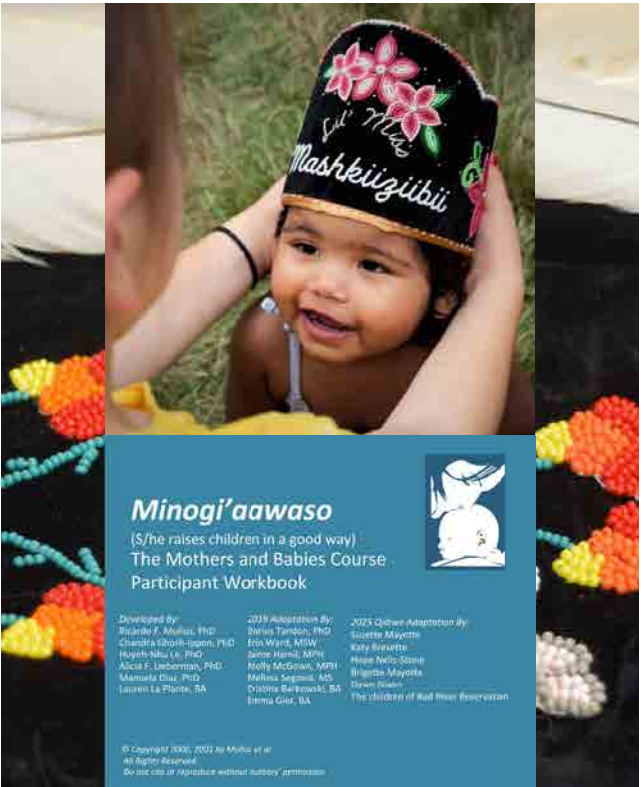
## Family Foundations Home Visiting Program (FFHV)

Description of Programs	Program Name	Funding Source	FY2025 Funding
<b>Family Foundations Home Visiting Program (FFHV):</b> The mission of FFHV is to protect children through parent education and to enhance the quality of life for all Native American families in the service area (Bad River, Burnett County, Lac du Flambeau, Sokaogon, and St. Croix).	FFHV	Wisconsin Department of Children and Families; Wisconsin Department of Health Services	\$1,730,120
	Maternal Innovative Bridge Grant	Division of Public Health-Wisconsin Department of Health Services	\$63,465

Statistical information acquired from the most recent notice of award

### Accomplishments

- The FFHV team served 72 families in five home visiting programs.
- Three of the five home visiting programs were accredited by Healthy Families America's evidence-based model. One home visiting program met all (100%) of the 155 compliance standards, another met 154 (99.35%) of the standards, and another met 150 (96.77%) of the standards.
- FFHV developed an Indigenous birthing plan that is used for home visiting programs.
- ▼ FFHV created an Ojibwe version of the participant workbook that Native mothers receive when taking the Mothers and Babies course. The corresponding facilitator workbook was adapted as well.





Rural Infant Health Program

Description of Programs	Program Name	Funding Source	FY2025 Funding
<b>Rural Infant Health Program:</b> The Rural Infant Health Program promotes maternal and child health by serving infants, children, adolescents, families, and pregnant, postpartum, and parenting people. Each tribe determines which of the following areas their work will focus on: adolescent well-being, breastfeeding, developmental screening, perinatal mental health, social connections, physical activity and nutrition, or health equity and community engagement.	Rural Infant Health Program	Wisconsin Department of Health Services	\$186,328

Statistical information acquired from the most recent notice of award

Accomplishments



- ▲ Bad River chose to work on the adolescent well-being objective. The Bad River Boys and Girls Club collaborated with law enforcement to teach youth about bullying, took the youth on a hike to bring them closer together and promote belonging and safety, and provided trainings on trauma-informed care.
- ▼ Stockbridge-Munsee selected breastfeeding as their 2025 objective. They held a baby moccasin beading class.



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

Description of Programs	Program Name	Funding Source	FY2025 Funding
<b>Tribal PREP:</b> Tribal PREP is designed to reduce risky behavior, teen pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and HIV/AIDS and to delay pregnancy until the age of 22. To work toward this goal, staff members educate youth age 10 to 19 years old with an emphasis on healthy relationships, healthy life skills, and education and career success.	Tribal PREP	US Department of Health and Human Services	\$637,091

Statistical information acquired from the most recent notice of award

Accomplishments

- After completing the Multimedia Circle of Life course through Tribal PREP, over 90% of youth were confident in their ability to refuse sex and avoid places where nonconsensual sex might occur.
- Staff members distributed hygiene supplies to address the needs of students who may lack water/shower access. These supplies can help reduce the stigma of homelessness. Supplies were given to Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe School, Oneida Nation High School, St. Croix Tribal Education Department, and Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School.



- ▲ Oneida Nation High School students made ribbon skirts and ribbon shirts for the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay powwow. The materials, coaching, and assistance were provided by Tribal PREP staff members to demonstrate that culture is a healthy life skill.
- ▲ Tribal PREP helped sponsor the Ho-Chunk Nation Suicide Prevention Awareness Event and assisted participants with creating a “Stitching Hearts” craft. The craft was designed to share the love and hope of the heart with someone who may need to be reminded that they matter.



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

As of September 30, 2025, the SNAP-Ed Program was terminated after being defunded through the Trump administration’s One, Big, Beautiful Bill. This ends more than 30 years of nutrition education in tribal communities. From 2017 to present, the program recorded 29,818 contacts across the six participating tribes. To provide direct education, SNAP-Ed nutrition educators partnered with Head Start, WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), tribal health centers, youth centers, food distribution programs, community gardening programs, substance abuse programs, and schools. Educators joined policy, systems, and environmental initiatives to provide increased access to food, free or reduced-cost physical activity options, and breastfeeding support.

SNAP-Ed started as Minwanjigewin (to eat something that tastes good and is good for you) Nutrition Project and promoted “Food is Medicine” long before the efforts we see today. The program focused on highlighting traditional foods as the key to returning to healthier ways. These messages continued to be infused into the work over the following 30 years.

As Tribal Nations face health disparities, the loss of SNAP-Ed funding puts in jeopardy the sustainable changes made in how tribal communities eat, move, and manage chronic disease.

Description of Programs	Program Name	Funding Source	FY2025 Funding
<b>SNAP-Ed:</b> SNAP-Ed’s goal was to improve the likelihood that people eligible for SNAP (FoodShare) will make healthy food choices and physically active lifestyle choices within a limited budget and consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and My Plate food guidance from the Department of Agriculture. This was accomplished through direct and indirect nutrition education and policy, systems, and environment change projects.	SNAP-Ed	US Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service	\$406,771

Statistical information acquired from the most recent notice of award

### Accomplishments



▲ A total of 6,150 educational contacts were made through 250 direct education sessions. In addition, 58 indirect education opportunities accounted for an additional 5,232 unduplicated contacts at community events, newsletter distributions, or community displays.



▲ SNAP-Ed partnered with the Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition to provide cooking demonstrations that featured foods in Tribal Elder Food boxes.

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

Description of Programs	Program Name	Funding Source	FY2025 Funding
<b>WIC program:</b> The purpose of the WIC program is to promote and maintain the health and well-being of nutritionally at-risk pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, as well as 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.	WIC	US Department of Agriculture	\$393,613
	WIC – Breastfeeding Peer Counseling	US Department of Agriculture	\$21,817
	WIC – Farmer’s Market	US Department of Agriculture	\$1,048

Statistical information acquired from the most recent notice of award

### Accomplishments

▼ GLITC was recognized with the Gold Award of Excellence for exemplary breastfeeding support practices by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service.



▲ GLITC WIC staff members led conference planning and attended the National Indigenous and Native American WIC Coalition Conference in Suquamish, Washington. (Pictured: Jessika Free-Bass, Omaha Nation WIC Program, Nebraska-National Indigenous and Native American WIC Coalition (NINAWC) Chair; Georgia Machell, President and CEO National WIC Association; and Cheri Nemec, GLITC, NINAWC Conference Chair and NINAWC Vice Chair)

◀ The WIC program rolled out new food packages in October. They provided additional fruit and vegetable cash-value benefit dollars, added canned fish, and gave substitution options to accommodate allergies and cultural preferences.



# Vocational Rehabilitation Department

Description of Programs	Program Name	Funding Source	FY2025 Funding
<b>Vocational Rehabilitation for Native Americans (VRNA):</b> VRNA helps Native Americans with disabilities to achieve gainful employment by giving them the skills and tools needed to remove barriers and be successful in a career.	American Indians With Disabilities	US Department of Education	\$1,806,280
	American Indians Vocational Rehabilitation	State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development	\$314,900

Statistical information acquired from the most recent notice of award

## Accomplishments

- VRNA received 284 applications this fiscal year, with 199 of them being found eligible for VRNA services and 162 turning into signed individual plans of employment. All three of these metrics have increased compared with last fiscal year.
  - A total of 81 program participants were enrolled in a post-secondary or vocational training program. Six obtained a degree, and two others received a certificate of training.
  - A successful employment outcome was achieved for 86 VNRA participants. This is 14 more than last year and six over VRNA's goal.
- ▼ The offices in Milwaukee and Black River Falls, Wisconsin, continue to increase participation in their service areas. This shows the positive effects of their outreach efforts and participation in community events.



- ▲ VRNA provided St. Croix with a handicap walkway for their garden project.
- ▼ VRNA has a mobile podcast bus. VRNA, the St. Croix Youth Enrichment Scholarship (YES) Program, and students used this space to discuss topics such as mental health, drug abuse, and cultural events.





# Adolescent Recovery and Wellness Center (ARWC)

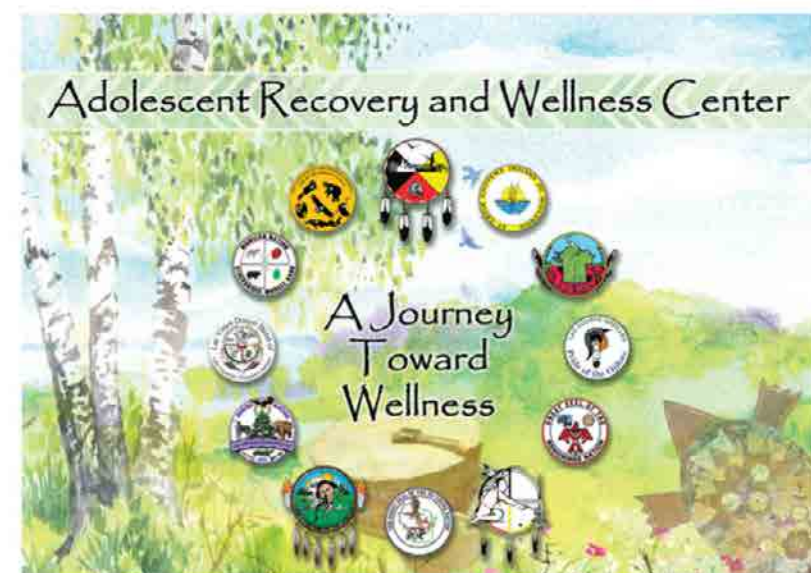
The ARWC is a 36-bed residential facility centrally located in Wisconsin to best serve all Member Tribes and urban Indians. It will provide culturally relevant services and responsive residential substance abuse treatment for Native American youth, ages 13 to 17, who are suffering from substance use 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.

Description of Programs	Program Name	Funding Source	FY2025 Funding
<b>American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds:</b> This supplemental funding provides the means to meet the urgent needs of American communities.	ARPA funds	Wisconsin Department of Administration	\$15,000,000
<b>Stockbridge - Youth Wellness Center:</b> This funding helps facilitate and complete all necessary and required steps to operate and manage the ARWC, develop the governing structure, assess and determine staffing needs, and other tasks as needed.	Stockbridge - Youth Wellness Center	Wisconsin Department of Administration	\$700,000

Statistical information acquired from the most recent notice of award

## Accomplishments

- Preconstruction, architectural design, and interior design were completed to finalize the plan for a space that will give youth the potential for rebirth and healing. Achieving this milestone allowed the project to advance to the construction phase.
- ▶ A cultural survey was distributed to all tribal membership to gather feedback regarding the ARWC’s operational plan. This input is guiding the ongoing development of this operational plan.



## Adolescent Recovery and Wellness Center Survey

Survey Closes May 31, 2025

We are pleased to announce that the [Adolescent Recovery and Wellness Center](#) is finally becoming a reality. Over the past several years, GLITC has gathered

- ▶ Site work started in Bowler, Wisconsin. This included harvesting the timber, clearing the land, marking the building locations, and preparing for the sewer and water lines.





# Planning and Development Department

The Planning and Development Department helps secure the funding necessary to deliver GLITC programs and services that meet tribal needs in culturally appropriate ways for the benefit of tribal members. The department researches new funding opportunities and facilitates the grant application process, including preparation of competitive grant proposals and application submissions. Other activities include researching fundraising opportunities through private foundations, corporate giving, and individual donations, as well as expanding revenue through billable services. Staff members were focused in FY2025 on strategic planning activities and events.

Description of Programs	Program Name	Funding Source	FY2025 Funding
<b>Office Capacity Improvement (OCI):</b> The OCI grant upgraded existing office space for safe distancing standards (COVID-19) and achieved network improvements to ensure data accessibility for remote staff and enhanced data security.	OCI	Wisconsin Department of Health Services	\$75,200
<b>Equitable Recovery Grant (ERG):</b> ERG advanced GLITC's strategic plan by gathering tribal input and implementing programming to increase equity and eliminate disparities in health, early childhood development, education, economic support, housing, and environmental justice in communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.	ERG	Wisconsin Department of Administration	\$840,798

Statistical information acquired from the most recent notice of award

## Accomplishments

- Department expanded from one to three team members. Grant Writer Mary Snyder-Henschel started in October 2024, and Assistant to Planner Chalyse Schellinger began in June 2025.
- The planning team researched multiple funding opportunities and worked on 30 grant applications, several of which had immediate turnaround dates. Twelve of these were awarded, and seven are awaiting notification. These grants are tracked using a grant tracking system (pictured below).

Microsoft Lists

Search

Grant Submission Tracker

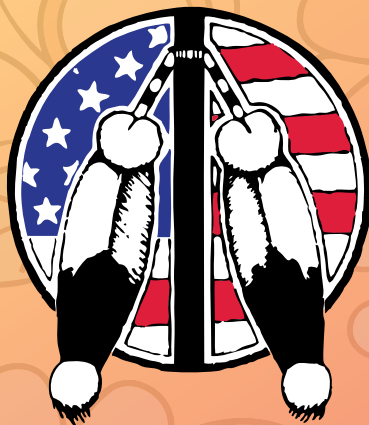
Submit Date: 10/31/2024 9/30/2025 11/21/2024 1/2/2025 1/6/2025 +16

Grant Title	Amount	Years	Program Director	Funder	Related GLITC pro...	Submit Date	On/Drive file creat...	Status	Awarded
Awarded: Yes (13)									
One by One	500	1	Mandy Christensen	4imprint	60th Anniversary	6/30/2025, 10:0...		Completed, Sub...	Yes
HHS ACL Dementia Indian Country	900,000	3	Jociminc Naska	HHS ACL ADP	GLITC/Dementia	8/23/2025, 6:30...	✓	Completed, Sub...	Yes
Key Strategic Partnership (KSP)	50,000	1	Diane House	WEDC	Economic Development/Small Business Training Center	8/1/2025, 7:00:0...	✓	Completed, Sub...	Yes
Eyes on Your Mission Video Grant	8,000	1	Mary Snyder-Henschel	Two Parrot Productions	60th Anniversary	7/18/2025, 11:0...		Completed, Sub...	Yes
WPS Charitable Foundation	5,000	1	Gina Brown	WPS Charitable Foundation	CFO	5/16/2025, 10:0...		Completed, Sub...	Yes

Input was collected from tribal leaders and staff related to the GLITC Board of Director's six identified priorities: housing, drug crisis, mental/behavioral health, economic development, health care, and emergency management planning support. This input was gathered by hosting the first in a series of three Strategic Planning Summits and multiple special meetings of the Board of Directors, which collectively reached more than 50 attendees.







# Serving 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 seventh-generation perspective.

## Our Values

Culture, Respect, Diversity,  
Collaboration, Teamwork, and Stewardship



**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](http://www.glitc.org)