

Agency Purpose

The Minnesota Indian Affairs council (MIAC) was established in 1963 (M.S. 3.922) and remains one of the oldest and largest councils in the state and nation. Its primary function is to serve as the official liaison between the state of Minnesota and the eleven tribal governments in the state. The MIAC advises state government on the issues of concern to American Indian tribes and communities; oversees, advises and administers programs designed to enhance economic opportunities; and protects cultural resources for the state's American Indian tribes and communities. The MIAC plays a central role in the development of state legislation and monitors programs that affect the state's American Indian tribes and communities. Minnesota was one of the first states in the nation to see the need for and establish an Indian affairs agency and continues to be a model for other states to follow today.

The agency serves the eleven Minnesota tribal nations and their enrolled membership who reside both on and off of the reservation. The agency also serves the large population of American Indians from out of state currently residing in the state of Minnesota.

At a Glance

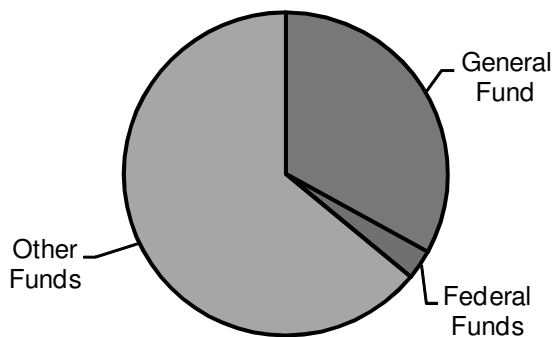
Serve American Indian Tribal Nations in Minnesota: Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Fond du Lac Reservation, White Earth Band of Ojibwe, Grand Portage Reservation, Bois Forte (Nett Lake) Band of Ojibwe, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Red Lake Nation, Upper Sioux Community, Lower Sioux Community, Shakopee-Mdewankanton Indian Community, and Prairie Island Indian Community.

Key Areas of Activity:

- Legislative and Communications Outreach
- Dakota and Ojibwe Revitalization and Grant Program
- Cultural Resources and Reburial Program
- Office of Economic Opportunity/Human Services Grant Outreach

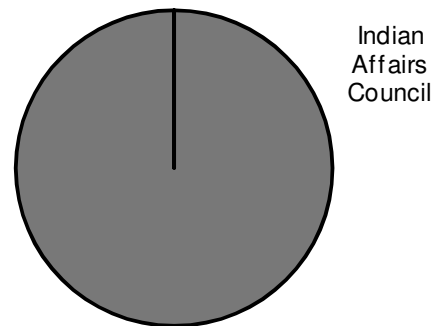
Each area within the Indian Affairs Council serves the American Indian tribes and communities as well as the entire state of Minnesota.

Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Fund



Source: Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS).

Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Program



Source: Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS)

Strategies

The MIAC Board meets quarterly to discuss the most important issues affecting American Indian tribes and people in Minnesota. The Urban Indian Advisory Board (UIAB) board also meets quarterly to discuss the most important issues affecting the urban Indian population of Minnesota. The board hears key testimony pertaining to the critical or most important issues, enters into discussion, and makes a decision how to proceed on a collaborative level to solve the issues. The board frequently passes resolutions supporting actions and activities of the council. The resolutions and any actions taken become the agenda for the council at the state government and legislative level. The staff carries out the agenda of the board in the daily activities by attending legislative meetings and meeting with key people in state government and the legislature who can provide a collaborative resolution to issues or problems affecting American Indian people. All program activities of the MIAC, including general operations, legislative, cultural resources, and human services related will be directed by the council on some level. Key or critical issues always go before the board of the MIAC for resolution or action.

Operations

The MIAC consists of a 28-member board of directors. Membership includes the leadership of the eleven tribal nations or their designees, one member for the governor's staff appointed by the governor, 12 commissioners or their designees, and four legislators. The UIAB, consisting of membership from Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, and Bemidji, also advises the MIAC on critical issues affecting the urban American Indian population.

The MIAC board meets quarterly or as it deems necessary to discuss the critical issues affecting the American Indian people currently in Minnesota. These involve issues that have a statewide impact in many areas, such as education, housing, economic opportunity such as joblessness, health, and human services issues. The board works together on a government-to-government level to provide solutions to those issues that directly affect American Indians residing in Minnesota. The eleven tribal nation leaders or their designees to the board maintain the full authority to act and remain the voting powers on issues requiring immediate action or resolution.

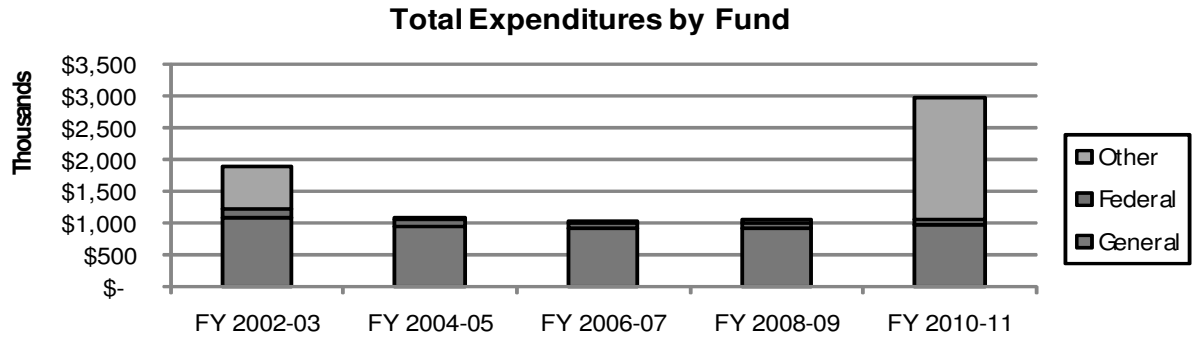
Key Goals & Measures

The mission of the MIAC is to protect the sovereignty of the eleven Minnesota tribes and ensure the well-being of American Indian citizens throughout the state of Minnesota. Key goals that evolve out of this mission include, but are not limited to, ensuring that every American Indian citizen of this state has equal access to education, healthcare, safety and security, and the ability to live independently and prosper in Minnesota's economy.

In an effort to reach the key goals, the MIAC will continue to:

- Monitor existing policy and protect the laws and rights of the American Indian people in Minnesota;
- Hold quarterly meetings of the board and continue to address the most critical issues affecting American Indian tribes and communities;
- Work to identify and resolve burial issues in compliance with state and federal laws;
- Commit to educating legislative and state officials by holding yearly legislative training on Indian issues;
- Scheduling an annual summit for the governor and tribal leaders;
- Work with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and the new positions of tribal veterans services officers who service the American Indian veterans;
- Work with the Department of Education to address the needs and concerns of educators, parents, and all others working on the education of American Indian children;
- Work with outside entities and private businesses, such as law enforcement agencies, victims advocates services agencies, nonprofits and private industry serving American Indian populations; and
- Bring forward the most critical issues affecting American Indian people in Minnesota in an effort to obtain the best consensus on resolving those issues.

Budget Trends



** FY 2010-11 is estimated, not actual. Source data for the previous chart is the Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS) as of 09/23/2010.*

The American Indian population in Minnesota continues to be plagued with some of the worst educational outcomes, health disparities, foster care and adoption placement rates, and economic statistics of any population in the entire state. If the state’s economic outlook does not improve, these issues facing the American Indian population are likely to worsen, which will place additional pressures on the MIAC.

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