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**Indian Affairs Council**

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<https://mn.gov/indianaaffairs/>

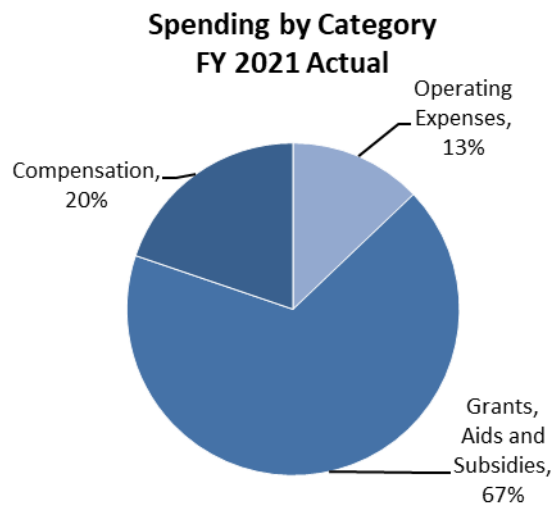
**AT A GLANCE**

- The Council serves the entire state including the eleven sovereign Tribal Nations in Minnesota.
- There are approximately 61,000 American Indians statewide.
- The Council has six full-time staff and two offices located in St. Paul and Bemidji.
- The 28-member board is comprised of elected Tribal Leaders, the Governor’s Office, members of the State Legislature, and State Agency Commissioners.
- Six-member Urban Indian Advisory Board (UIAB) that advises the Council on issues specific to the urban American Indian communities in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Bemidji, and Duluth.

**PURPOSE**

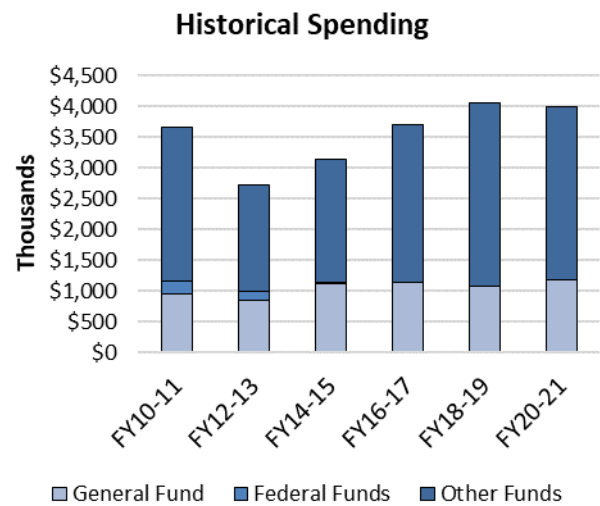
The mission of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) is to uphold the sovereignty of the eleven Tribal Nations in Minnesota, and to ensure the well-being of American Indian citizens throughout the state. Established in 1963, the MIAC serves as the primary liaison between sovereign Tribal Nations and state government. The Council advises and makes policy recommendations to the governor and legislature. The MIAC proposes the yearly agenda for the annual Governor Tribal Leader Summit where priority issues and plans are discussed for the upcoming year and legislative session. MIAC continues to fulfill duties under MS 307.08 and MS 138.00, through its Cultural Resource department. The Cultural Resource program works in collaboration with the Department of Administration’s Office of the State Archaeologist to protect American Indian cemeteries, gravesites, and burial mounds statewide. Additionally, MIAC is a re-granter agency and administers a Dakota and Ojibwe Language Revitalization program through the Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

**BUDGET**



*Grants, Aids, and Subsidies are the appropriations from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for Language Revitalization and Cultural Resources.*

*Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)*



*Note: After FY14-15 MIAC has not received any federal funds*

*Source: Consolidated Fund Statement*

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council has a total biennial budget of approximately \$6.6 million for the FY 2022-23 biennium. The biennial General Fund support is approximately \$1.7 million. Funding from the Arts & Cultural

Heritage Fund, consisting of grants to communities for Dakota and Ojibwe Language Revitalization, is approximately \$4.9 million.

## STRATEGIES

To accomplish its mission, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council uses the following strategies:

- Convene three-day executive and public board meetings quarterly which bring together elected tribal leaders from tribal nations that share geography with the State of Minnesota (MIAC Executive Board), state agency commissioners, state government elected and appointed officials, key agency program staff, and the public. Executive Board discussion and formal action through adoption of resolutions leads to increased collaboration and coordination with state agency leadership.
- Make policy recommendations to the governor, state legislature, and state agencies.
- Educate the public and local governments on issues important to American Indian tribes and people.
- Promote the revitalization and preservation of the Dakota and Ojibwe Languages through the Language Grants department supported by the Legacy Amendment.
- Regulate and oversee repatriation and respectful and culturally competent reburials of American Indian remains throughout the state. This requires collaboration with state agencies, the Army Corps of Engineers, state and local governments, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and elected tribal officials.
- Coordinate with state agency Tribal liaisons to ensure effective program implementation and compliance with MN State Law Sec. 10.65 Government to Government Relationship with Tribal Governments and Tribal Consultation.
- Partner with state agencies and tribal nations to plan and facilitate the Minnesota Tribal State Relations Training.
- Assist the Governor's Office Tribal-State Relations Team and state agencies tribal liaisons with a platform for discussion and information sharing between governments.
- Citizen and public outreach through participation on state, tribal, and community advisory boards, commissions, committees, and task forces.
- Educate the public and state agency employees through the use of the Why Treaties Matter Exhibit.
- Provide education and referrals to resources or other learning opportunities regarding tribal governments and people.

In 2022 MIAC extended an offer of employment for an additional Cultural Resource Staff to enhance recovery and reburial efforts in the state. The MIAC Cultural Resource department is expanding in order to provide better consultative services to reduce the number of inadvertent discoveries, and in turn, save the state potentially millions of dollars. The Cultural Resource department has been increasing communication to and building stronger relationships with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers which has been an invaluable partnership in our efforts to protect American Indian graves. Also, in 2022 MIAC hired a full time Language Grants Support Admin to assist with a growing portfolio of Dakota and Ojibwe Language Grants. MIAC is growing overall, illuminating the need for service expansion directly in correlation to the new MN Statutes Sec. 10.65 and an increase in tribal state relations.

## RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Total grants awarded through Dakota and Ojibwe language revitalization grant program	17 11 22	17	FY16-17, FY18-19, FY20-21, FY 22
Quantity	Number of filled positions within the Cultural Resource Unit who are qualified with regulative authority and oversight of American Indian repatriation and reburials.	3 3 2 2	2	FY18, FY19, FY20, FY21, FY22
Quality	Number of Dakota and Ojibwe Language Revitalization and Strategic Plan documents approved and adopted by the tribal nations in the State of MN	3 3 3 3	3	FY18, FY19, FY20, FY21, FY22

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The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council's legal authority comes from MS 3.922 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=3.922>).