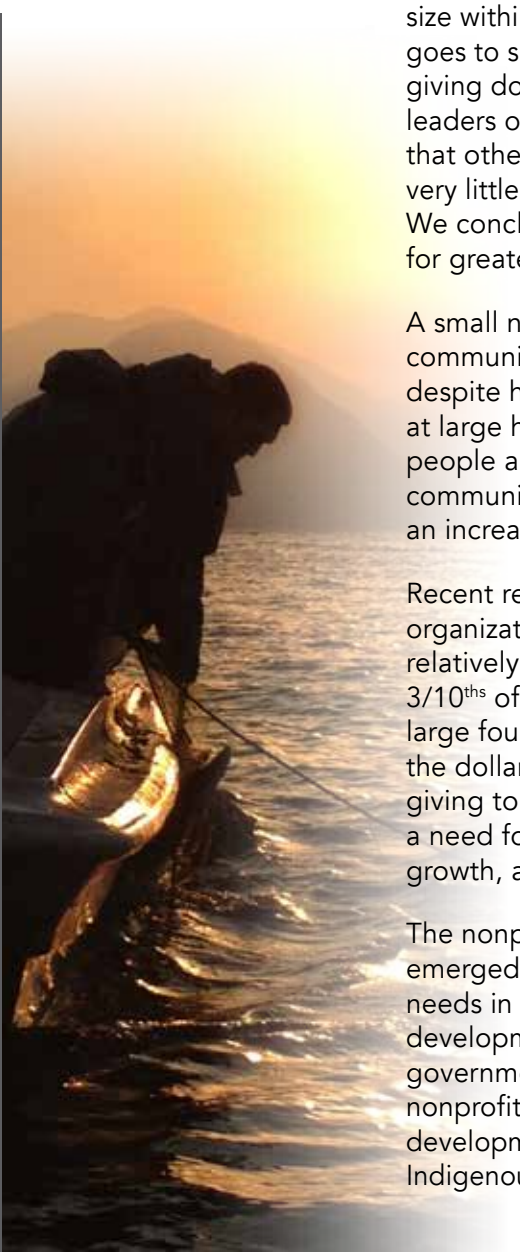
Community Foundation GIVING to Native American Causes

First Nations Development Institute

INTRODUCTION

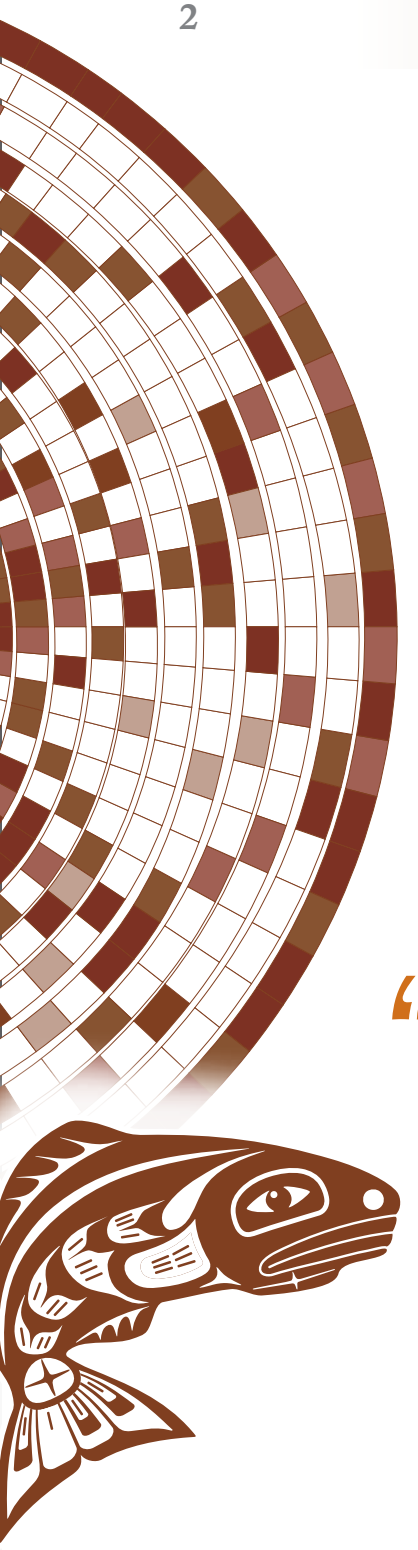
This paper examines levels of community foundation giving to Native American communities and causes in 10 states. In all, we find that on average 15/100ths of one percent (.15%) of community foundation funding goes to Native American organizations and causes annually. Our findings challenge two common assumptions about Native communities and philanthropy. First, the size of Native American populations within states has little effect on levels of community foundation giving. In other words, regardless of Native American population size within states, on average less than one percent of total community foundation giving goes to support Native American organizations and causes. Second, community foundation giving does not necessarily close gaps where national funders leave off. Native community leaders often hear that community foundations can or should fund Native community efforts that other national philanthropic partners cannot support. Our data suggest that there is very little funding interaction between Native communities and local community foundations. We conclude the report by highlighting strategies and practices to expand opportunities for greater collaboration between community foundations and Native communities.



A small number of philanthropic supporters have remained committed to Native community development. However, previous studies have consistently documented that despite high levels of need, and outside a small cadre of committed funders, philanthropy at large has not been highly motivated to fund programs that support Native American people and causes. The vibrant and growing self-determination movement in Native communities has expanded opportunity for philanthropic investment and also created an increasing need for funding.

Recent research has explored the size and scope of charitable giving to Native American organizations and causes. What these studies have consistently documented is that despite relatively high levels of poverty and poor health indicators in Native communities, only 3/10ths of one percent (.3%) of all grant funds were given to Native American causes by large foundations.[1] In addition, a mere 10 national foundations accounted for over half the dollars given to Native American causes and organizations, highlighting that charitable giving to Native communities is concentrated in a small number of foundations. There is a need for more resources to invest in vibrant community organizations to sustain their growth, and to address the pressing issues that face many Native American communities.[2]

The nonprofit sector in Native communities boomed in the 1970s and 1980s. The sector emerged largely as a means to expand community development and meet human service needs in local communities. Generally, the sector looked to ease and diversify community development and service needs that were largely shouldered by overburdened tribal governments. Since the rise of the sector in the 1970s and 1980s, hundreds of Native-led nonprofits in diverse urban and rural settings have worked tirelessly to create community development and service delivery models that are responsive to local community needs and Indigenous belief systems, with the goal of supporting strong and healthy local communities.



While existing studies have documented that levels of need do not necessarily motivate giving to Native communities or causes, one of the myths and stereotypes Native people face in all realms of modern society is that their population is small and insignificant. For example, in philanthropy, this is reflected in the relegation of Native people and communities to an asterisk, footnote or being counted as "other," noting that the population numbers are too small and insignificant to be studied or included. It is true that American Indian and Alaska Native people only account for roughly 2% of the total U.S. population,[3] but the population size of American Indians and Alaska Natives does vary by location and the overall size of the American Indian and Alaska Native population is growing faster than the general U.S. population. For example, in places like Alaska, South Dakota, New Mexico and Oklahoma, Native people make up over 10% of the overall population. We must not forget that American Indian and Alaska Native people were the "First Americans" and are still very much a part of communities across the U.S.

Native communities may be small in some locations, but the innovation taking place there represents an "an outsized opportunity" for philanthropic investment. For example, Nichole Maher, President and CEO of the Northwest Health Foundation, notes one outsized opportunity involving Native education that exists in Oregon: "If community organizations and philanthropy were to effectively partner to increase the Native American graduation rate to be on par with white students (not a very lofty goal), this would actually increase the entire state's graduation rate by well over 5%. This would be a huge win for our entire state and Native students. The same type of opportunity exists in economic opportunity, foster care and other places of community development and care."

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While larger philanthropic trends have pointed to significant limitations of national funding going to Native organizations and causes, another assumption about Native communities and philanthropy is that local community foundations will fill in funding gaps where larger national foundations leave off. Part of this assumption suggests that community foundations may have closer or deeper connections to Native communities.

This report tests these assumptions and examines the level of support provided by community foundations for Native American organizations. This is a topic that has not received much attention to date, but is an important part of understanding community and place-based philanthropy and the flow of charitable resources in local settings. Moreover, this topic is important to understanding the resources available to tribal and community leaders as they work to address the issues facing their communities. In all, this report adds to the growing body of research and data that suggest that Native communities remain significantly underserved across philanthropic institutions, including both larger foundations and local community foundations.

Contributing to a patchwork quilt of philanthropic organizations that meet the needs of local communities, community foundations play an important role in improving the lives of people in a defined local area. Community foundations are grantmaking public charities that have the ability to bring together the financial resources of individuals, families and businesses to support charitable causes for local and regional communities. According to the Council on Foundations, community foundations in America vary widely in asset size, ranging from less than $100,000 to more than $1.7 billion.[4]

Because they are often oriented to and funded by members of a relatively small geographic area, community foundations play a key role in addressing local community problems.[5] According to the Council on Foundations, in 2011 community foundations gave an estimated $4.3 billion to a variety of nonprofit activities in fields that included arts and education, health and human services, the environment, and disaster relief.[6] Currently, more than 750 community foundations operate in urban and rural areas in every state in the U.S.[7] Figure 1 provides some examples of Native-serving entities that receive funding from community foundations.

WHO IS FUNDED BY COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS?

FIGURE 1

There are 573 federally recognized tribes located in 36 states (with land and other asset holdings), as well as state-recognized tribes and significant urban Indian populations spread across states. And given that there is a presence of community foundations close to or within many Native communities in the U.S., we believe it is useful to empirically examine the amount and types of grants given to Native American organizations and causes from community foundations.

For this report, we examined grants given by community foundations in 10 states with relatively large Native American populations. We were interested in learning more about the landscape of Native communities' and organizations' interaction with community foundations and who is giving resources to support Native American causes and people. Given that this is the first time community foundation giving to Native American causes has been examined, we limited our study to 10 states. States were selected based on a variety of factors including Native American population size and rankings of top states that receive philanthropic investment identified through analysis of Foundation Center data on giving to Native American organizations and causes from 2006 to 2014.

To identify and track community foundation giving to Native American organizations and causes, First Nations researchers reviewed nearly 500 Form 990s for 163 community foundations in 10 states listed in the Community Foundation Atlas.[8] Taking the community foundations listed in the Community Foundation Atlas, First Nations researchers used the most current three Form 990s listed by GuideStar to conduct a keyword search of Schedule I[9] of the Form 990 for each of the 163 community foundations. Through these methods, we were able to identify and track the foundations' giving to Native American organizations and causes[10] over a multi-year period, usually between 2012 and 2014.[11] Table 1 provides an overview of the states we reviewed and the number of Form 990s reviewed as well as percentage of the population size of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) in these states, the percentage of American Indians and Alaska Natives living below the poverty line, and these states' overall poverty rates.

Community Foundations and Native Population Characteristics by STATE

TABLE 1

	Number *of* **Community Foundations** listed in Community Foundation Atlas	Number *of* **Form 990s** Reviewed	% **AI/AN** of **State Population**	% **AI/AN Below Poverty Line**	Overall **State Poverty** Rates
Alaska	5	15	19%	19%	11%
Arizona	3	9	6%	33%	18%
California	56	168	2%	20%	15%
Michigan	63	189	1%	25%	13%
Montana	5	15	8%	34%	12%
New Mexico	7	21	11%	30%	19%
North Dakota	4	12	6%	39%	11%
Oklahoma	7	21	13%	22%	15%
Oregon	9	27	3%	26%	13%
South Dakota	4	12	10%	45%	14%
TOTAL	**163**	**489**	*NA*	*NA*	*NA*

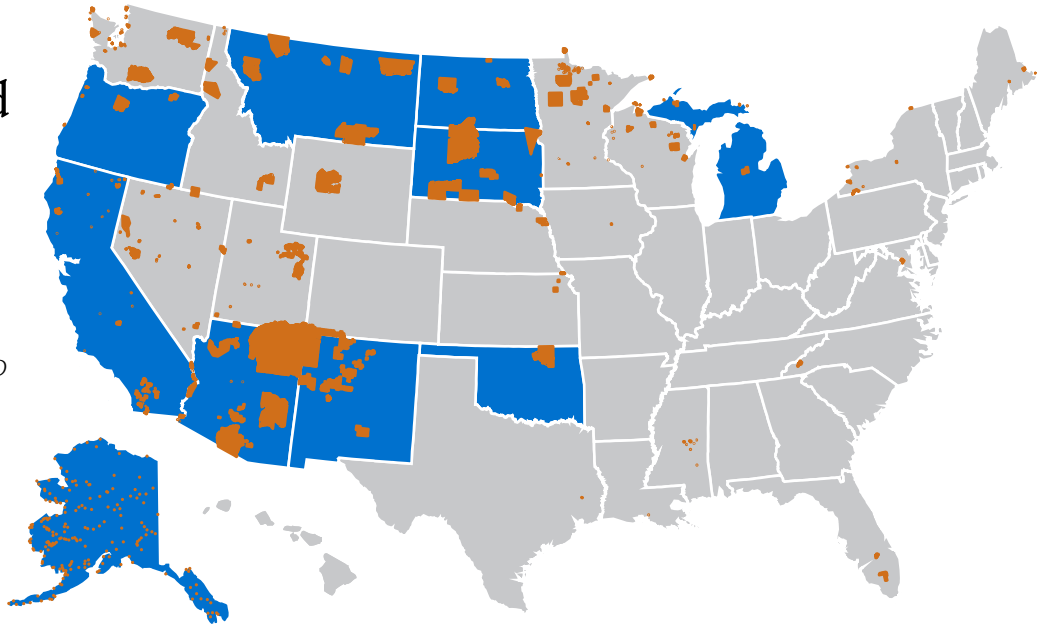
NOTE: PERCENTAGES ROUNDED TO NEAREST WHOLE NUMBER.

WHAT DID OUR RESEARCH REVEAL?

We examined the number of grants given to Native American organizations or causes as well as the total dollar amount of grants given by community foundations. Our research discovered that community foundations do give grants to many Native American causes and programs in the 10 states of our sample (see Figure 2). We were able to document 239 grants given to Native American organizations or causes over the three-year period for the 10 states. These 239 grants amounted to a total of $5,875,500 in grants over the three-year period, averaging about $1.8 million in community foundation total giving annually within these 10 states. The overall average grant size was $22,871, ranging from a low of $2,150 in Michigan and a high of $35,000 in South Dakota (see Table 2).

FIGURE 2

10 States Studied *and* Community Foundations



STATES STUDIED

NATIVE COMMUNITY LAND

NOTE: There are 39 federally recognized tribes in Oklahoma, 229 federally recognized Alaska Native villages and numerous Native communities in Hawaii. Their land holdings and jurisdictions differ than most other tribes in the U.S. This map does not reflect these complexities.

Number of Grants *to* AI/AN Causes OVER a 3-YEAR PERIOD

TABLE 2

	Total Amount **Given to AI/AN**	**Number** *of* **Grants** to AI/AN Organizations	Average AI/AN **Grant Size**
Alaska	$2,575,459	81	$31,795.79
Arizona	$883,401	34	$25,982.38
California	$436,862	24	$18,202.58
Michigan	$25,800	12	$2,150.00
Montana	$390,069	16	$24,379.31
New Mexico	$413,871	27	$15,328.55
North Dakota	$25,000	5	$5,000.00
Oklahoma	$99,301	11	$9,027.36
Oregon	$426,976	12	$35,581.33
South Dakota	$598,761	17	$35,221.24
TOTAL	**$5,875,500**	**239**	

Community foundations in the states we studied do provide some level of support to Native American organizations and causes. However, a closer look at the data reveals that the financial support in most states is far lower than would be expected given the size of the Native American population and socioeconomic need (see Table 2 and Figure 2).

Average Giving *to* Native American Causes
AS A PERCENT *of* TOTAL GIVING | *by* STATE

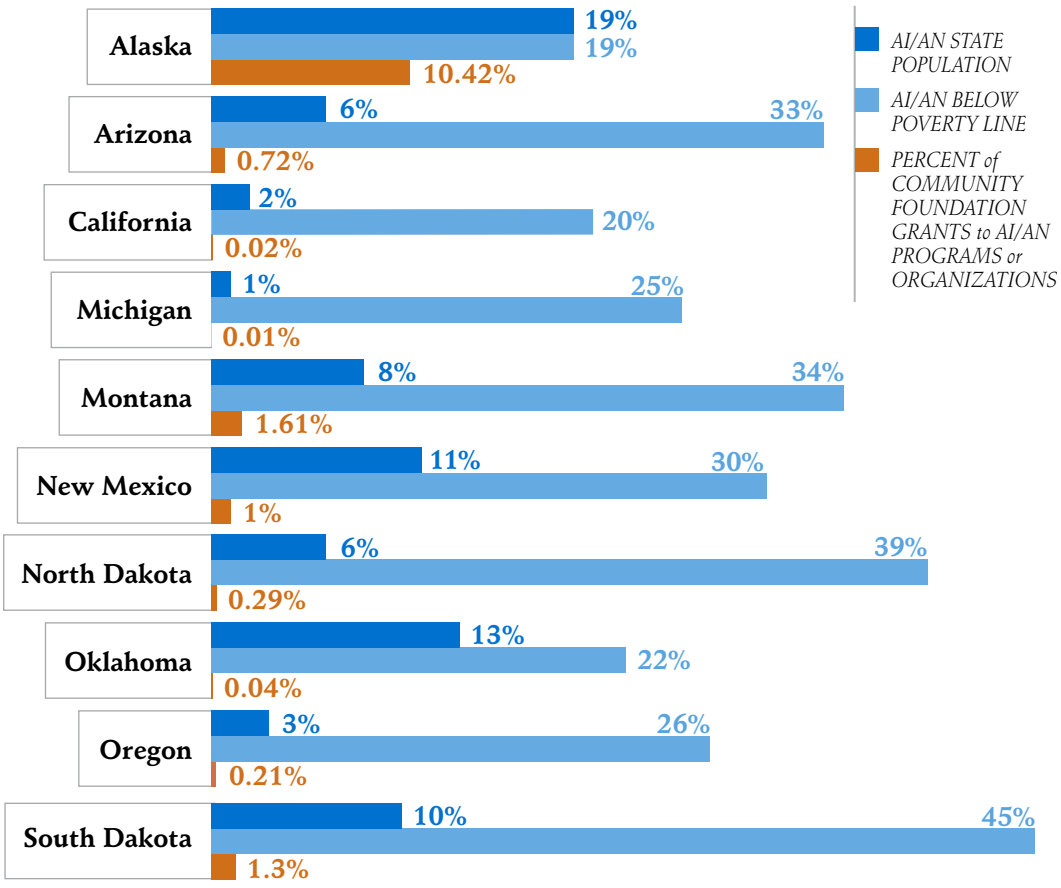
TABLE 3

	Overall Average Giving Per Year	Average Annual Giving *to* Native Orgs.	Average Annual Percent Given Native Orgs.
Alaska	$8,240,749	$858,486	10.42%
Arizona	$40,772,956	$294,467	0.72%
California	$923,191,439	$145,621	0.02%
Michigan	$149,511,473	$8,600	0.01%
Montana	$8,095,962	$130,023	1.61%
New Mexico	$14,128,752	$137,957	1.00%
North Dakota	$4,296,838	$8,333	0.29%
Oklahoma	$74,554,253	$33,100	0.04%
Oregon	$70,314,845	$142,325	0.21%
South Dakota	$14,968,159	$199,587	1.30%
TOTAL	**$1,306,075,426**	**$1,958,500**	**0.15%**

As seen in Table 3 and Figure 3, in all states but Alaska, the dollar amount of grants given to Native American organizations and causes is much lower than might be expected given Native American population size and levels of need. In fact, the annual average giving to Native American organizations and causes in these states is only 15/100ths of 1 percent (.15%), or less than 1% of total annual giving. However, there is a broad range in giving among these 10 states, with a low of .01% in Michigan to a high of 10.4% of the total dollars given in Alaska.

FIGURE 3

Community Foundations **Don't Fund**
Native American Organizations *at* Expected Rate



WHAT PROGRAM AREAS *are* SUPPORTED *by* COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS?

When examining the Form 990s, we were able to gather information about the different program areas being supported by community foundations over the three-year period for Native American organizations and causes. We found that in this particular sample, a large percentage of grants were directed to environmental projects as well as general operating support. The next most popular program areas were educational institutions or projects, and social services/community welfare institutions or projects (see Table 4).

Program Areas Supported *by* Community Foundations

TABLE 4

Giving by **Program Area**	Number *of* **Grants**	Percent of **Total Grants**
Environment	71	29.7%
General Operating	43	18.0%
Education	30	12.6%
Social Services/ Community Welfare	28	11.7%
Economic Development	24	10.0%
Youth	20	8.4%
Culture/Arts	15	6.3%
Health	8	3.3%
TOTAL	**239**	**100%**

In the 10-state sample, community grants were given to a broad range of groups, including tribal government programs, Native-led nonprofits, and tribal colleges. In addition, several grants were given to Native-serving nonprofit organizations such as private religious schools, museums, and monuments that may or may not have a majority-led Native American leadership or staff. See Figure 1 for the names of some of the organizations that received funding.

EMERGING PRACTICE 1:

Community Foundations *Striving Toward* Funding Equity *in* Alaska

Why do community foundations in Alaska give *EIGHT TIMES MORE* to Native organizations and causes than community foundations in other states?

As noted in Figure 3, on average, over 10% of community foundation dollars in Alaska is awarded to Native organizations and causes. The next highest rate of community foundation giving in our sample was in Montana where approximately 1.6% of annual giving went to Native organizations and causes, followed by South Dakota, which awarded 1.3% annually to Native organizations and causes. What explains this stark contrast?

First, some community foundations in Alaska have designated set-aside funds specially targeting community development in Alaska Native communities. For example, in 2011, the Alaska Conservation Foundation (ACF) launched the Alaska Native Fund. The Fund was created in partnership with the Alaska Native Steering Committee, a foundation committee made up of Alaska Native individuals representing diverse geographic, organizational and generational perspectives. The Alaska Native Steering Committee created funding guidelines, recommends grant awards and promotes the Fund to funding partners and Alaska Native communities. Similarly, in 2017 the Alaska Community Foundation created the Alaska Native Social Justice Fund to support strategic collaborations that prioritize leadership development and allow Alaska Native communities to use their own voices to identify and address the social justice issues that are the most important to their communities.

Further, analysis of board profiles for the Alaska Community Foundation and the Alaska Conservation Foundation clearly shows that these foundations are inclusive of Alaska Native individuals and individuals who have previously worked directly with Native communities. The extensive direct experience of board members is highlighted in the board profiles for these respective foundations.

Additional research can and should focus on analyzing foundation practices that are targeting more equitable levels of giving to Native communities in Alaska. But this brief description clearly shows that strategies such as set-aside funds to directly support Native communities, community foundation committee structures and board recruitment can have significant impacts on levels of giving and support for Native communities.

EMERGING PRACTICE 2:

Tribal Foundations

An increasing number of tribal governments are establishing their own foundations to provide charitable support to communities in and around their federal or state recognized homelands. According to research by First Nations Development Institute, there were over 41 tribal government-controlled grantmaking organizations in 2015.[12] Examples include the Forest County Potawatomi Foundation that provides grants in the Milwaukee community, and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community that provides grants to community organizations in Minnesota and to tribal communities nationally. The size and scope of tribal giving in some states has been quantified. For example, in Washington, tribal giving has amounted to roughly $8 million annually and in Oregon it has amounted to over $100 million from 1997-2014.[13]

The Forest County Potawatomi Foundation has operated in Milwaukee since 1999 with a commitment to provide funding support to charitable organizations for neighborhoods with low income-residents. The goals of the foundation are to continue the Potawatomi tradition of sharing while protecting and preserving cultural heritage.

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community is the largest philanthropic benefactor for Indian Country nationally, and one of the largest charitable givers in Minnesota. It has donated more than $325 million to organizations and causes, provided $500 million in economic development loans to other tribes, and contributed millions more to support regional governments and infrastructure.

Many tribal foundations give the bulk of their grants to non-Native organizations (due to restrictions in state compacts), supporting similar organizations that community foundations support. In addition, tribal foundations also support tribal government programs and Native nonprofits. The charitable efforts of tribal foundations complement the work of community foundations. Tribal foundations have seized on the important benefits of lifting up entire communities by spreading resources across multiple communities and causes.

EMERGING PRACTICE 3:

Community Foundations *Supporting* Native Communities

There are many ways for community foundations to support Native communities and organizations that go beyond funding. These programs can be more complex than a simple grant and do not show up on an IRS Form 990. One example of this takes place in western North Carolina through a funders' collaborative. The Cherokee Preservation Foundation, Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, Mission Healthcare Foundation, and United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County collectively formed the Western North Carolina Nonprofit Pathways program.

The Cherokee Preservation Foundation is an independent nonprofit institution established as part of the Second Amendment to the Tribal-State Compact between the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the state of North Carolina. The nonprofit foundation is funded by the Eastern Band of Cherokee from gaming revenues generated by the tribe. The Cherokee Preservation Foundation funds local organizations engaged in work aimed at economic development, cultural preservation and environmental preservation.

The Western North Carolina Nonprofit Pathways program was created to link local nonprofit leaders with learning opportunities, resources and support to help them become more effective in serving their communities. The WNC Nonprofit Pathways program was created out of a shared concern among funding partners about the increasing demands on nonprofits and a desire to play a role in building the capacity of community organizations so they can best carry out their missions. Nonprofit leaders receive capacity building, skill development and other networking opportunities as part of the WNC Nonprofit Pathways program.

The Cherokee Preservation Foundation encourages their current and future grantees to engage in ongoing capacity and skill-building trainings through the WNC Nonprofit Pathways program or other capacity building workshops. In fact, the Cherokee Preservation Foundation gives organizations that participate in skill builder workshops priority treatment during grant selection and also provides additional capacity building and training to grantees.

This funders' collaborative is one unique and important model of how Native communities and community foundations may interact in ways that go beyond financial support. More investigation is needed to explore other possible methods of collaboration between Native communities and community foundations.

EMERGING PRACTICE 4:

Partnering *with* **Community Foundations** *to Support* **Native Community Organizations & Causes**

There are several examples of ways in which community foundations have partnered with Native community leaders to bring resources to Native community organizations, causes and people.

The Two Feathers Endowment of The Saint Paul Foundation was established to support cultural and social programs as well as individual development through scholarships and community grants. Designed to be a long-term resource for supporting the restoration of traditional American Indian cultures, the Endowment focuses on artistic, educational, social, and cultural opportunities within Minnesota's American Indian community. The Two Feathers Fund partners with the Tiwahe Foundation for its grantmaking.

Another example is the Minnesota Tribal Government Foundation, which was established by three tribes in 2005 as a fund at the Minnesota Community Foundation. Funded by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, the Prairie Island Indian Community, and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, the Minnesota Tribal Government Foundation awarded several million dollars in grants to Native community organizations and causes across the state of Minnesota.

The goal of the Minnesota Tribal Government Foundation was to promote tribal sovereignty, advance economic development, and improve conditions on the state's Indian reservations. Although it was disbanded in 2011, each tribe has continued to provide grants through their own charitable giving programs.

DISCUSSION

The data in this paper highlight a number of important findings. First, on average, 15/100^{ths} of one percent (.15%) of community foundation funding goes to Native American organizations and causes annually. While there are some outliers in levels of giving — like Alaska — community foundations within states on average provide less than 1% of grant resources to Native community organizations. Thus, the assumption that community foundations fill in funding gaps where national philanthropy leaves off is largely wrong, at least when it comes to supporting Native organizations. This paper also highlights that even in states where Native people make up a significant percentage of the overall population, Native organizations still receive an inequitable share of resources. In other words, even in states with higher American Indian and Alaska Native populations, they still receive minimal philanthropic investment and support. What this demonstrates is that there may be a number of other organizational and structural factors that shape inclusion and exclusion of Native communities in philanthropic giving.

Community foundations may be making progress and investing in Native American programs in their service areas. However, there is still a significant disconnect between Native organizations and community foundations. In many cases, community foundation funding does not reflect the diversity of the regions where tribal communities are located. There are many possible reasons for this disconnect.

First and foremost, a perception does exist that Native communities in both urban and rural areas are small and are made up of "Invisible Americans." This perception further perpetuates division and exclusion between philanthropy and Native communities. Moreover, it diminishes the actual opportunity to make significant impact in Native community organizations and the larger community.

In addition, there may not have been many opportunities for relationship-building between foundation officers and Native community leaders. Historically, many community foundations were funded by organizations and institutions to provide resources to specific communities (through donor-designated funds). The funding goals of these donor-designated funds may have reflected the racial, cultural and economic makeup of their funders, and for the most part, Native American communities were not represented in these funds. But today, community foundations have worked to expand and diversify their donor base. As a result, there are greater opportunities for community foundations and Native communities to work collaboratively to educate donors about the rich diversity and contributions of Native people in local communities.

The Native American nonprofit sector is also still perceived as small and emerging in many areas,[14] and community foundations may not have found community partners with whom to build relationships. In addition, community foundation staff may be unfamiliar with the ways in which charitable organizations can legally give grants directly to tribal government programs. To overcome these issues, community foundations can look to state, regional and national organizations that can serve as connectors to local communities. These connectors can serve as key facilitators in building bridges and making connections between community foundations and local Native communities and organizations. Connectors can also serve as important informational vehicles to help educate community foundations or their donors on various ways of giving to Native nations and local organizations. But the role of a connectors is temporary and does not replace the need for a real commitment to develop authentic and lasting collaborations with local Native community organizations.

Many philanthropic organizations, including community foundations, have made strides to develop community strategies and visions that are more inclusive of diverse communities and target equity as a long-term goal. But these philanthropic organizations may have to continuously evaluate and monitor their own systems, processes and practices to ensure that their mission, values and strategies are inclusive of Native communities. To make progress, community foundations may have to develop processes to authentically listen and learn from local community partners to advance long-term collaboration.

Another challenge is that community foundation staff may not be educated about local Native communities, their challenges or the innovations taking place in these communities. As well, most community foundations may not have Native American program officers, senior leaders or board members to help educate community foundation leadership and donors about the exciting work taking place in local Natives communities. As a result, community foundations may have to examine their hiring, committee and board recruitment practices and ensure more inclusive and diverse pools are included for consideration. Increasing the number of Native American program officers, senior leaders and board members in community foundations can lead to greater education of community foundation leadership on the work taking place in local Natives communities.

Increasing the number of Native American program officers, senior leaders and board members in community foundations can lead to greater education of community foundation leadership on the work taking place in local Natives communities.

Native communities must also play a role in advancing greater partnership and collaboration with community foundations. Local Native community leaders need to continue to make investments of time and related resources to build relationships, help educate community foundation staff, board and donors, and be willing to share the opportunities and challenges their organizations face in their local communities. Native community leaders must also be willing to challenge common and misdirected narratives within philanthropy about Native community organizations. This includes challenging narratives that suggest Native communities and organizations are small, lack capacity, suffer from high turnover and other related misconceptions. Part of challenging these narratives will require Native community organizations to honestly assess their own organizational development. Moreover, part of this process will require Native nonprofits and the philanthropic sector to have honest conversations and acknowledge that organizational challenges, where they do exist, are likely directly related to philanthropy's historical underinvestment in Native communities. Despite the perpetual underinvestment in Native communities, there is a growing body of exciting and innovative work taking place in Native communities. This means there is plenty of opportunity to advance collaboration and partnership between community foundations and Native communities.

There is a growing movement in philanthropy to increase diversity, equity and cultural competency. This has encouraged many foundation officers to build relationships in communities of color, including Native American communities. In addition, tribal leaders are increasingly channeling resources into community foundations to endow funds designated to serve Native American communities, or are starting their own philanthropic organizations (see Emerging Practice 3). What these trends highlight is that there is great support for more collaboration between community foundations and Native communities.

The support and relationships between community foundations and Native communities is an understudied area in philanthropy and is ripe for further investigation. We believe there is a need to examine community foundation giving to Native American organizations and causes in more states and over longer periods of time. There is also a need to unpack different relationships and methods that community foundations may use to engage and support Native communities and their causes. Finally, in the growing movement examining issues of diversity, equity and inclusion at community foundations, we need more research on how Native people and communities fit into these developing and emerging frameworks.

Six Ways Community Foundations Can Change Practices *to be more inclusive of* Native Community Organizations[15]

1| Develop a willingness and commitment to listen and learn from Native communities, with the goal of cultivating long-term partnerships with Native communities.

2| Ensure that community foundation missions and core values reflect a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, and that Native American communities are included in this commitment. This includes engaging community foundation senior leaders, board members and donors on the rich diversity of local geographies, which includes Native communities.

3| Conduct an internal analysis of why Native communities are not significantly represented in local giving and have honest conversations about barriers and opportunities for partnership and collaboration. This will help develop a strategy to target the organizational or community issues that limit or impede opportunities for partnership.

4| Utilize state, regional or national Native American organizations as information resources and to connect community foundations to local Native organizations.

5| Analyze staff hiring, and organizational committee and board recruitment practices to ensure Native people are included within hiring or board recruitment pools.

6| Ensure that Native community organizations are authentically included when convening nonprofit partners. Over the long term, this will help build collaboration between diverse local nonprofit partners and community foundations.

CONCLUSION

As the vibrant Native American nonprofit sector continues to grow, it is reassuring to see that many community foundations are giving grants to Native organizations to help improve the health, educational, social and cultural welfare of local communities. However, the rate at which these organizations are funded is lower than expected and does not reflect the opportunities that are available to support the innovative work occurring in Native American communities, nor the high levels of need in many of these communities. Our research also revealed that Alaska is an outlier in the data as community foundations give roughly 10% of their grant funds to Native organizations and causes. Additional research should focus on what is working in Alaska in terms of interaction between community foundations and Native communities.

It remains important that community foundations and their leadership become more attuned to the charitable needs in Native American communities. Historically, community foundations do not appear to have built relationships and inroads in Native American communities, and in many states, their charitable giving is disproportionately low in these communities. Community foundations have an opportunity to learn more about the Native American communities in their states and ways in which to support them with their charitable missions and resources. Given the significant disconnect between the amount of grant dollars given by community foundations and the high levels of opportunity for investment, there is room for growth as community foundations work to support all members of local communities and provide resources and support for more diverse communities.

1 Lawrence, S. and R. Mukai (2011). *Foundation Funding for Native American Issues and Peoples*. Washington, DC: The Foundation Center.
2 This report uses the terms "American Indian and Alaska Native," "Native American," and "Native" interchangeably to refer to people who self-identify as American Indian or Alaska Native.
3 According to the 2010 decennial census, American Indian and Alaska Native population (alone and in combination with other races) accounted for 1.7% of the total U.S. population. Population data comes from a variety of sources and reflect American Indian and Alaska Native population alone and in combination with other races. First, Native American and Alaska Native population data comes from, Norris, Tina, Paula L. Vines, and Elizabeth M. Hoeffel. *The American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2010*. Washington, DC: US Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, US Census Bureau, 2012. Data on American Indian and Alaska Native state poverty rates comes from, Macartney, Suzanne, Alemayehu Bishaw, and Kayla Fontenot. *Poverty rates for selected detailed race and Hispanic groups by state and place: 2007-2011*. U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Census Bureau, 2013. Finally, state poverty rate data comes from, Semega, Jessica L., Kayla R. Fontenot, and Melissa A. Kollar. "Income and poverty in the United States: 2016." *Current Population Reports* (2017): 10-11.
4 Council on Foundations, https://www.cof.org/foundation-type/community-foundations-taxonomy
5 Community foundations also sometimes make philanthropic investments beyond their local communities. For example, donor-advised funds at community foundations sometimes direct resources outside of geographically-bound funding priorities.
6 Council on Foundations, https://www.cof.org/foundation-type/community-foundations-taxonomy
7 Council on Foundations, https://www.cof.org/foundation-type/community-foundations-taxonomy
8 See http://communityfoundationatlas.org/. The Atlas is the most comprehensive data on community foundations but important to note is that this report does not include data on the private foundations run by tribes in some states. See the "About" section on the webpage for how institutions are identified and included in the Atlas data.
9 Organizations that file Form 990 use Schedule I to provide information on grants and other assistance made by the filing organization during the tax year to domestic organizations, domestic governments, and domestic individuals. Researchers acknowledge limitations with analysis of Schedule I forms. First, it is possible that researchers missed Native organizations resulting in the undercount of grants. Also, descriptions are short on Schedule I forms so researchers may have missed grants serving multiple populations including Native Americans. But despite these limitations, researchers feel confident that they were able to capture a robust sample of giving to Native organizations and causes by community foundations.
10 We were able to identify Native American-serving nonprofit organizations, but could not confirm that the nonprofits had Native American leadership or staff. Organizations such as the Heard Museum, St. Joseph's Indian School, Crazy Horse Memorial, and other Native American-serving organizations are included in this total.
11 We looked at total grants over a three-year period and then averaged the amount for each organization. We did this to reduce the impact of any one data point that could be considered an outlier. We used the most recent Form 990s that were available on GuideStar (www.guidestar.org), usually those from 2014, 2013, and 2012.
12 First Nations Development Institute. (2015). *Telling Our Giving Stories: Native Philanthropy and Community Development*. Longmont, CO: First Nations Development Institute.
13 Washington Indian Gaming Association. (2012). *Washington Tribes: Contributing Now More Than Ever: Community Investment Report.*
14 First Nations Development Institute (2015). *A Case for the Native Nonprofit Sector: Advocating for Cultural, Economic and Community Change*. Longmont, CO: First Nations Development Institute.
15 There is a growing body of research and resources dedicated to helping guide foundations to look inside their organizations and their overall commitment to racial equity, diversity and inclusion. Authors drew on some of the following resources: Amador, D., Choa, J., Parshall, J., Shah, M., & Yanez, A. (2008). *Philanthropy in a Changing Society: Achieving Effectiveness through Diversity*; Austin, A., Bryan, B., McGill, L. (2008). *Embracing Diversity; Foundation Giving Benefiting California Communities of Color.*; Cardona, C. (ed.) (2002). *The Meaning and Impact of Board and Staff Diversity in the Philanthropic Field: Findings from a National Study.* MN: University of Minnesota.; D5 Coalition. (2015). *Foundations Facilitate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Partnering with Community and Nonprofits.*; Foster, J., Scheie, D., & Williams, T. (2001). *Improving Race Relations and Undoing Racism: Roles and Strategies for Community Foundations.*; Redwood, Y., & King, C. J. (2014). *Integrating Racial Equity in Foundation Governance, Operations, and Program Strategy. The Foundation Review, 6(1), 5*; The Annie E. Case Foundation, and Terry Keleher. (2014). *"Race Equity and Inclusion Action Guide: 7 Steps to Advance and Embed Race Equity and Inclusion Within Your Organization."*

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