

MIWSAC

Minnesota Indian Women's
Sexual Assault Coalition

Annual Report

 (651) 646-4800

 miwsac.org/

 570 N Asbury Street,
Suite 104, St. Paul,
MN 55104

MESSAGE FROM MIWSAC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2024 was a remarkable year for the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition, and we extend our deepest gratitude to our Circle Keepers, MIWSAC staff, Coalition Members, funders, supporters, and allies who made this year of growth and positivity possible.

MIWSAC began over two decades ago with the mission of ending gender-based violence and enhancing tribal, state, and federal responses to sexual violence and sex trafficking in Minnesota. We have since expanded the scope of our work to a national scale, providing training & technical assistance (T/TA) to direct service providers within the state of Minnesota, across the nation, and beyond.

In 2024, MIWSAC's staff expanded to 17 members, we were honored to receive the Good Relatives Bush Prize, and I traveled to Mexico City as a delegate on the Tri-Lateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women. I also had the distinct honor of being invited to speak at the White House for the 30th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act alongside President Biden.

Through this growth, our work has remained grounded in the philosophy that each of us have a role, purpose, and place in eradicating sexual violence. As we reflect on 2024, we look to the new year to continue to build resources, create awareness, and provide support to eliminate sexual violence against Native women, children, 2SLGBTQIA+ folks, men, and all our relatives who have been impacted by sexual violence.

Chi miigwech for your continued support.



MINDIMOOPYENH/KUNSI/KUNI-KA

NICOLE MATTHEWS
MIWSAC CEO



“

I have been with MIWSAC since its inception, and I've seen incredible changes over the years. I've worked alongside our Tribal Coalition relatives to dream about what safety looks like for our tribal communities, and together we have helped make those dreams a reality.”

-Nicole Matthews on the 30th Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act
September 2024

OUR VISION

Creating Safety and Justice Through the Teachings of Our Grandmothers



OUR MISSION

Through Unity We Will Strengthen Our Voices

and build resources to create awareness and eliminate sexual violence against Indian women and children. We will vigorously apply our efforts toward influencing social change and reclaim our traditional values that honor the sovereignty of Indian women and children.

TRADITIONAL VALUES THAT GUIDE US

Honesty/Truth: Honesty and truth is central to the work we do, which relies on open communication and dialogue. This value includes honoring that everyone has a starting place and that we are each constantly learning.

Respect: We respect each voice and the courage it takes to share all ideas and thoughts.

Humility: Humility is to know that you are a sacred part of creation, and to live life selflessly and not selfishly.

Wisdom: The beauty of our work is the ability to share the wisdom and celebrate the range of knowledge that we collectively hold.

Love, Compassion, and Empathy: In many ways, love, compassion, and empathy are the foundation for all of these teachings. To love yourself and to love others is core to who we are as relatives.

Courage and Bravery: Courage and bravery is standing up for what we believe in with faith, persistence, and strength.

Generosity: Generosity is contributing to the well-being of the Circle by sharing and giving freely, including time, heart, and knowledge.

Perseverance: We persist in our efforts, which is a deeply empowering source of strength rising from within.

Prayer, Ceremony, Good Intention, and Sacrifice: The full medicine wheel is important to all we do, including centering spirituality and connection in all of our work.

Mutual Responsibility: Accountability means mutual responsibility to one another as relatives.

Restoring the Balance: Balance is essential to who we are. We make accommodations for different physical, mental, and emotional abilities, and work to do more than just removing barriers, but we work to amplify meaningful access and resources.

Creating Safety and Justice
Through the Teachings of
Our Grandmothers





OUR CIRCLE KEEPERS

To reflect our Tribal values, we refer to our governing body as our Circle Keepers.

To ensure the needs of the organization are met, tasks have been delegated and reflect the functions of a traditional Board of Directors.

Major decisions are made collectively to reflect the universal Tribal value of being inclusive and for the benefit of all Tribal members, reservation, rural or urban, in the State of Minnesota, regardless of Tribal affiliation.



Tara Lewis

Keeper of Traditional Ways



Sarah Curtiss

Keeper of Records



Ann Haines Holy Eagle

Circle Keeper



Kaitlyn Grenier

Circle Keeper



Kimberly Bollig

Circle Keeper



Kateri O'Keefe

Circle Keeper



Jolene Crosswhite

Circle Keeper



Guadalupe Lopez

Circle Keeper



Crystal James

Circle Keeper

OUR TEAM



Ingrid Anderson
Policy & Advocacy
Director



Shayla Beaumont
TTA Coordinator



Stephanie Bridwell
TTA Coordinator



Debbie Bush
TTA Coordinator



Cristine Davidson
Prevention & Education
Director



Afton Delgado
TTA Coordinator



Morgan Hawes
Data, Grants, & Knowledge
Coordinator



Lisa Iyotte
Membership & Program
Services Coordinator



Becki Jordan
National Projects Director



Nicole Matthews
Chief Executive Officer



Naida Medicine Crow
State Policy & Outreach
Coordinator



April Russell
TTA Coordinator



Jennifer Scoggin
Operations Coordinator



Melissa Skeet
MMIP Project Coordinator



Kathy Sullivan
Finance Director



Linda Thompson
Chief Operations Officer



Annabel Young
Marketing & Communications
Director



STATE INITIATIVES



MIWSAC
Minnesota Indian Women's
Sexual Assault Coalition

VAWA 30TH ANNIVERSARY

On September 12, 2024, **MIWSAC was invited to the White House on the 30th Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act.** MIWSAC Chief Executive Officer Nicole Matthews was invited to deliver an address to event attendees on the White House lawn about the importance of VAWA, what safety looks like in our Tribal communities, and the important work that MIWSAC has done for the past two decades.



Nicole Matthews addresses the audience at the VAWA 30th Anniversary on the White House lawn, September 2024.

Image Source: UPI

HISTORY OF VAWA

Congress first passed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 1994 as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, and VAWA was signed into law in 1995.

VAWA aimed to recognize the severity of the crimes associated with domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and was subsequently expanded and improved in the Violence Against Women Act of 2000, the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005, and the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization of 2013.

VAWA marked the first comprehensive federal legislative package that aimed to address and end violence against women.

With each reauthorization of VAWA, the national movement **for the safety of Native women has achieved key amendments in support of Tribal authority and resources;** the 1994 iteration included a **4% funding stream for federally recognized Tribes**, the 2000 reauthorization **increased this to 5%**, the **2005 reauthorization included a Safety for Indian Women Title**, and 2013 included a **key amendment affirming inherent Tribal criminal jurisdiction over non-Native offenders.**



COALITION WORK

As a statewide Tribal Coalition, **MIWSAC has worked since 2001 to end sexual violence and enhance tribal, state, and federal responses to sexual violence and sex-trafficking.** MIWSAC's in-state work across Minnesota relies on engagement with Tribes, our coalition membership, survivors, community, and allies.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- **Monthly Membership Connection** meetings held on Zoom the fourth Wednesday of every month
- Attended **NCAI VAWA Task Force** in Las Vegas, NV to discuss Framing Paper for Tribal Consultation and 477
- **Annual Membership Meeting** to seat new Circle Keepers and welcome new members, held in Fond du Lac from October 22-24, 2024
- Attended **Indian Nations Conference** in Palm Springs, CA
- Participation in **PREA meetings with the Department of Corrections**
- **Day of Action at the State Capitol**
- **Site Visit** with MinNoAyaWin Fond du Lac Human Services, October 21, 2024
- FVPSA Pandemic Response Needs Assessment



Looking Forward



18th Annual MIWSAC Conference,
Self Care Carnival, & Pow-Wow to Honor
Survivors, Bloomington, MN.
April 22-24, 2025



Quarterly Coalition Membership Meeting,
Grand Portage, MN.
May 20-23, 2025



Quarterly Coalition Membership Meeting,
Onamia, MN.
August 19-21, 2025



PREVENTION & EDUCATION

Preventing sexual violence and education is integral to MIWSAC's work.

Engaging in culturally meaningful activities and strategies that return us to our ancestral practices and ways of knowing around healthy sexuality, masculinity, and health justice, are some of ways that MIWSAC works to interrupt the conditions that make sexual violence possible in the first place. This has included Youth Town Halls, Native Men's Prevention Summits, Girls and Boys Retreats, webinars, posters series, and the piloting of our Native Male's Toolkit to Prevent Sexual Violence.



YEAR IN REVIEW

- Our **free**, Native-Focused, Returning to the Teachings of our Grandmothers, **40-Hour Sexual Assault Advocacy Training** has now reached well over 2000 people nationwide, including Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, and even France. **In 2024, we offered the course twice in person, once in Bemidji in July, once in Bloomington in November, and one virtually via Zoom in February**
- Sexual Violence Prevention and MMIWG Awareness with **Cass Lake Bena Middle School**, grades 5th through 8th and staff, October 15, 2024
- **Rape Prevention & Education Program** included Capacity Building Surveys and Listening Sessions at the annual conference and with staff to identify SV prevention.

Looking Forward

In-person, **free**, Native Focused **40-Hour Sexual Assault Advocacy Training**, Cass Lake, MN. June 23-27, 2025



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MIWSAC engages with Minnesota Tribes, community members, MIWSAC members, survivors, allies, and individuals from all over Minnesota through various initiatives—from our Annual MIWSAC *Restoring the Sacred Trails of Our Grandmothers* Conference to in-state MMIR events.



YEAR IN REVIEW

- **Annual Visioning Meeting** for Membership to set directions and strategize on the long arc of MIWSAC's work for the year held in Brainerd, MN. January 8-12, 2024
- **Annual In-State MMIR Event and March** held in Minneapolis, MN. February 14, 2024
- **Quarterly Membership Meetings** held in Tribal communities throughout the state in 2024, including Tinta Winta/Prairie Island Indian Community and Leech Lake
- SAAM: Sexual Assault Awareness Month included our **17th Annual MIWSAC Conference** held April 23-25, 2024 in Hinckley, MN. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. The Restoring the Sacred Trails of Our Grandmothers theme of "Raising Our Voices to End Sexual Violence" included a **Self Care Carnival** and a **Pow-Wow to honor survivors** of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, trafficking, and our missing & murdered relatives
- **Annual National MMIR Event** held at the new Minneapolis American Indian Center on May 5, 2024, National Day of Remembrance
- **Tabling Events** at Naytahwaush Harvest Fest Pow-Wow, September 7, 2024 and the Returning Adoptees Pow Wow in Minneapolis, MN. on November 2, 2024



Looking Forward



Indigenous Tools For Living, an eight session-therapy workshop, hosted from March 24-26th, 2025



National MMIR Event in May for National Missing and Murdered Indigenous Person Awareness Day, May 5, 2025

NATIONAL INITIATIVES



MIWSAC
Minnesota Indian Women's
Sexual Assault Coalition

NATIONAL TRIBAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON SEXUAL ASSAULT (NTCSA)



The **National Tribal Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault (NTCSA)** is led by Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC) and International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN). Clearinghouse aims to increase access to resources for issues related to sexual assault in Tribal communities, such as culturally-appropriate training and technical assistance (T/TA), victim safety, and offender accountability. **Learn more at www.SupportingOurCircle.org.**

YEAR IN REVIEW

- **8 listening sessions** held across Alaska and the Lower 48 to identify T/TA needs, and identify the cultural and traditional practices utilized to address sexual assault in Tribal communities
- **Filmed a national commercial** hosted by GoodHealthTV highlighting advocates, Men and Boys, Veterans, students, nurses, and community filmed at the Minneapolis American Indian Center (MAIC)
- **Exhibit at Indian Nations** in December and Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits (BAAITS) powwow
- **Exhibit at Tribal Consultation** with International Association of Forensic Nurses



8 LISTENING SESSIONS

ACROSS ALASKA AND THE LOWER 48

Looking Forward



A Native-Focused Sexual Assault Advocacy and Response online modules will be made available on the NTCSA website **to increase accessibility for those working with sexual assault survivors**



Development of new resource topics including include **intersections of Fatphobia and Sexual Assault, Alcohol and Substance use, and Health Disparities**



TRIBAL SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PROGRAM (TSASP)

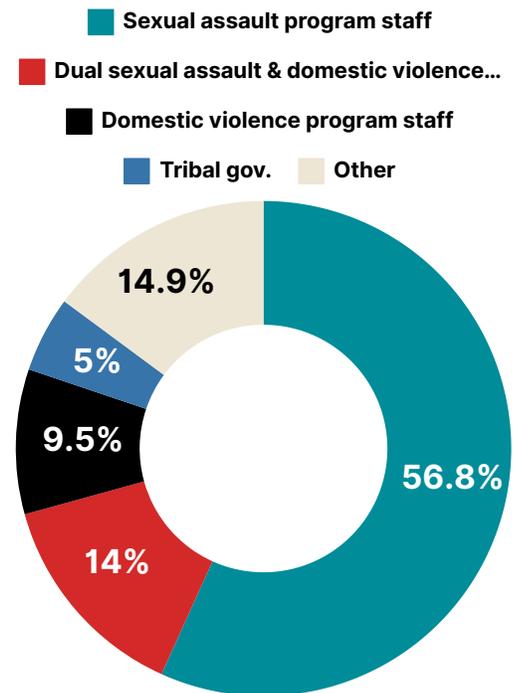
MIWSAC provides culturally-specific and comprehensive training and technical assistance to Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program grantees of the Office on Violence Against Women. Our staff is available to assist tribes and tribal organizations in building culturally responsive services to their tribal community.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- **4 site visits completed** including San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation, Crime Victim Services of Seneca Nation, Dove Program at White Earth Nation, and the Northeast Native Network of Kinship & Healing of the Wampanoag Nation
- **2024 TSASP Institute completed** in August 2024 at Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community in Scottsdale, AZ
- **Providing Training and Technical Assistance to 40 Tribal Nations with 18 new grantees in 2024** including Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, StrongHearts Native Helpline, and more



TSASP TRAININGS JULY-DECEMBER 2024



Looking Forward

- **2025 TSASP Institute** July 15-17, 2025 in Niagara, NY (*Pending OVW approval*)
- Providing **quarterly Connect & Reflect meetings** for all TSASP grantees, which allows for current TSASP to connect, learn, share self-care tips, and more

"Other" includes trainings provided to Child Advocates, Government agency staff, community advocacy organization staff, law enforcement officers, and more.



MMIP: HEALING & RESPONSE TEAMS

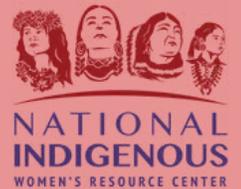


The Healing and Response Teams Special Initiative (HRT) is led by the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC), in partnership with the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC) and the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC).

The MMIP HRT will **support the creation, training, and sustainability of an interactive Toolkit**, informed by our Tribal communities, **to help develop Healing and Response Teams (HRT) to respond to Missing or Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) cases** related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) **began funding the initiative in October 2024** as a response to recommendations made by the Not Invisible Act Commission
- MIWSAC **hired an MMIP Project Coordinator** in October 2024
- A **partner meeting was held with OVW Officials, MIWSAC staff, NIWRC, and AKNWRC** to prepare and plan



Looking Forward

- **Monthly Community Conversations** planned for coming months to gather information about the realities facing communities surrounding MMIP
- **Development of a HRT Toolkit** including information for a wide range of regions and entities, including Tribal governments, nonprofits, Tribal Coalitions, and Urban Indian Organizations

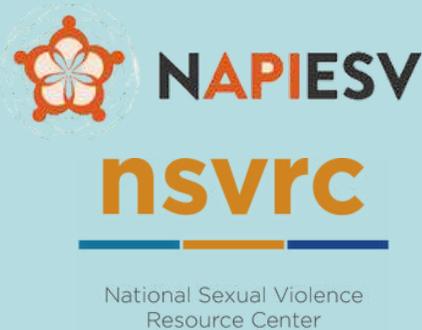


ELEVATE | UPLIFT

Elevate|Uplift is a collaboration in changing practices and supporting healing, led Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition, in equal partnership with Mujeres Latina en Acción (Mujeres), the National Organization of Asians And Pacific Islanders Ending Sexual Violence (NAPIESV), and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), the Resource Sharing Project (RSP), supported by the Office on Violence Against Women.

YEAR IN REVIEW

- **Concluded the Community Conversation series**, developing webinar ideas and how to connect with the movement and community
- **Completed Season 3** of Elevate | Uplift podcast
- **Establishing learning circle dates** and registration ideas



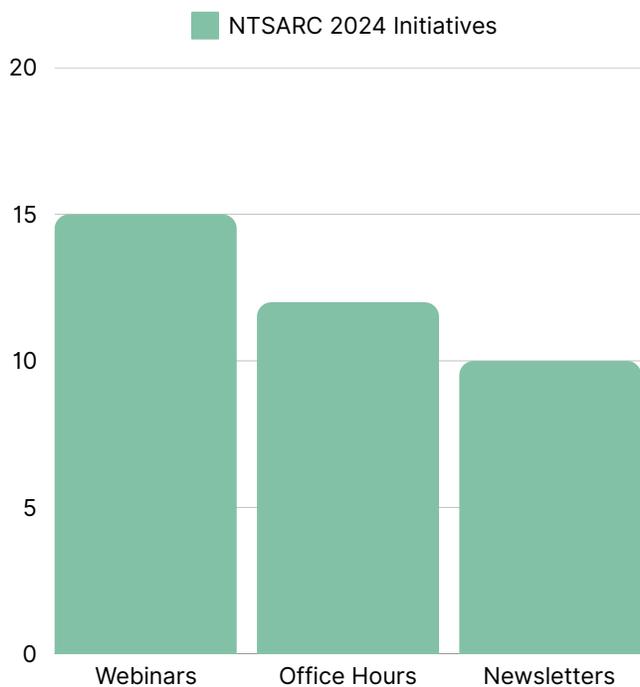
Looking Forward

- Elevate|Uplift planning to **sponsor track at 2025 National Sexual Assault Conference (NSAC)**
- Planning strategies for a heightened social media presence in 2025 with the goal of **increasing webinar registration & attendance**



NATIONAL TRIBAL SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE CENTER

MIWSAC serves as the The National Tribal Sexual Assault Resource Center (NTSARC) under funding from the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. NTSARC provides nationwide training and technical assistance to enhance the organizational capacity of a variety of stakeholders including sexual assault and domestic violence programs; Tribal and state coalitions; Indian Tribal governments and Tribal organizations; federal, state, and local government agencies, including FVPSA state administration agencies; national, statewide, and local community-based organizations; allied professionals; and other key stakeholders.



YEAR IN REVIEW

- **Attended the OVW Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation** in Santa Fe, New Mexico in November 2024
- **Met with with our CSSAC partners in Puerto Rico** in December 2024, including the film premiere of one of our partners, *Mujeres Latinas en Acción*, and convening at two local programs working to serve survivors of domestic/sexual violence
- **Attended NCAI in Las Vegas, Nevada**, including the VAW Task Force meeting
- Part of the **GVBRN Planning Committee**, a other resource centers in the movement to end gender-based violence



Looking Forward



- ▶ MIWSAC is co-hosting a conference with our CSSAC partners in June 2025: "Shifting from Crisis to Wellness"
- ▶ Planning strategies for a heightened social media presence in 2025 with the goal of **increasing webinar registration & attendance**

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Audited Financial Statements	2023	2022	
Assets	Cash	73,872	179,308	
	Grants Receivable	662,476	427,917	
	Prepaid Expenses	21,609	30,182	
	Total Current Assets	757,957	637,407	
	Grants receivable, net of current portion and discount to present value	119,732	145,858	
	Right-of-use asset, operating leases	18,756	16,102	
		138,488	161,960	
	Furniture & Equipment	13,787	13,787	
	Less accumulated depreciation	8,434	5,230	
	Net furniture & Equipment	5,353	8,557	
	Total Assets	901,798	807,924	
	Liabilities & Net Assets	Accounts payable	25,340	11,029
		Accrued:		
Payroll & payroll taxes		46,144	41,075	
Vacation		77,282	40,231	
Operating lease liability, current portion		18,793	15,851	
Total current liabilities		167,559	108,186	
Operating lease liability, current portion		-	404	
Total liabilities		167,559	108,590	
Net assets:				
Without donor restrictions	228,727	322,152		
With donor restrictions	505,512	377,182		
Total Net Assets	734,239	699,334		
Total liabilities and net assets	901,798	807,924		

MIWSAC CONTRIBUTORS

Aaron Gutzke
Allison Keith
American Online Giving Foundation
Amnesty International USA LOCAL GROUP 37
Angela Mandle
Anonymous Anonymous
Beth Anderson
Chad Poitra
Charities Aid Foundation America C/O CyberGrants LLC
Creating Healthier Communities
Cynthia Case John Foley
Deanna Aleksandrowicz
Deb Wallwork
Debra Hugunin
Ellen Olsen
Eric Nelson
Fifth Third Bank
Give Lively Foundation
Grace Kintzinger
Groundswell Charitable Foundation
Indian Health Board
Jennifer I
Joanne Groger
John Robinson
Jon Crappel
Joyce Powell
Julia Carlis
Julie Armatoski
Kacy Lane
Karie Rosenow
Kate Wulf
Katherine Leise
Chad Poitra
Katie Kottenbrock
Aaron Gutzke
Sarah Super
Jennifer I
Laura Lomax
Meghan Harris
Kristilyn Vercruysse
Julie Armatoski
Nancy Sogabe-Engelmayer
Joanne Groger
Angela Mandle
Keeley Crowley

Meghan Casey
Meghan Harris
MN Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Nancy Sogabe-Engelmayer
Native American Community Development Institute
Nell Schaefer
Network for Good
Paavo Ogren
Pamela Zeller
PayPal Giving Fund
Penatete Junker
Prairie Island Tribal Council
Robert Diedrich
Roger Marshall
Sarah Super
Schwab Charitable
St. Cloud Unitarian Universalist
Tessa Ganser
Kathryn Kaiser
Katie Kottenbrock
Keane Bonath
Keeley Crowley
Kristilyn Vercruysse
Laura Lomax
Leah Bryan
Lisa Elsenbast
Maia Uhrich
Marcia Milliken
Marijka BG Muras
Marilyn Butler
Thomas "Sunny" Cain
Traci Post
Travis Freudenberg
United Way
Violence Free Minnesota
Grace Kintzinger
Tessa Ganser
Eric Nelson
Debra Hugunin
Lisa Elsenbast
Deb Wallwork
Pamela Zeller
Penatete Junker
Keane Bonath
Katie Kottenbrock
Marcia Milliken

We also extend our gratitude to those who contributed anonymously, or who may not appear on this list.

Thank you.



MIIGWECH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!