Addressing funding inequities facing Native-led nonprofits

Learn more at NativeWays.org
Native-led organizations have the solutions to the issues our communities are facing.

We know what our strengths are and have the knowledge and wisdom to utilize them. We are also best positioned to serve our communities.

Unfortunately, our organizations face systemic funding inequities, making it harder to implement Native-led solutions.

This needs to change.
According to the Investing in Native Communities project, large foundations have allocated less than half a percent of their total annual grantmaking to Native communities since 2006.

The percentage allocated to Native-led and Native-serving organizations is likely much lower.
A Center for Effective Philanthropy report highlighted that while Native communities have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Native-serving nonprofits have not seen an increase in foundation funding.

With one in every 168 Native children having lost a caregiver between April 2020 and June 2021, supporting Native nonprofits is more important than ever.

Despite this, 67% of foundation leaders reported providing little to no grant funding to Native-serving nonprofits.
How can individuals address funding inequities facing Native-led nonprofits?

• Individual donors help immensely! Every dollar donated to Native-led nonprofits makes our work possible
• Contributing to Native nonprofits on Giving Tuesday, Native Nonprofit Day (May 20, 2022), and special occasions all make a huge difference
• Hosting online and social media fundraisers helps to spread the word about the work our organizations are doing AND raises much-needed funding
• Remembering Native nonprofits year-round also helps in addressing funding inequities
How can foundations address funding inequities facing Native-led nonprofits?

- Make flexible, multi-year unrestricted funding to Native-led nonprofits the norm
- Institute trust-based giving policies
- Learn about our tribes, communities, and organizations
- Approach Native-led nonprofits with funding opportunities
- Hire Native people in the philanthropic sector and appoint us to boards of directors
- Remember Native nonprofits year-round and build relationships with our organizations