



A family strengthening program where you will gain knowledge to ensure a healthy pregnancy for you and your baby. Throughout the program, you will discover the various developmental milestones your child will experience. You will learn strategies to keep your child safe, healthy, and content. Additionally, you will be equipped with skills to confidently parent your child in a way that suits your family. Ensuring a positive start to your child's life.

Serving Native  
American teens and young adults that are either  
pregnant or have children ages 0-3



>>>Incentives provided<<<

Lacey Papasodora  
612-919-3013  
lpapasodora@miwrc.org



# FAMILY STABILIZATION

# Life Skills Parenting Program

Life Skills Parenting Program serves American Indian women and their children that have an open Child Protection case or are at risk of entering the Child Protection system in Hennepin County,

The Life Skills Parenting Program provides culturally tailored mentoring and training for American Indian parents, focusing on life skills and parenting with culturally specific guidance to reintroduce traditional values.

Weekly/Bi-weekly Parenting groups in person and virtual  
Connect to resources and provide services  
Support/Mentoring and Advocacy

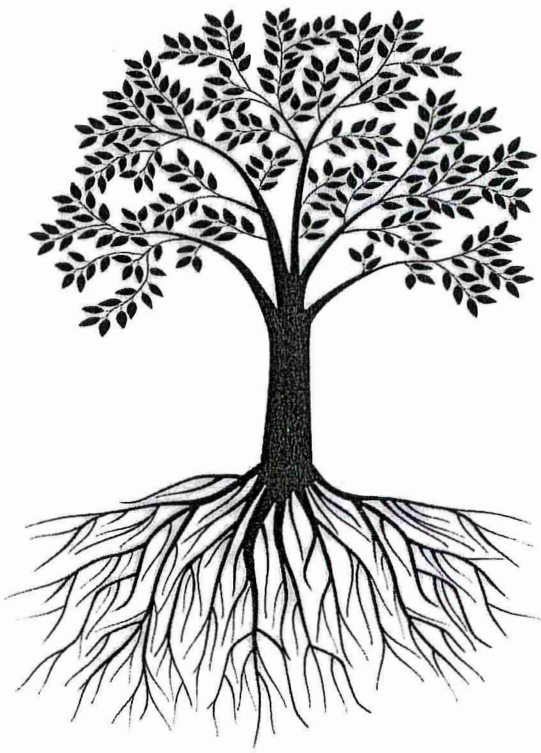
## Mission Statement

To empower native women and families to exercise their cultural values with integrity, and to achieve sustainable lifeways, while advocating for justice and equity

## Contact Information

Fawn Hansen  
Life Skills Parenting Worker  
P: 612-558-0387  
E: Ghansen@miwrc.org  
2300 15th Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
[www.miwrc.org](http://www.miwrc.org)





## Keeping Our Children Sacred

Caregivers  
Parenting  
Circle

Heal and connect with community through the sharing of  
knowledge, ideas, tools & resources!

- **GATHERS:** Every First Monday of The Month
- **DATE:** Starting June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024
- **TIME:** 11:30-1:00
- **PLACE:** 2300 15th Ave. S. MPLS, MN 55404, In the Community Room

Bringing together individuals and families who care for the children of others through kinship or foster care placement.

Guest Speaker: Linda Eagle Speaker  
Borrowing from the teachings of Gifts of the Sacred Circle, an MIWRC project, and Gete-Anishinabe Miikana (the Old One's Road), this group embraces the traditions of preserving family and cultural ties and supporting caregivers.

Please register with ICWA Kinship, Sarah Carlson:  
[scarlson@miwrc.org](mailto:scarlson@miwrc.org) 612-438-8312 Or Leah LaChapelle:  
[lachapelle@miwrc.org](mailto:lachapelle@miwrc.org) 612-806-4704

# AABIZHIISHIN

## MIWRC'S TRADITIONAL BIRTHING/HEALING PROGRAM

- TRADITIONAL BIRTHING SUPPORT AND FAMILY FREINDLY EVENTS
- CEREMOMIES/CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES (SWEAT, NAMING, OTHER)
- CULTURALLY BASED COUNSELING SERVICES
- TRADITIONAL HEALING (APPOINTMENT NEEDED)



**\*Available for tribal members/caregivers of tribal members, questions welcomed.**

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR**  
612-723-2037

**TRADITIONAL PRACTITIONER**  
612-723-2031

**BIRTH WORKER**  
612-919-3173



**MIWRC**  
**2300 15TH AVE S**  
**MINNEAPOLIS MN 55404**

## Wawokiye Drop In Center at MIWRC

### Hours of Operation:

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

FIRST COME FIRST SERVE, NO LIMIT ON  
HOW LONG A CLIENT RELATIVE CAN STAY  
OR HOW OFTEN THEY VISIT AS LONG AS  
ITS WITHIN OPERATING HOURS.

### ADDRESS

Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center

2300 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

### CONTACT US

Direct: 612-728-2034  
Main: 612-728-2000  
[www.miwrc.org](http://www.miwrc.org)

## Wawokiye Drop in Center

-for our women and two spirit relatives



*We provide a welcoming dignified space for our women and two spirit relatives experiencing homelessness and struggling with addiction. You will be greeted with a safe, nurturing environment. Come rest, relax and get fed by our team here at MIWRC. We look forward to seeing you.*

*-MIWRC Drop in Center Staff*

WHAT WE PROVIDE:

- WELCOMING DIGNIFIED SPACE TO REST AND RELAX.
- SHOWERS
- CLOTHING
- HOT MEAL
- OUTREACH BAG WITH ESSENTIALS INCLUDED
- HYGIENE ITEMS
- NARCAN AND FENTANYL STRIPS
- SAFE SEX SUPPLIES
- ACCESS TO ADVOCACY ABLE TO MAKE REFERRALS IN AND OUTSIDE OF MIWRC AND CONNECT TO OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS, INCLUDING ACCESS TO RULE 25 ASSESSMENTS.

**"To empower American Indian women and families to exercise their cultural values and integrity, and to achieve sustainable life ways, while advocating for justice and equity."**

-Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center

# Our Philosophy

In the spirit of the Lakota philosophy:

**Mitakuye Oyasin = All my relatives**


We view all children as our relatives and as sacred because of the importance of identity as indigenous people. Native American children need their connection to culture, their tribe, and to native people. This is a fundamental to their development.

"Gichi Manidoo (Creator) made it known the most precious gift in life was a new baby. It made no difference if it was an animal, human, or bird. A baby is the greatest and most sacred gift in the eyes of Gichi Manidoo... an Ojibwe family and tribe."

-Phyllis WhiteShield Gough

# Contact Information

Sarah Carlson  
ICWA Kinship Worker

 612-438-8312

 [scarlson@miwrc.org](mailto:scarlson@miwrc.org)

Leah LaChapelle  
ICWA Kinship Worker

 612-806-0474

 [lachapelle@miwrc.org](mailto:lachapelle@miwrc.org)

*\*Notes*

*-Have been able to help with beds, electricity bills, etc. to help keep children with relatives.  
-Have helped provide items to help meet licensing requirements (ie- fire extinguisher)*

# ICWA Kinship Program



P: 612-728-2000 2300  
15th Ave.S.  
Minneapolis, MN. 55404  
[www.miwrc.org](http://www.miwrc.org)

 DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN SERVICES

# KINSHIP PROGRAM

The ICWA Kinship Worker assists identified extended family in preparing to serve as foster families for Native children in need of care.

Support includes:

- Assisting families and individuals who are caring for the children of others through foster or other kinship placement.
- Serving as liaison to families and individuals to encourage greater understanding of rights and policies of ICWA process.
- Connecting households to resources available for children and useful support for caregivers.
- Advocating for community building, education, networking, and strengthening the circle of Native specific foster care providers and caregivers.
- Helping to build support systems for families and individuals caring for child(ren) in and out of home placement.
- Transportation assistance and support at court hearings and meetings regarding the case.
- Check-ins and in-home visits for continued support and follow-up.

# About ICWA

In 1978 the Indian Child Welfare Act was passed a federal law in response to the higher rates of out of home placement for Native American children. Despite 40 years since the implementation of the ICWA act, the rates of our Native children in MN that are in out of home placement with non-relatives is at an all-time high, and continues to have a destructive effect on our families. The MN CPS practices exhibiting a 'removal response' which includes the lack of Native foster homes, barriers to licensing, and other inequality factors.

# Our Goal

Our goal is to decrease those numbers by providing direct support to our families and individuals through our ICWA Collaboration programs.

# Caregivers Parenting Circle

The ICWA Kinship program offers an educational support group called the Caregivers Parenting Circle. The group meets once a week sharing teachings from the Gifts of the Sacred Circle and Gete-Anishinaabe Miikana (the Old Ones Road) parenting curriculum. This group embraces the traditions of preserving family, cultural ties, and supporting caregivers.



## OUR VISION...

Is to maximize the parent's chance of making the necessary change to affect positive and lasting changes to reunify the family.

The goal is to offer the parents a comprehensive set of services that begin immediately when the family is separated.



## ICWA Mandates That...

- No Indigenous child is separated from their family needlessly
- All reasonable efforts are made to keep Indigenous families together, including providing at-risk families with social support
- Indigenous children be placed with their extended family or tribe if at all possible if they are removed from their home

## Contact Us

Anecia Larsen  
ICWA Liaison

Email

[alarsen@miwrc.org](mailto:alarsen@miwrc.org)

Phone: 612-919-2802



Client Advocacy

ICWA Liaison



Contact Us:

P: 612-728-2000

2300 15th Ave. S

Minneapolis, MN 55404

[www.miwrc.org](http://www.miwrc.org)

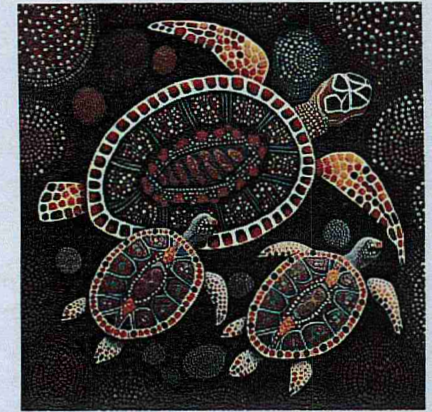
## ICWA Liaison Program

The ICWA Liaison provides supportive services and intensive case monitoring to Indigenous families with a goal of fostering advocacy and reaching families in immediate need. This program is part of the MIWRC's Family Services department and works side-by-side with other agency programs.

MIWRC's ICWA program is designed to improve positive outcomes for Indigenous children who have been or are at risk of being removed from the result of an allegation of child abuse or neglect.

## ICWA Program Services

- Family and individual mental health referrals.
- Emergency assistance for families with immediate needs, such as household items or groceries.
- Chemical dependency assessment referrals to culturally appropriate services.
- Family Case Planning services and referrals.
- Legal services referrals to other advocates or legal advice.
- Intensive in-home services, including parenting education, home visits, and one-on-one work with family, including referrals to other MIWRC Family Services programs.
- Continued efforts to involve those accountable for the benefit of the families' future health and well-being of their children.



## The ICWA Liaison

- Quick response to community crisis calls and referrals for ICWA/ICWA eligible families.
- Attends ICWA hold hearings to offer supportive services.
- Coordinates with CPS and Tribal Workers on a case-by-case basis.
- Offers immediate assistance with case plan objectives.
- Offers immediate resource referral to culturally-specific programming.

**FAMILY STABILIZATION**  
**LIFE SKILLS**  
**PARENTING PROGRAM**

“I would like my children to listen to our elders and others, sharing and giving us hope.”

-Anonymous Parent Participant

“We can look to our elders, traditions, culture and language before they get further away from us.”

-Anonymous Parent Participant

“I look forward to the support and learning. It is very helpful and much needed.”

-Anonymous Parent Participant

**Contact Information**

*Fawn Hansen*

Life Skills Parenting Worker

☎ P: 612-558-0387

✉ E: Ghansen@miwrc.org



P: 612-728-2000

2300 15TH AVE S  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55404

[www.miwrc.org](http://www.miwrc.org)

## Life Skills Parenting Program

The Life Skills Parenting Program aims to offer culturally tailored mentoring and training for American Indian parents through a practical approach. This program is an integral part of MIWRC's Family Stabilization services, working alongside other agency initiatives. Its primary objective is to reintroduce parents to essential principles of healthy living and parenting, ensuring a secure home environment or their children while diminishing child neglect and abuse. The focus of the Life Skills Parenting Program lies in reuniting and safeguarding families, offering early intervention and prevention within a culturally specific framework.

### Program Description

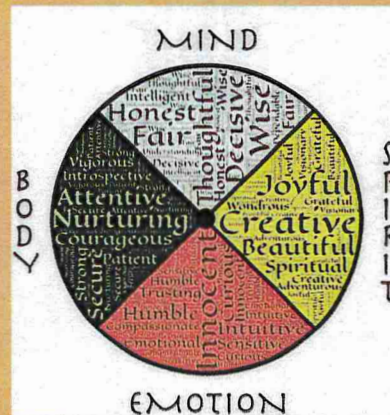
The Life Skills Parenting Program is designed to provide culturally specific guidance and coaching in life skills and parenting. Our objective is to reintroduce American Indian parents to traditional values through demonstration and education. This program incorporates teachings from the traditional Medicine Wheel, which provides a holistic perspective on the interconnectedness of individuals with various aspects of well-being – emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual. According to the Medicine Wheel philosophy, achieving balance in all aspects of life is essential for overall well-being.

## Life Skills Parenting Program Serves

American Indian women and their children that have an open Child Protection case or families who are at risk of entering the Child Protection system in Hennepin County and/or are at risk of having at least one child placed in substitute care due to maltreatment or neglect.

### Referral Process

Parents with open Child Protection cases must be referred by Hennepin County Child Protection. Parents without an open case, who are at risk of entering the Child Protection system can refer themselves by calling the intake worker.



## Three Phases

### Phase I: Stabilization

MIWRC intake worker assesses the needs of the parents based on a holistic approach using different tools and the Medicine Wheel to start the process of initiating completion of the client's Child Protection case plan or service plan goals in order to overcome obstacles, barriers and to successfully reunify families.

Services can include:

- help to maintain housing and utilities.
- emergency food
- clothing
- basic household cleaning and laundry supplies
- transportation

### Phase II: Life Skills and Parent Mentoring

At the successful completion of Phase I, parents will meet weekly (or more if needed) with the LSP mentor to start addressing the case plan, or the service plan goals. In-home parenting utilizes the curriculum *The Gifts from the Sacred Circle*.

### Phase III: Post-Reunification

After parents have completed Phase II, the LSP mentor will continue to provide support to the parent and child(ren) in their home. This holistic approach allows the parents to find the balance in their family and to recognize when the family is out of balance and then have the skills to access their community resource network to get the family back into balance.

# Vision and Mission

The Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (MIWRC) is a non-profit social and mental health services organization committed to traditional ways of being and support of Native women and their families.

We empower Native women and families to exercise their cultural values with integrity and achieve sustainable life ways while advocating for justice and equity.



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## Contact Us

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Phone

(612) 728-2000



Website

[www.miwrc.org](http://www.miwrc.org)



Address

2300 S 15th Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55404

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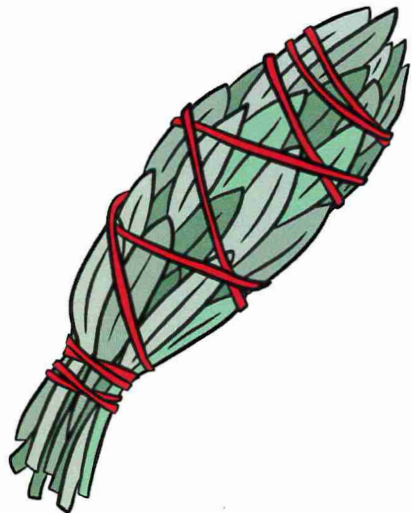


# MINNESOTA INDIAN WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER



## Culturally Sensitive Approach

For the past 30 years, MIWRC has adhered to the philosophy that by impacting families, neighborhoods, communities, society, and public policy. The founders of MIWRC emphasized a woman's relationship with creation, her family, tribe, community, and culture. We continue to incorporate this holistic, culturally sensitive approach into our work.



## Prevention Programs

Gender-based prevention programs for those dealing with sexual violence, domestic abuse, and trafficking.

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION

An intervention and healing program for Native women, girls, and Two-Spirit people who have experienced Intimate Partner Violence, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and or commercial sexual exploitation (CSE).

### DROP-IN CENTER

The Drop-In Center works with youth and adults experiencing sex trafficking, unsheltered relatives, and those who need services related to opioid addictions.

### OUTREACH

Our organization provides essential support and resources to Indigenous women, children, and families in Minnesota. Through our culturally specific outreach efforts, we connect with individuals who may be experiencing homelessness, addiction, or other challenging circumstances. As well as providing community outreach, including workshops and cultural events to help create spaces for healing, growth, and support within the community.

### SEXUAL ASSAULT & ANTI-TRAFFICKING ADVOCACY

Providing crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, forensic examination support, and court advocacy for American Indian survivors of sexual violence, including individuals incarcerated at the Hennepin County Adult Correctional Facility (ACF) and the Federal Correctional Institute: Shakopee, MN.

## Our Programs

### Advocacy

Domestic violence prevention and intervention, sexual assault advocacy, outreach services, and internal referrals.



### Support Groups

Designed to honor resilience, foster prevention, and promote cultural practices.



### Healing Spaces

Offers culturally responsive support for Native women and their families.



### Family Services

Family services include section 8 supportive housing, life skills parenting, ICWA collaborative, and family spirit home visiting program.



### Community Engagement

Community engagement programs include cultural activities and teachings.

