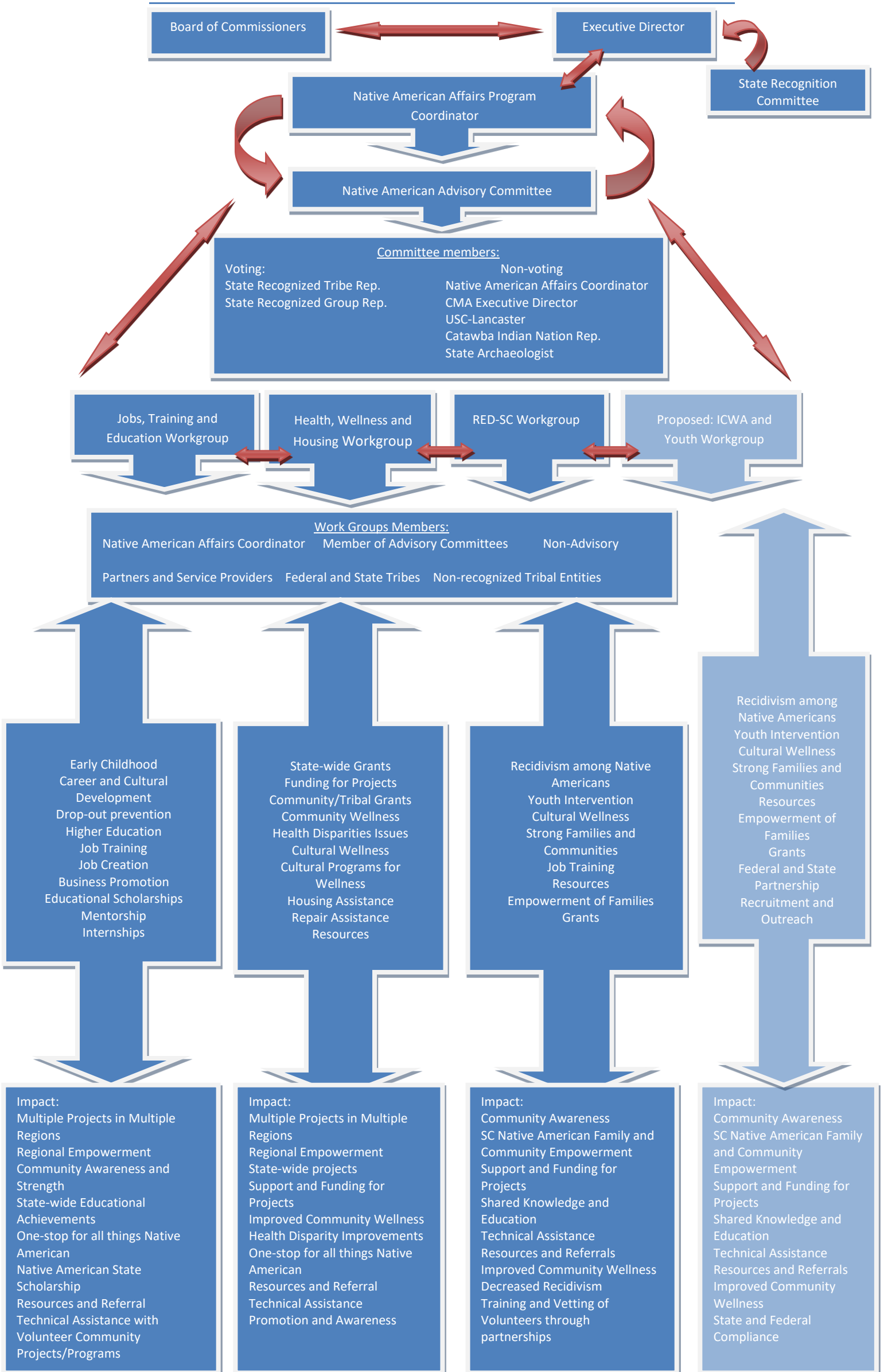


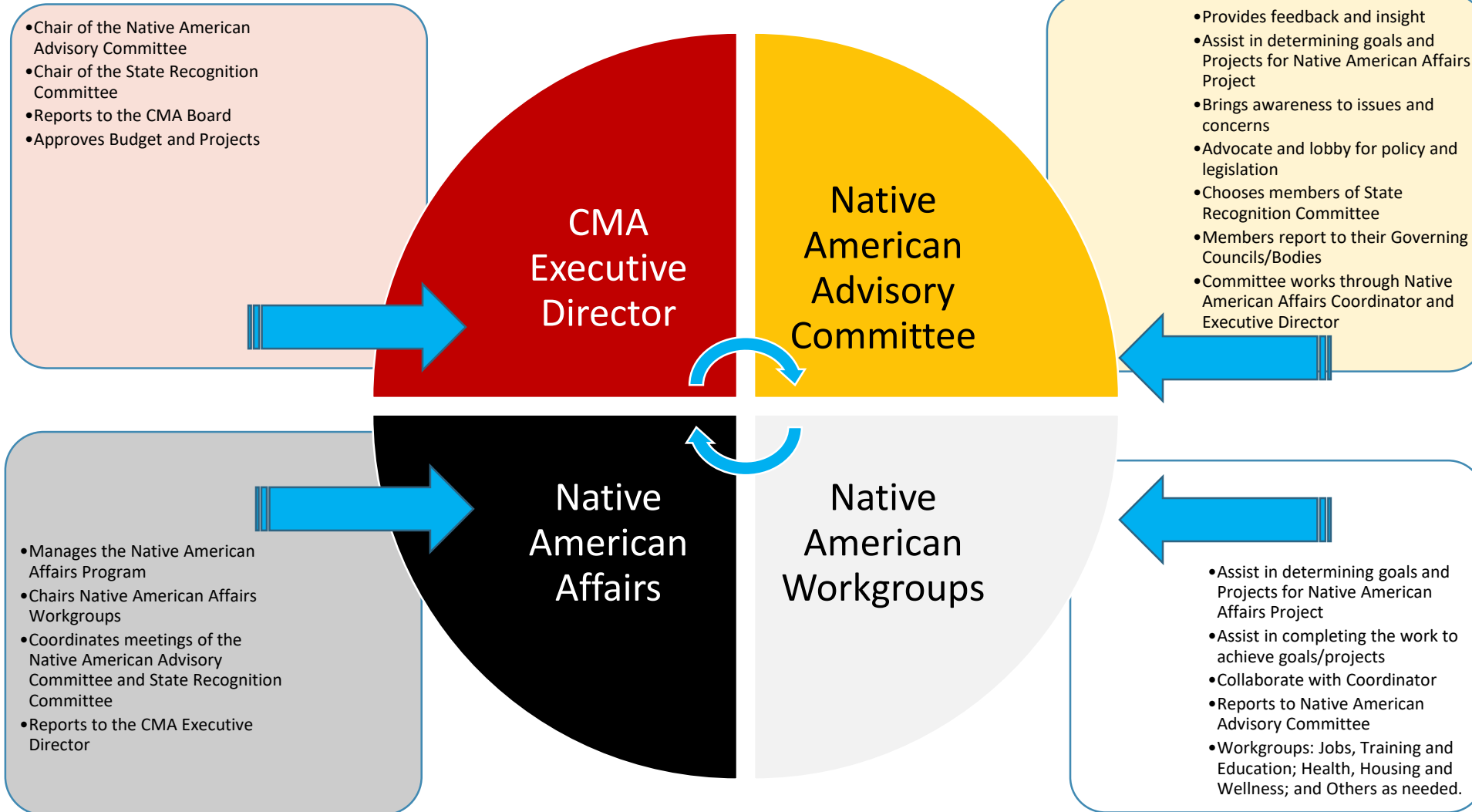
SC Commission for Minority Affairs

Native American Affairs



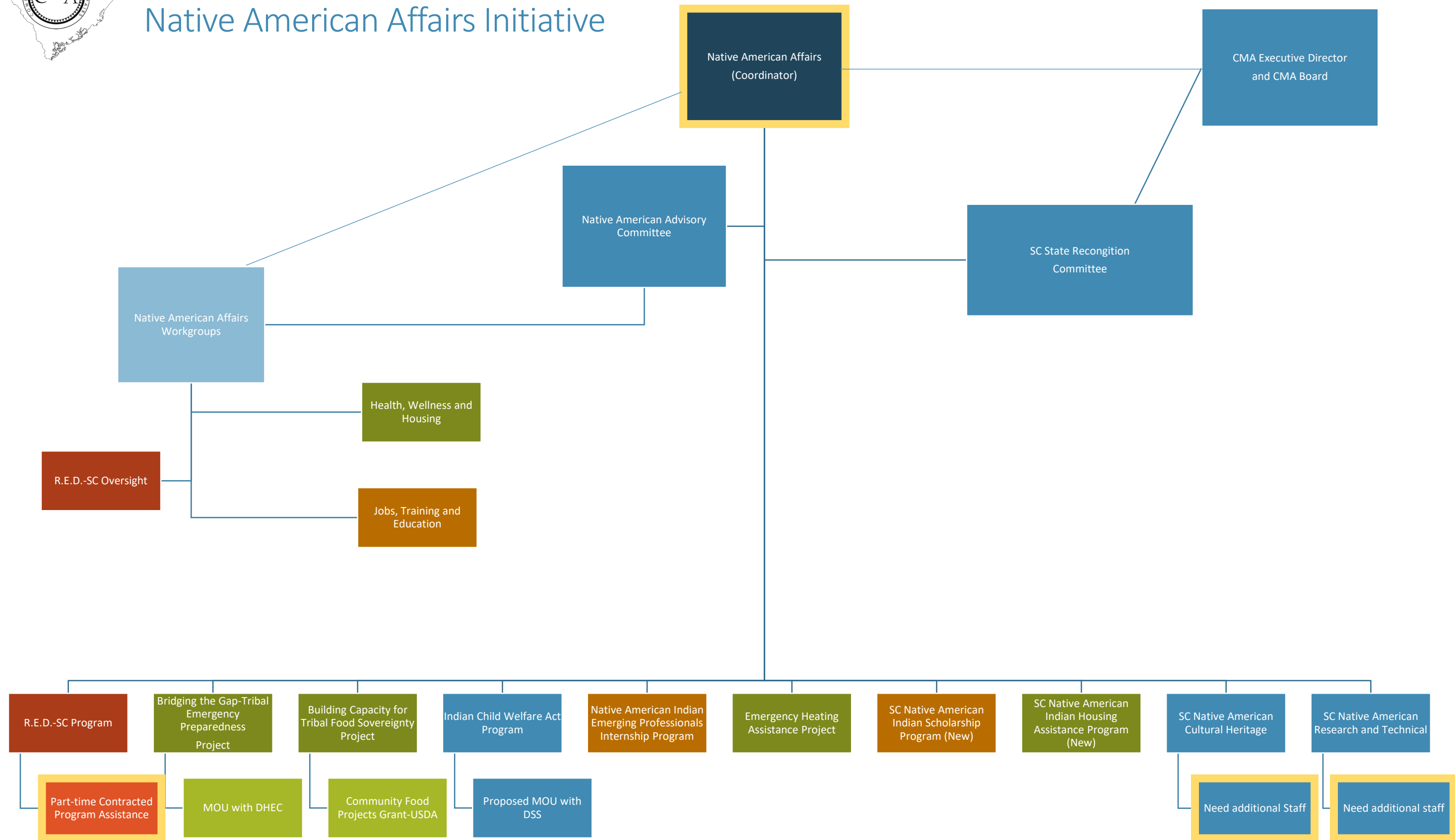


SC Commission for Minority Affairs Native American Affairs Initiative





SC Commission for Minority Affairs Native American Affairs Initiative



State of South Carolina



Commission for Minority Affairs

2221 Devine Street, Suite 408, Columbia, SC 29205

Phone: (803) 333-9621

Fax: (803) 333-9627

**Native American State Recognition Committee
History of Application Submissions**

Date	Name	Status Category	History
September 1, 2004	Pee Dee Indian Nation of Upper South Carolina	Tribe	Applied
February 17, 2005	Pee Dee Indian Nation of Upper South Carolina	Tribe	Denied/Recognized
September 1, 2004	The Waccamaw Indian People	Tribe	Applied
February 17, 2005	The Waccamaw Indian People	Tribe	Recognized
September 1, 2004	Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois and United Tribes of South Carolina, Inc.	Group	Applied
February 17, 2005	Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois and United Tribes of South Carolina, Inc.	Group	Recognized
September 1, 2004	Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians	Group	Applied
February 17, 2005	Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians	Group	Recognized
September 1, 2004	Chaloklowa Chickasaw Indian People	Tribe	Applied
February 17, 2005	Chaloklowa Chickasaw Indian People	Tribe	Denied
September 1, 2004	The Fields Indian Family-Pine Hill Indians	Tribe	Applied
February 17, 2005	The Fields Indian Family-Pine Hill Indians	Tribe	Denied
April 1, 2005	Chicora Indian Tribe of South Carolina	Tribe	Applied
June 2, 2005	Chicora Indian Tribe of South Carolina	Tribe	Withdrew
April 1, 2005	Piedmont American Indian Association/Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation of South Carolina	Tribe	Applied
June 2, 2005	Piedmont American Indian Association/Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation of South Carolina	Tribe	Withdrew
April 1, 2005	Chaloklowa Chickasaw Indian People	Group	Applied
June 7, 2005	Chaloklowa Chickasaw Indian People	Group	Recognized
September 1, 2005	American Indian Chamber of Commerce	SIO	Applied
January 27, 2006	American Indian Chamber of Commerce	SIO	Recognized
September 1, 2005	Pee Dee Indian Tribe of South Carolina	Tribe	Applied
January 27, 2006	Pee Dee Indian Tribe of South Carolina	Tribe	Recognized
September 1, 2005	Santee Indian Organization	Tribe	Applied
January 27, 2006	Santee Indian Organization	Tribe	Recognized
September 1, 2005	Beaver Creek Indians	Tribe	Applied
January 27, 2006	Beaver Creek Indians	Tribe	Recognized
September 1, 2005	Piedmont American Indian Association/Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation of South Carolina	Tribe	Applied
November 10, 2005 (approx.)	Piedmont American Indian Association/Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation of South Carolina	Tribe	Withdrew
September 1, 2005	Marlboro, Chesterfield, Darlington County Pee Dee Indian Tribe	Tribe	Applied
November 29, 2005	Marlboro, Chesterfield, Darlington County Pee Dee Indian Tribe	Tribe	Withdrew
September 1, 2005	Croatan Indian Tribe	Tribe	Applied
September 27, 2005 (approx.)	Croatan Indian Tribe	Tribe	Withdrew
September 1, 2005	Natchez Indian Tribe	Tribe	Applied
September 27,	Natchez Indian Tribe	Tribe	Withdrew

2005 (approx.)			
April 1, 2006	Piedmont American Indian Association/Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation of South Carolina	Group	Applied
August 29, 2006	Piedmont American Indian Association/Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation of South Carolina	Group	Recognized
April 1, 2006	Marlboro, Chesterfield, Darlington County Pee Dee Indian Tribe	Tribe	Applied
June 9, 2006	Marlboro, Chesterfield, Darlington County Pee Dee Indian Tribe	Tribe	Withdrew
April 1, 2006	Croatan Indian Tribe	Tribe	Applied
June 9, 2006	Croatan Indian Tribe	Tribe	Withdrew
September 1, 2006	Pee Dee Indian Tribe of Beaver Creek	Group	Applied
February 2, 2007	Pee Dee Indian Tribe of Beaver Creek	Group	Recognized
September 1, 2006	Natchez Tribe of South Carolina	Group	Applied
February 2, 2007	Natchez Tribe of South Carolina	Group	Recognized
September 1, 2006	Chaloklowa Chickasaw Indian People	Tribe	Applied
November 13, 2006	Chaloklowa Chickasaw Indian People	Tribe	Withdrew
September 1, 2007	Sumter Band of Cheraw Indians (Chief Oxendine)	Tribe	Applied
December 2007 (approx.)	Sumter Band of Cheraw Indians (Chief Oxendine)	Tribe	Denied/Withdrew
September 1, 2007	Marlboro, Chesterfield, Darlington County Pee Dee Indian Tribe	Group	Applied
December 2007 (approx.)	Marlboro, Chesterfield, Darlington County Pee Dee Indian Tribe	Group	Denied
April 1, 2008	Croatan Indian Tribe	Tribe	Applied
May 2008 (approx.)	Croatan Indian Tribe	Tribe	Withdrew
April 1, 2009	Little Horse Creek American Indian Cultural Center	SIO	Applied
July 31, 2009	Little Horse Creek American Indian Cultural Center	SIO	Recognized
April 1, 2009	Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians	Tribe	Applied
October 9, 2009	Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians	Tribe	Recognized
September 1, 2009	Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe of South Carolina	Tribe	Applied
March 12, 2010	Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe of South Carolina	Tribe	Recognized
April 1, 2011	Sumter Band of Cheraw Indians (Chief Oxendine)	Tribe	Applied
August 19, 2011	Sumter Band of Cheraw Indians (Chief Oxendine)	Tribe	Withdrew
September 1, 2011	Sumter Band of Cheraw Indians (Chief Gainey)	Tribe	Applied
January 26, 2012	Sumter Band of Cheraw Indians (Chief Gainey)	Tribe	Withdrew
September 1, 2011	United Intertribal Native Healing Team/Intertribal Restoration of Ancient Paths	Group	Applied
**November 2013	United Intertribal Native Healing Team/Intertribal Restoration of Ancient Paths	Group	Denied
April 1, 2012	Wassamasaw Indian Nation	Tribe	Applied
**November 2013	Wassamasaw Indian Nation	Tribe	Denied
September 1, 2012	Sumter Band of Cheraw Indians	Tribe	Applied
November 2013	Sumter Band of Cheraw Indians	Tribe	Recognized
September 1, 2012	Piedmont American Indian Association/Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation of South Carolina	Tribe	Applied
December 20, 2012	Piedmont American Indian Association/Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation of South Carolina	Tribe	Withdrew
September 1, 2014	Piedmont American Indian Association/Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation of South Carolina	Tribe	Applied
June 19, 2015	Piedmont American Indian Association/Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation of South Carolina	Tribe	Recognized

***Meetings are audio recorded and are available upon request. **Commission did not have a quorum of Board members due to a delay in appointments to vacant positions.**

SC State Recognized Entities Defined:

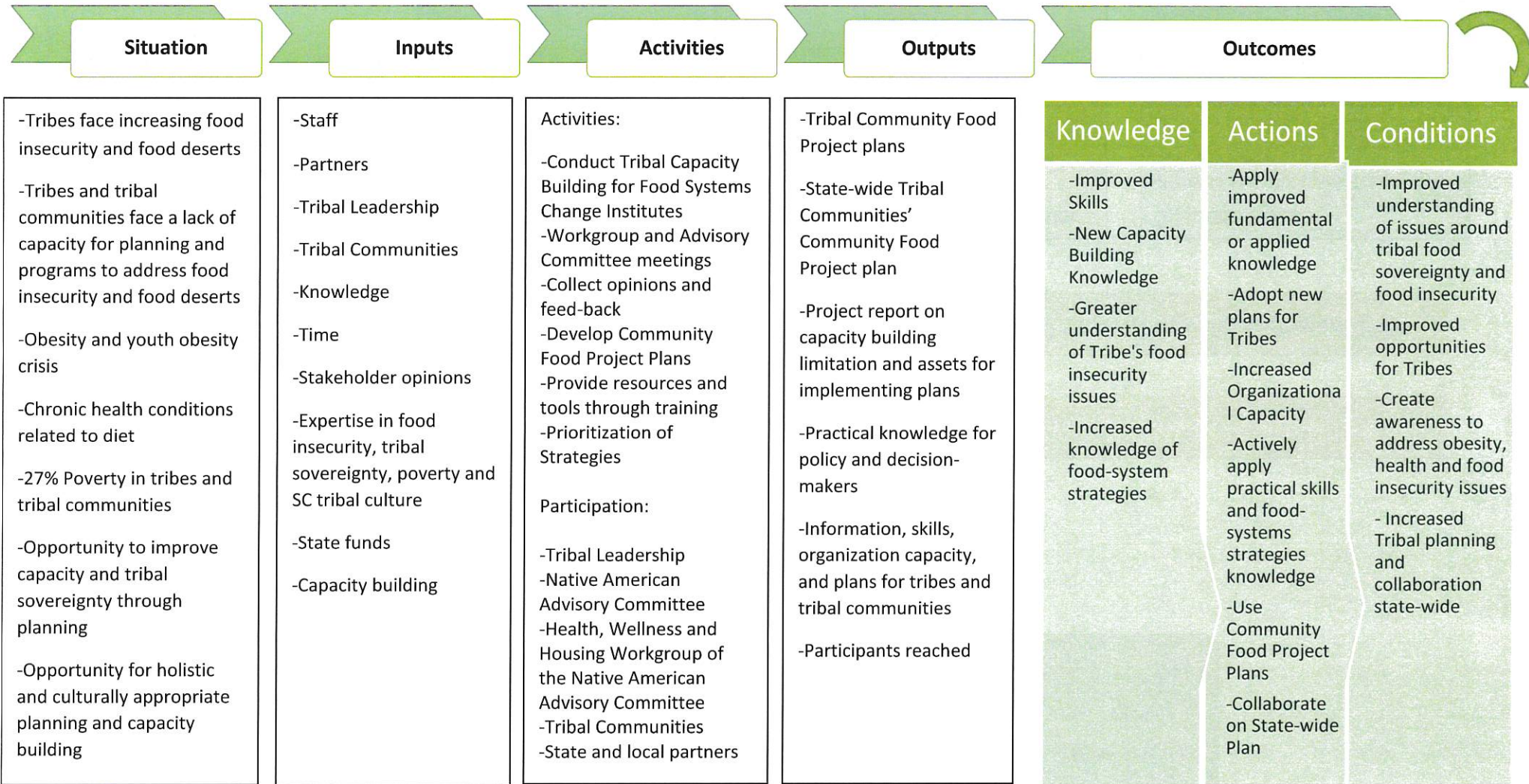
“Tribe” means an assembly of Indian people comprising numerous families, clans, or generations together with their descendants, who have a common character, interest, and behavior denoting a separate ethnic and cultural heritage, and who have existed as a separate community, on a substantially continuous basis throughout the past 100 years. In general, core members of the tribe are related to each other by blood. A tribal council and governmental authority unique to Native American Indians govern them.

“Group” means a number of individuals assembled together, which have different characteristics, interests and behaviors that do not denote a separate ethnic and cultural heritage today, as they once did. The group is composed of both Native American Indians and other ethnic races. They are not all related to one another by blood. A tribal council and governmental authority unique to Native American Indians govern them.

“Special Interest Organization” means an assembly of people who have united for the common purpose of promoting Native American culture and addressing socio-economic deprivation among people of Indian origin. The organization is made up of Native American Indians and other ethnic races. A tribal council or other form of governing body provides oversight and management. Membership is not required. They may be organized as a private nonprofit corporation under the laws of South Carolina.

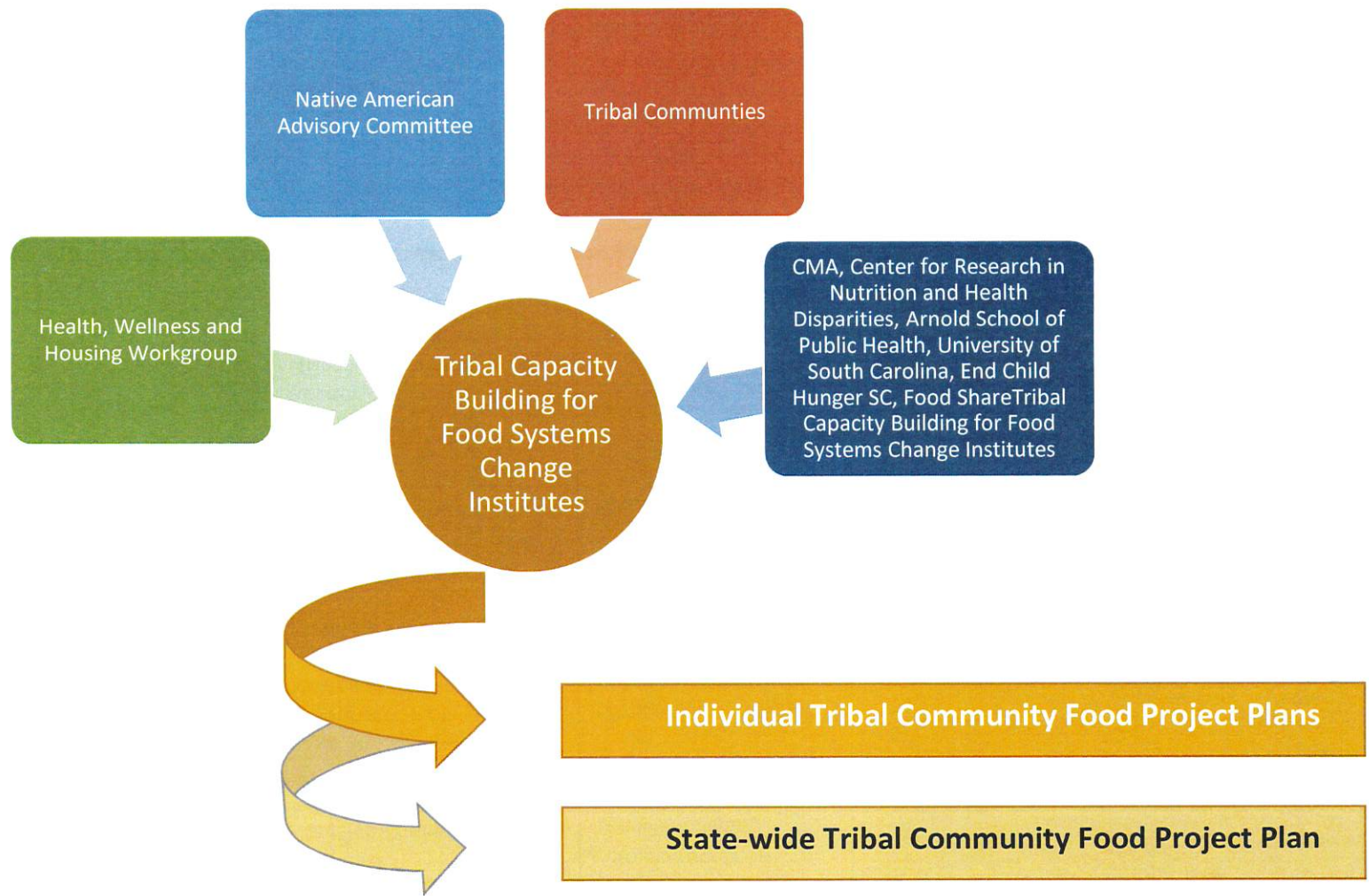
“Build Capacity for Tribal Food Sovereignty in SC” Community Food Projects Grant

Logic Model



Assumptions: Through a holistic, culturally appropriate and community inclusive planning project, South Carolina tribal communities will be able to begin the process of building organizational capacity and establishing tribal food sovereignty for the next generations.

External Factors: Tribal communities in South Carolina face high rates of poverty and are located in rural areas with little access to funding. American Indians are very small percentage of the State's population (<1%), decreasing changes for effective political and policy change without collaboration with partners. Additionally, very little data is collated about this population, so accurate data is not always available related to health, youth, and food related concerns. Tribal politics can also be unpredictable across the state at times.



Health, Wellness and Housing Workgroup

- Oversight of Grant Project
- Provide feedback
- Assist with crafting the Tribal Capacity Building for Food Systems Change Institutes
- Monthly meetings travel costs and lunch provided

Native American Advisory Committee

- Oversee work of Health, Wellness and Housing Workgroup
- Provide feedback
- Assist with crafting the State Plan
- Quarterly meetings travel costs and lunch provided
- Longer Advisory Committee Meeting day (Full Day meeting 10am-3pm)

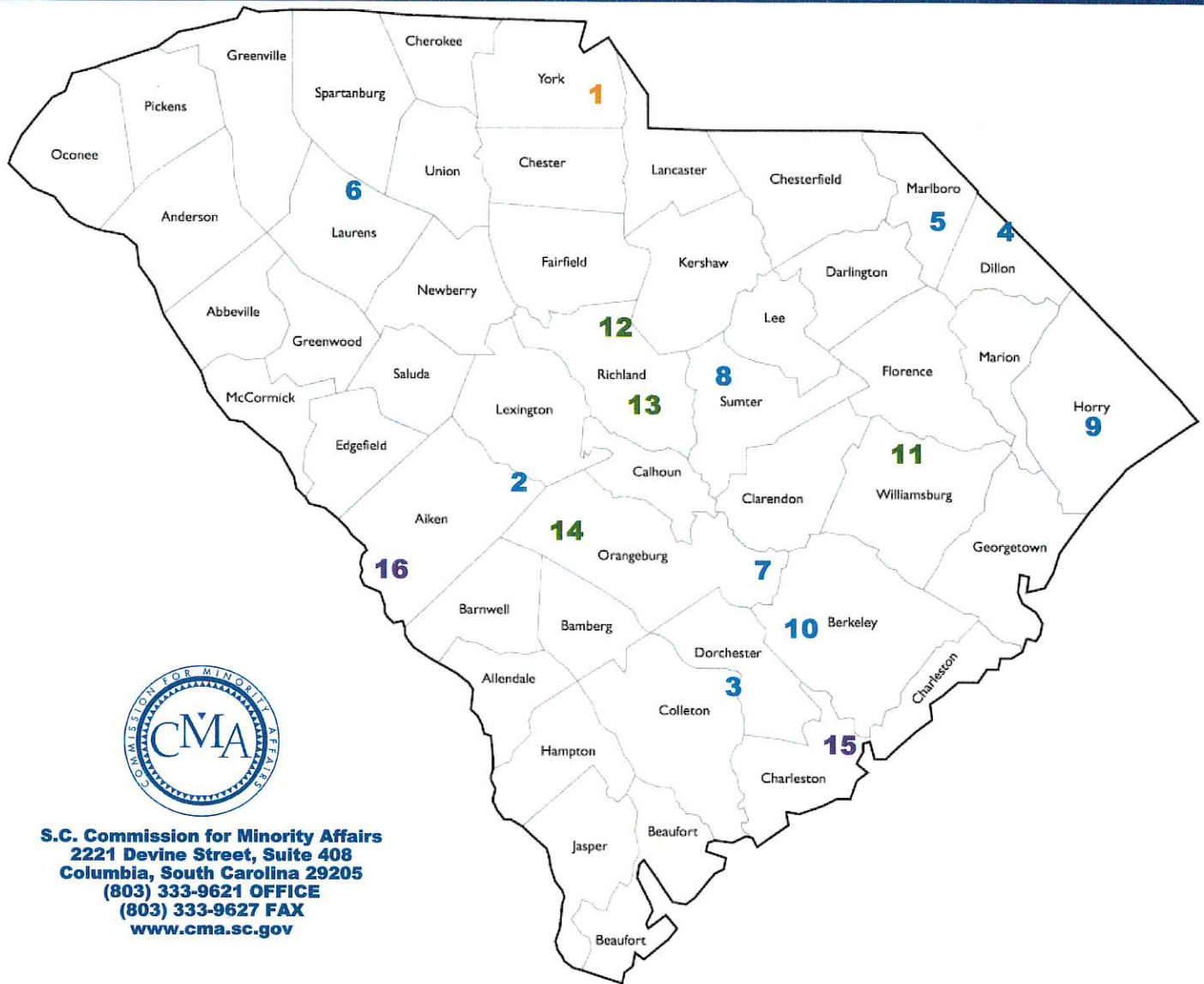
Tribal Communities (Groups and Tribes)

- Provide feedback at forums and Tribal Capacity Building for Food System Change Institutes
- Assist with crafting the Tribal Capacity Building for Food Systems Change Institutes
- Encourage members to participate
- Travel and Food cost provided for each Tribal Capacity Building for Food Systems Change Institutes

CMA and Partners

- Provide Oversight and Reporting for Grant Project
- Conduct the Tribal Capacity Building for Food Systems Change Institutes
- Conduct monthly workgroup and quarterly advisory committee meetings
- Write plans and final reports
- Reimbursement of services provided

South Carolina's Recognized Native American Indian Entities



S.C. Commission for Minority Affairs
2221 Devine Street, Suite 408
Columbia, South Carolina 29205
(803) 333-9621 OFFICE
(803) 333-9627 FAX
www.cma.sc.gov

Federally Recognized Tribes

1. Catawba Indian Nation

State Recognized Tribes

2. Beaver Creek Indians
3. Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe
4. Pee Dee Indian Nation of Upper SC
5. Pee Dee Indian Tribe of SC
6. Piedmont American Indian Association-Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation of SC
7. Santee Indian Organization
8. Sumter Tribe of Cheraw Indians
9. Waccamaw Indian People
10. Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians

State Recognized Group

11. Chaloklowa Chickasaw Indian People of SC
12. Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois and United Tribes of SC
13. Natchez Indian Tribe
14. Pee Dee Indian Nation of Beaver Creek

State Recognized Special Interest Organizations

15. American Indian Chamber of Commerce of SC
16. Little Horse Creek American Indian Cultural Center and Association

Created by the SC Commission for Minority Affairs-Native American Affairs Initiative Staff. Updated November 15, 2017.

South Carolina's Recognized Native American Indian Entities

FEDERAL
AND
STATE TRIBES

Chief Bill Harris
Catawba Indian Nation (Federal)
996 Avenue of the Nations
Rock Hill, SC 29730
(803) 366-4792
www.catawbaindian.net

Chief Louie Chavis
Beaver Creek Indians
125 May Morning Dr.
Lexington, SC 29073-9443
(803) 356-4807
www.beavercreekindians.org

Chief Andy Spell
Edisto Natchez Kusso Tribe of South Carolina
1125 Ridge Road
Ridgeville, SC 29472
(843) 871-2126 or (843) 534-6132
www.edistonatchezkussotribeofsc.com/

Chief Carolyn Chavis Bolton
Pee Dee Indian Nation of Upper South Carolina
3814 Highway 57, North
Little Rock, SC 29567
(843) 586-9675
www.peedeenation.org

Chief Pete Parr
Pee Dee Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 568
Latta, SC 29565
843-319-4435
www.peedeetribe.org

Chief Mary Louise Worthy
Piedmont American Indian Association –
Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation of South Carolina
3688 Warrior Creek Church Road
Gray Court, SC 29645
www.paialowereasterncherokeeenationsc.com

Chief Randy Crummie
Santee Indian Organization
432 Bayview St.
Holly Hill, SC 29059
(803) 308-7991 or (803) 496-2570

Chief Ralph Oxendine
Sumter Tribe of Cheraw Indians
5700 Oak Hill Road
Sumter, SC 29154
(803) 494-5442
www.sumtercherawindians.info

Chief Harold Hatcher
The Waccamaw Indian People
P.O. Box 628
Conway, SC 29528
(843) 358-6877
www.waccamawindians.us

Ms. Lisa M. Leach
Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians
P.O. Box 428
Summerville, SC 29484
(843) 364-7041
www.wassamasawtribe.com

STATE RECOGNIZED GROUPS
AND
SPECIAL INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS

Mingo Vernon Tanner
Chaloklowa Chickasaw Indian People
501 Tanner Lane
Hemingway, SC 29554
(843) 380-1481

Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois and
United Tribes of SC
P.O. Box 7062
Columbia, SC 29202
www.cherokeesofsouthcarolina.com

Chief Steve Davis
Natchez Tribe of South Carolina
79 Bluff Rd.
Columbia, S.C. 29201-4561
(803) 988-1074

Chief Elizabeth Skyye Vereen
Pee Dee Indian Tribe of Beaver Creek
PO Box 396
Neeses, SC 29107
(803) 446-1400

American Indian Chamber of Commerce of South
Carolina (AICCSC)
www.aiccsc.org

Little Horse Creek American Indian Cultural Center
Clearwater, SC



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www.cma.sc.gov

SC Commission for Minority Affairs
Native American Affairs

Indian Child Welfare Act

The SC Commission for Minority Affairs serves as a single point of contact for information regarding minorities in South Carolina. The Commission's Native American Affairs program has the mission to "establish the framework to ensure social equity and economic prosperity for all Native American Indian citizens throughout the state of South Carolina through policy change, education, and increased awareness." Since 2003, the Native American Affairs program has provided information, referrals, technical assistance and outreach assistance to government agencies, tribal communities, elected officials, federal agencies and other individuals. Staff must be well versed and able to research federal and state laws applicable to Tribal Communities. The Indian Child Welfare Act is one such law.

According to the National Indian Child Welfare Association,

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) was enacted in 1978 in response to a crisis affecting American Indian and Alaska Native children, families, and tribes. Studies revealed that large numbers of Native children were being separated from their parents, extended families, and communities by state child welfare and private adoption agencies. In fact, research found that 25%–35% of all Native children were being removed; of these, 85% were placed outside of their families and communities—even when fit and willing relatives were available.

Congressional testimony documented the devastating impact this was having upon Native children, families, and tribes. The intent of Congress under ICWA was to "protect the best interests of Indian children and to promote the stability and security of Indian tribes and families" (25 U.S.C. § 1902).

ICWA sets federal requirements that apply to state child custody proceedings involving an Indian child who is a member of or eligible for membership in a federally recognized tribe.

At the time, not only was ICWA vitally needed, but it was crafted to address some of the most longstanding and egregious removal practices specifically targeting Native children. Among its added protections for Native children, ICWA requires caseworkers to make several considerations when handling an ICWA case, including:

- *Providing active efforts to the family;*
- *Identifying a placement that fits under the ICWA preference provisions;*
- *Notifying the child's tribe and the child's parents of the child custody proceeding; and*
- *Working actively to involve the child's tribe and the child's parents in the proceedings.*

Because these added protections address not only specific systems abuses directed at Native children—but also their unique political status and cultural considerations—ICWA has been

labeled "the gold standard" of child welfare policy by experts and national leading child advocacy organizations far beyond Indian Country. Specifically, the measures ICWA takes to keep Native children in relative care whenever safe and possible have since become a best practice in the wider field of child welfare, and increasingly codified into state and federal law for the wider population.

Although progress has been made as a result of ICWA, out-of-home placement still occurs more frequently for Native children than it does for the general population. In fact, recent research on systemic bias in the child welfare system yielded shocking results. Native families are four times more likely to have their children removed and placed in foster care than their White counterparts. So in spite of the advances achieved since 1978, ICWA's protections are still needed.

*Much of this need can be attributed to non-compliance with the federal law itself. For most of its history, ICWA has lacked an official oversight agency at the federal level, a national data collection apparatus, and an enforcement authority. As a result, compliance with the law has been uneven at best. The 2013 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl* highlighted the extent to which Congress's original intent could be interpreted in widely disparate ways.*

*To address these uncertainties and improve implementation of ICWA, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) provided additional federal guidance, some for the first time since enactment of the law. In December 2016, the BIA published revised guidelines entitled *Guidelines for State Courts in Indian Child Custody Proceedings*. These are non-legally binding and were the first revisions since 1979. That same month, the first-ever comprehensive federal regulations addressing ICWA implementation for state courts' and public and private agencies' became effective. These regulations provide clarification of many of the key requirements under ICWA and are legally binding.*

For this reason, the Commission has been involved in ICWA related issues, cases and technical assistance for many years. The landmark case *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl* occurred in South Carolina and made national headlines in 2013. The Commission seeing an opportunity to education the public, hosted the first ICWA Townhall Forum with speakers from the Catawba Indian Nation, University of South Carolina Law School, American Civil Liberties Union and a family who experience separation under non-compliance with ICWA. Following this town hall effort, and in addition to previous technical assistance and training on cultural competence with state agencies, the Commission saw a need for more involvement to assist other agencies and the Catawba Indian Nation with the number of ICWA related cases and issues in South Carolina.

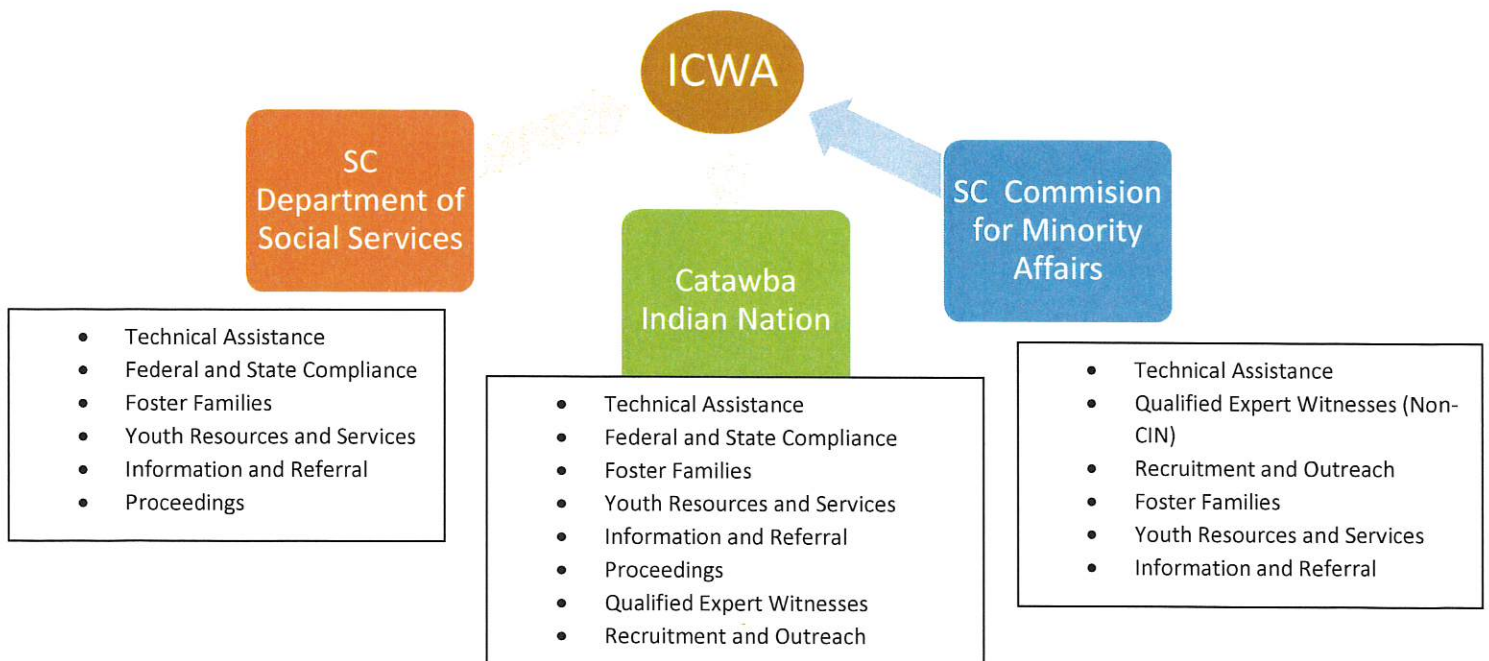
Ms. Hayden, working with the Catawba Indian Nation Social Services Department, established that in non-Catawba cases, there needed to be additional qualified expert witnesses in South Carolina. Many tribes do not have the capacity to travel to attend ICWA case proceedings outside of their jurisdiction. Although Ms. Hayden is not a social worker, she does have a degree in Anthropology and the back ground to qualify as an expert witness under ICWA. It has been discussed with the Catawba that there is a need to have several trained individuals throughout the state that can serve in this role.

Additionally, staff has provided technical assistance and referral to local county Departments of Social Services (DSS) as they seek to provide “active efforts to the family” and “involved the tribe and family in proceedings.” In many cases, staff assists with non-federal cases in which a family invokes ICWA. ICWA does not apply to State or non-recognized tribal members. Also, research into contact information for tribal representatives and social services departments has been conducted for DSS in cases in which the federal tribe is located outside of South Carolina.

Since 2016, Ms. Hayden has served on the Department of Social Services’ Catawba Indian Nation Collaboration workgroup which has been focused on state compliance, training for the Department of Social Services Staff, improved outreach for foster families and other items related to ICWA. The Commission has been specifically tasked to assist the Department of Social Services and the Catawba Indian Nation under their “Plan for Improvement” with the follow items:

- *Collaborate with the Catawba Indian Nation (CIN) to recruit Foster and Adoptive Families- Develop a written recruitment plan in consultation and coordination with the developing Foster Family and Licensing Support Plan.*
- *Contact state-recognized tribes for recruitment.*

The Commission has been in discussion with DSS and the Catawba Indian Nation staff to establish an MOU to provide the above mention services in addition to providing qualified expert witnesses. The Commission sees its role as a liaison to bring these departments and tribes together to provide the best approach to address ICWA compliance in South Carolina. The Commission plans to create a information and resource webpage regarding ICWA with the assistance of the Catawba Indian Nation, DSS and others. Additionally, we would like to provide other resources and assistance to Native American youth and families within the social services systems. The Commission is planning to propose an ICWA and Youth Workgroup under the Native American Advisory Committee to address current issues and concerns through a systemic and state-wide approach.





The SC Commission for Minority Affairs in collaboration with the SC Department of Corrections-Chaplains and other community partners propose to create a program under the SC Commission for Minority Affairs, Native American Affairs Program to serve Native American Indian inmates and their families through the use of institutional and community cultural counseling, life-skills, educational training, expungement of records and transitional assistance. The RED-SC program will focus on gaining cultural resilience, creating community and family empowerment and providing a positive direction for re-entry into communities to minimize recidivism among Native American Indians.

According to the SC Department of Corrections, there are twenty-three correctional institutions in SC. They are categorized into four distinct security levels: high security (level 3), medium security (level 2), minimum security (level 1B) and community-based pre-release/work centers (level 1A). The architectural design of the institution, type of housing, operational procedures, and the level of security staffing determine an institution's security level. Inmates are assigned to institutions to meet their specific security, programming, medical, educational, and work requirements.

LEVEL 1-A (L1-A)

Level 1-A facilities are community-based pre-release/work centers that house minimum-security non-violent inmates who are within 36 months of release. These units are work and program oriented, providing intensive specialized programs that prepare the inmates for release to the community. Housing is mainly double bunk, open-bay wards with unfenced perimeters.

LEVEL 1-B (L1-B)

Level 1-B institutions are minimum-security facilities that house inmates with relatively short sentences or time to serve. Housing is mainly double bunk cubicles with unfenced perimeters. Operational procedures at Level 1-B facilities impart a higher level of security compared to level 1-A facilities.

LEVEL 2 (L2)

Level 2 facilities are medium-security institutions. Housing is primarily double bunk, cell type with some institutions having double-bunk cubicles. With single fenced perimeters and electronic surveillance, level 2 institutions provide a higher level of security than level 1 facilities.

LEVEL 3 (L3)

Level 3 facilities are high-security institutions designed primarily to house violent offenders with longer sentences, and inmates who exhibit behavioral problems. Housing consists of single and double cells, and all perimeters are double-fenced with extensive electronic surveillance. Inmates at level 3 facilities are closely supervised and their activities and movement within the institution are highly restricted.

South Carolina houses approximately 21,251 inmates across all of these State run institutions. Of these inmates, 19,868 are male and 1,383 are females. The majority of the inmates are African American with 62% of the total population, followed by Whites with 35% of the total population. The remaining 3% is classified as "Other" which includes Hispanics, Native American Indians, Asians, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian's and other ethnic or multi-ethnic groups. The average age of the inmates ranges from 35 to 40 years of age with an average admittance age of 33 years old. Many of these inmates are multiple offenders. Inmates housed in these institutions cost the State \$48.96 on average with the total cost per day per inmate amounting to \$54.05. Each inmate cost a total of \$19,728 per year with the State covering \$17,872. Exact numbers on Native American Indians incarcerated are not available to the Commission at this time. Data was compiled from the SC Department of Corrections-Profile of Inmates in Institutional Count 2015 and information provided by the SC Department of Corrections Chaplain's Services.

The focus of this program will be to assist the 34 Institutional Chaplains to continue to work with Native American Indian inmates and others who are interested in the services provided through the Chaplain's program. The Chaplain's have listed the program in the SCDC 2007-2016 planning document. It reads as follows: "*Native American Prison Program to locate inmates who are Native American. Identify and train Native American clergy representatives who can provide clergy visits and other needed services.*" While the program conducted by the Chaplain's will not be limited to just Native American Indians, the RED-SC program will work with Native American Indians and their families to assist with providing those "*other needed services*".

Each institution has a Chaplains service and a state Chaplains Association that over sees the work at all institutions. The RED-SC program will utilize volunteers throughout the state to visit inmates and assist in cultural activities on a quarterly basis. As the program expands, inmates will have an opportunity for more frequent visits and activities. Volunteers will apply through the Commission for Minority Affairs and receive background checks and training through the SC Department of Corrections Chaplain's Service. The SC Commission for Minority Affairs Staff will oversee the application process, operations, and funding with assistance from a small advisory group consisting of Rev. John Abrams, Waccamaw Indian People, Chaplin Stokes, Allendale Correctional Institution, and Chapin Middleton, Williamsburg Federal Prison. This group will work directly with the SC Commission for Minority Affairs Staff to assist in the development of training, review of applications, and development of the program.

This program has existed in some shape or form over the last 15 years through tribes, volunteers, and other such partnerships. The program has been popular among inmates, namely Allendale Correctional Institution. Out of the 180+ programs active at Allendale, the Native American program was the second most effective according to Chaplain staff. Additionally, research through the US Department of Health and Human Services and SAMSHA suggests that acculturation of Native American traditions and cultural is crucial to maintaining strong communities and families and improving overall health.

Through this program, not only will inmates receive attention, but families of inmates will also be able to benefit from services. To begin, the SC Commission for Minority Affairs will assist families with identifying service providers to assist them with various needs such as housing, food, educational, and others as needed. The Commission will provide "indirect" service by linking these families with assistance they may otherwise know about. As the program grows, RED-SC would like to also provide counseling services to families to assist them with the trauma caused by a loved-one being incarcerated. With these services, the goal is to create a smooth transition from prison life to family life for inmates and their families. Inmates will be provided with assistance in creating a life plan, identifying employment or education, seeking expungement services and other services as needed. With additional funding, the goal is to provide a "half-way" house for inmates in order to assist them with this transition.