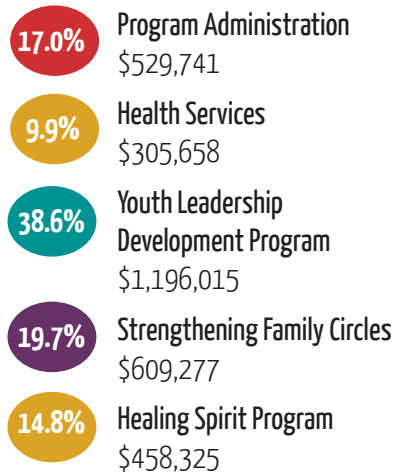
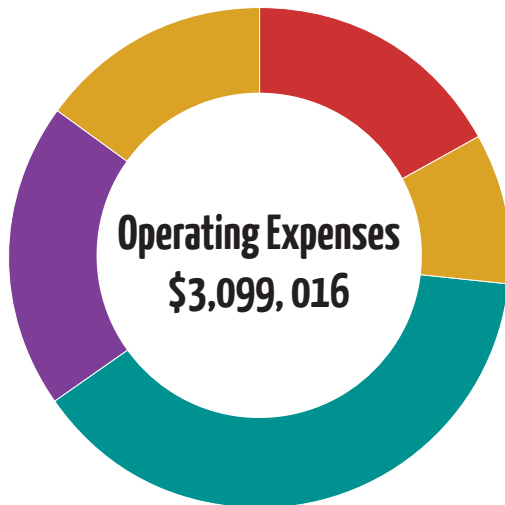
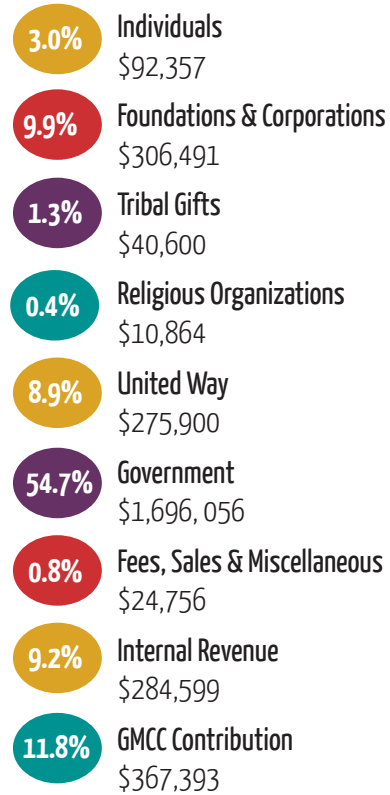
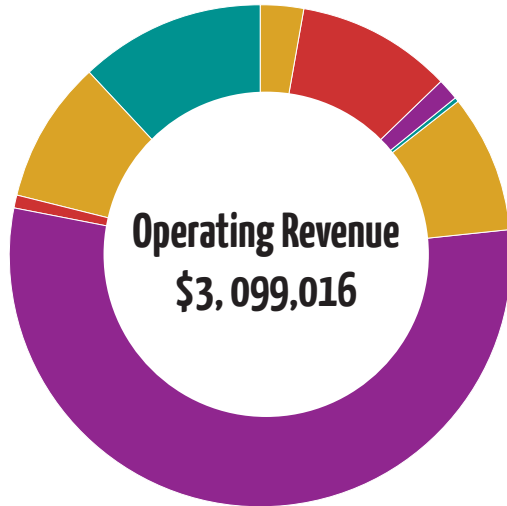




2015 Annual Report



2015 Financials



For more than 64 years, the Division of Indian Work (DIW) has served the needs of urban American Indian families while honoring cultural traditions. Our mission is to empower American Indian people through culturally based education, counseling, advocacy and leadership development. Our goals are to honor the American Indian culture, nurture and guide youth, strengthen families and provide basic needs such as food and shelter.

From the executive director:

Here at DIW, honoring cultural traditions is central to our services. We know that the teachings of our tribes will guide us toward growth and healing. Jean, a high school participant in our Youth Leadership Development Program, says that connecting to her culture gave her a stronger sense of responsibility and direction:

I moved to Minneapolis when I was 13 years old and I have been involved with DIW ever since, learning more about Ojibwe and Dakota culture every day. I have learned a lot about the four sacred medicines and what my responsibilities are as an Ojibwe woman. The program taught me knowledge I will carry with me for the rest of my life and I will be able to pass on this knowledge to future generations. The Youth Leadership Development Program feels like a second family.

Like Jean, many of the people we serve feel deeply connected to DIW. They know that to us, they are more than clients—they are relatives.

Highlights from 2015 include:

- Our food shelf, Horizons Unlimited, served almost 200,000 pounds of food to more than 600 individuals. The food shelf expanded services to include free summer farmers markets and “Shopper’s Choice” days, which give clients the opportunity to walk through the food shelf and select the specific items they need.
- DIW partnered with Children’s Defense Fund-Minnesota to host the nation’s first American Indian-focused Freedom School, a summer learning program that empowers students and curbs summer learning loss by offering developmentally appropriate and culturally relevant curriculum. Reading was the academic focus, with educational field trips every Friday.
- In partnership with Minnesota FoodShare, we planted a garden in south Minneapolis to provide fresh produce for our food shelf and evening programs. The garden is named “Wuju Wakan” which means “sacred plants” in Dakota.
- The young American Indian mothers at our Anpa Wasté (New Beginnings) house are working on getting degrees, creating financial plans and becoming self-sufficient. One 18-year-old resident made great strides in 2015 by improving school attendance, sticking to a budget and setting boundaries in relationships. She plans to finish high school by fall 2016 and then enroll in community college.

The dedicated staff and board of DIW take great pride in how we tailor our services to meet the specific needs of our community. This is what we’ve been doing for more than six decades, and we’ll continue to adapt and deepen our programming to support our people as effectively as we can. Many thanks to our donors, volunteers, staff, board and program participants for making this important work possible.

Miigwech,



Louise Matson
Executive Director, Division of Indian Work

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Program Areas

Health Services

Operates a food shelf, teaches culturally specific healthy sexuality for teens and counsels pregnant women about infant health.

Horizons Unlimited

The only culturally sensitive food shelf in the west metro serving the urban American Indian population.

Live It!

Teaches a culturally specific teen pregnancy and STD prevention curriculum for American Indian youth that takes a holistic approach to health and well-being through childhood, puberty and young adulthood.

Women of Traditional Birthing

Supports pregnant American Indian women through mentoring, education and community outreach.

Healing Spirit

Provides education and assistance to youth in the foster care system and those transitioning to independent living.

Healing Spirit House

Provides a home and mentoring for American Indian boys in the foster care system.

Healthy Transitions

Supports young men and women 16-21 years old who are aging out of the foster care system through the development of a ten-part independent living plan concentrating on career planning, money management, work/study skills, communication and home life.

Strengthening Family Circles

Provides classes, counseling, community outreach and additional support in parenting, affordable housing, domestic violence and spiritual practice.

Anpa Wasté (New Beginnings)

Offering housing and a variety of support services to young American Indian mothers and their children and young American Indian mothers struggling with homelessness.

Family Violence Prevention Services

Working with individuals to end family violence through culturally sensitive group and individual counseling in anger management and other areas.

Father's Services

Provides cultural activities and parenting support to American Indian fathers.

Parenting

Incorporates cultural activities and teachings through a group that meets weekly covering a variety of parenting-related topics.

Youth Leadership Development Program

Encourages well-rounded success by providing youth with a wide variety of learning opportunities, including Dakota language, cultural enrichment, after-school tutoring and recreational, environmental and artistic activities.

Academic & Activities Program

Offers homework help and tutoring, culture and language instruction and prevention of at-risk behavior for American Indian youth 7-17 years old.

Agindaasodaa! (Let's Read!)

Aims to bring reading levels to grade-level competency using a proven curriculum and other methods by working with students and teachers in the K-3rd grade classrooms at Anishinabe Academy.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention Program

Serving youth 7-17 years old, the program teaches about American Indian culture and life skills as preventative measures against alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse.

S.M.A.R.T Nations (formerly American Indian Math Project)

Seeks to improve student math scores by providing a culturally relevant math curriculum, intervention support, tutoring and incentive field trips for 5th-8th grade students at Anishinabe Academy.

be@school

Works directly with Anishinabe Academy to track, monitor and improve school attendance for American Indian youth in grades K-8.

Mashkiki Ogichidaag (Medicine Warriors)

Teaches American Indian youth about the traditional uses of tobacco and the dangers of commercial tobacco.

Summer Program

DIW hosts the nation's first American Indian-focused Children's Defense Fund Freedom School®. Using an Integrated Reading Curriculum adapted to the American Indian community, students in grades K-12 learn through a variety of channels including carefully chosen books, educational field trips, activities and games which all reinforce each other.

