

# Denver Indian Family Resource Center

## Vision

Generations of healthy, strong American Indian and Alaska Native children and families.

## Mission

DIFRC's mission is to strengthen vulnerable AI/AN children and families through collaborative and culturally-responsive services.

2000  
Established

Serving  
Adams, Arapahoe,  
Boulder, Broomfield,  
Denver, El Paso, Jefferson,  
Weld & Douglas Counties

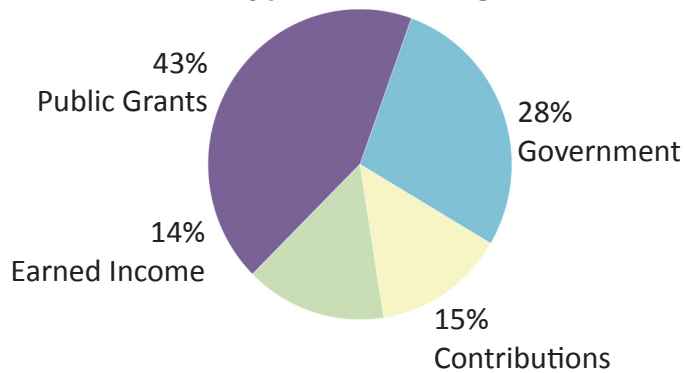
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Staff

\$561,297  
2018 Budget

500  
people served annually

501(c)3  
Org structure

## Types of Funding



## Key Programs

Indian Child Welfare Advocacy  
Preservation and Reunification  
Nurturing Parenting Program  
Resource and Referral Services  
Family Culture Night

## Serving Our Community

Denver Indian Family Resource Center (DIFRC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in the Denver metro area. Our agency was founded in 2000 to respond to the overrepresentation of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) families involved in the child welfare system, a historic and ongoing challenge within the AI/AN population. Culturally-responsive services were identified as a critical unmet need. By way of initiatory partnership with Casey Family Programs, DIFRC was founded to meet this need through direct services and systems change efforts.

As Colorado is home to more than 111,000 AI/AN people, with many (approximately 45%, or 50,000) living in the Denver metro area, DIFRC works to impact those families involved with the child welfare system. It is DIFRC's mission to strengthen vulnerable AI/AN children and families by providing collaborative Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) advocacy support and culturally-responsive family services and programs to improve reunification efforts for families involved in the child welfare system. In this work, DIFRC's definition of family includes relatives and close friends in order to recognize the reality for most Indian family units. DIFRC's programming is focused on a number of aspects of services that include impact areas of youth development, parent counseling, family development, and urban community cultural engagement. DIFRC has established a revered reputation and demonstrated success in serving as a single point of entry for comprehensive, intensive, and collaborative family-based services for vulnerable AI/AN children and their caregivers within the Denver metro area Indian community.

Highlights

In 2016, 89% of families who received DIFRC's family preservation and reunification services had their children placed within an ICWA complaint placement, which serves as key indicator that our services are making a difference in the Denver metro area. We are working to develop other data points to demonstrate service success and best practices in our service model.

We could not have achieved this collective impact without the support of Denver's Native community and our constituents, including Board of Directors, staff, contractors, volunteers, and donors.



Family Success Story

My grandson has lived with me since he was about six or seven months old. His mother (a meth-user) had been involved with social services for the last few years. She was registered with a tribe and became an ICWA case; and my grandson endured years of needless abuse. He had a highly qualified team: guardian ad litem (GAL), Lead Social Worker, Therapist, Supervisory Specialists, and a leading doctor in parental interactions. Yet, no one could seem to figure out how to balance the mental/emotional and physical need for safety and the well-being of my grandson with my daughter's rights and the ICWA. The team at DIFRC was so supportive and educational for this highly professional team in balancing the ICWA and the mother's rights, which seemed to supersede his. They also assisted in helping him adjust to a new school. They became a great advocate and guide through this never ending endeavor. Now that his voice, heart and needs mattered, the ICWA had been fulfilled and it was time to let him be the best he could be.



How You Can Help

- Financial Donations
- Volunteers
- New Board Members

