

# Mapping Native Assets: MN Mapping Project



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# MN Mapping Project Overview

- Bowman Performance Consulting, LLC (BPC) was contracted by the Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP) organization to conduct a Minnesota Mapping study
- Project Timeline (Phase I): May 2006 to May 2007
- Project Purposes:
  1. This project has been documenting how MN Indian Tribes and Indian urban centers have been supported by non-Indian and Indian non-profits (NP's) and foundations in MN
  2. The project is also documenting the experiences, rewards, and challenges that Indian Tribes and Indian urban centers face as their community's needs are being met or not adequately being met
  3. Finally the project is documenting the ways that they need assistance presently and for the future through training, technical assistance, and other resources

# Project Data Uses

- Assists NAP with present programs and services to Indian country
- Builds upon past NAP commissioned studies as well as other Native philanthropic studies
- Will be used to inform NAP for the development of future services and initiatives in Indian country
- Provides project participants with resources and other information to assist them in their local organizations, service areas, and/or communities
- Will be used as a tool to educate non-Indians about “Native philanthropy” concepts and practices
- Will be used as a tool for Indigenous stakeholders to learn about ways to have access to and utilize traditional philanthropic resources
- Is considered the first phase of a longer research process to strengthen the Indian and non-Indian philanthropic networks

# Project Definitions

- “Support” is defined broadly in this study and can include fiscal or non-fiscal support by philanthropic organizations
- Non-Indian organizations (majority or “white”): non-Indian non-profit agencies (501 C-3), non-Indian government (municipal, county, state, or university), or non-Indian foundations located in MN
- Indian organizations: Indian non-profit organizations (501 C-3 such as a community foundation, corporate foundation, family foundation, independent foundation, operating foundation, or public foundation), scholarship funds, special purpose funds, Tribally chartered corporation or non-profit organization (regulated by the Tribe known as 7871’s, and not regulated by the IRS), Tribal sub-unit (program, department, or office within the Tribal government system), Tribal college/university, Indian program within a municipal or state government, K-12 school, institution of higher education, within a church, or within a non-Indian non-profit or foundation

# Project Participants

The primary project participants are the 11 tribes and 1 urban area in MN:

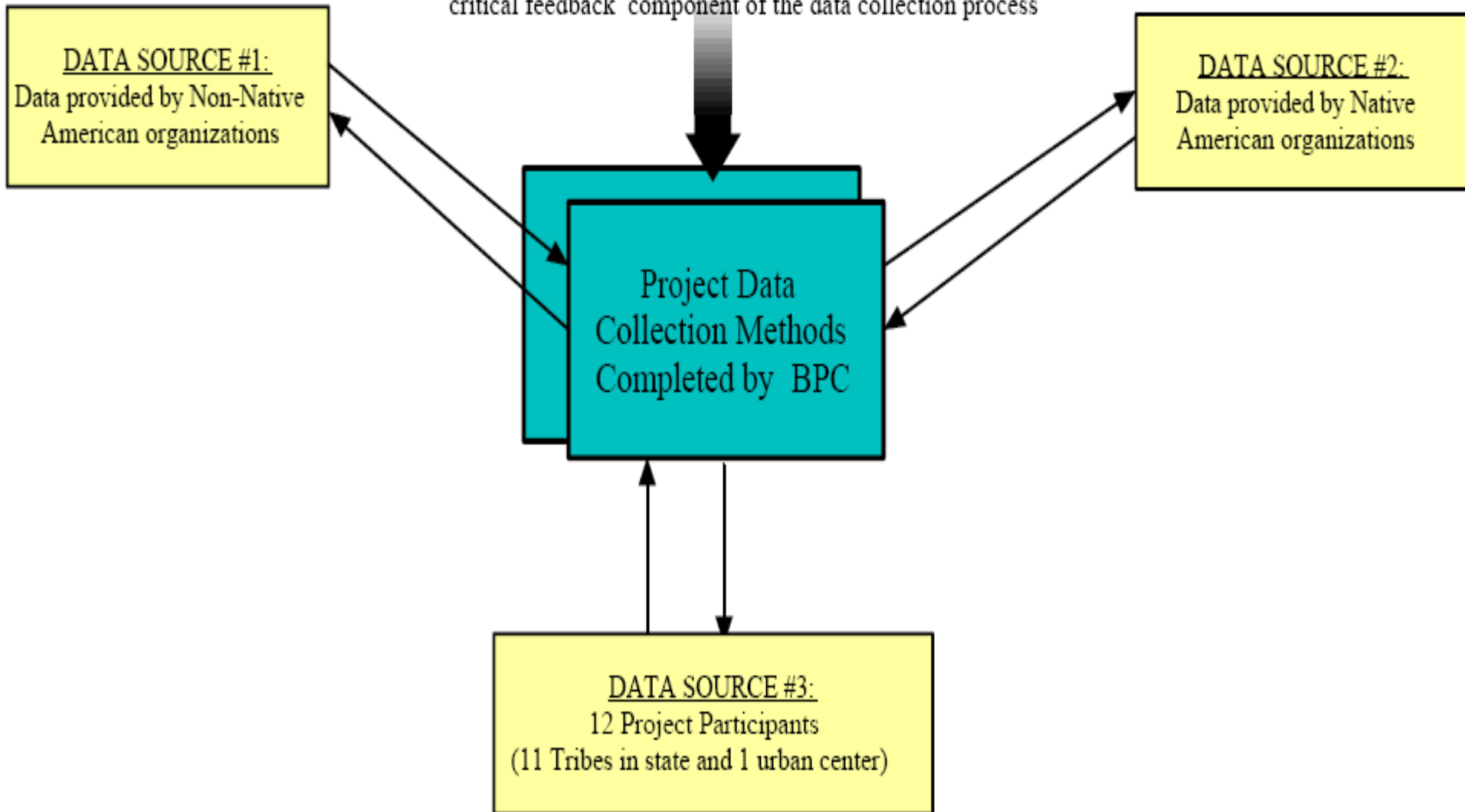
- White Earth Band of Chippewa
- Leech Lake Band of Chippewa
- Red Lake Band of Chippewa
- Bois Fort/ Nett Lake Band of Chippewa
- Grand Portage Band of Chippewa
- Fond du Lac Band of Chippewa
- Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa
- Upper Sioux
- Lower Sioux
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota Sioux
- Prairie Island Dakota Sioux
- Urban Center: Minneapolis American Indian Center

# Project Design

- Mixed-Method Design
  - Qualitative: Geographic MN mapping process, database analysis, document review, focus groups, and phone interviews
  - Quantitative: Online surveys, statistical analysis of past/present philanthropic data trends, review of IRS tax documents (990, 7871's), and analysis of other non-profit or Tribal statistical reports and databases
- Indigenous Design
  - All Native American academic research team at BPC
  - Frequent member checks with participants and NAP staff
  - Use of local community members to facilitate meetings, locally market project activities, assist with the coordination of logistics, offer prayers for the start of project activities, and provide project feedback on instruments, research processes, and initial findings
  - Documented strengths as well as challenges/needs of community
  - Honors and builds upon past work done on Native Philanthropy
  - Researchers co-construct & work “with” not “on” local community members
  - Honors local context and diverse Native culture in data collection
  - Gives resources back to the community (databases, reports, and other materials)

# Project Process for Data Collection/Analysis

NAP working "in the background" as a continuous and critical feedback component of the data collection process



# Project Timeline & Activities

- May 2006: Project formally begins
- July 2006: Final non-Indian database created for MN non-profits (NP's) and foundations
- Sept 2006: Final Indian database created for MN NP's and foundations
- Oct 2006: Final MN map of participants, non-Indian, & Indian NP's and foundations completed
- Dec 2006: Completed online survey to non-Indian NP's and foundations
- Jan 2007: Online survey to Indian NP's and foundations completed
- Feb 2007: Telephone interviews to project participants completed
- Mar 2007: Completed focus groups in MN
- April 2007: Preliminary findings shared at NAP conference
- May 2007: Final report due to NAP

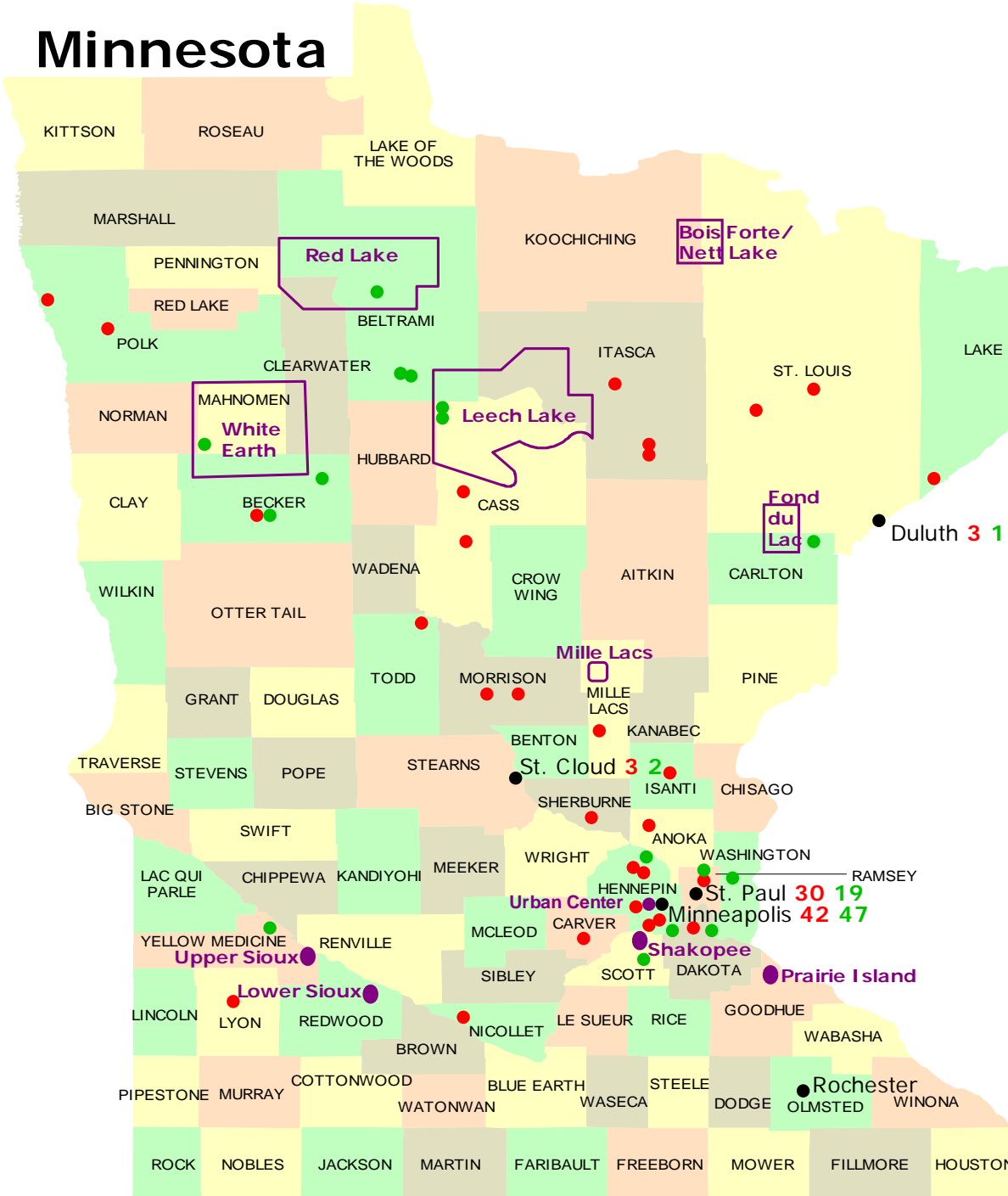
# Non-Indian Database

- Sample Size: 118 non-Indian non-profits and foundations who have worked with Indian communities, organizations, or individuals in MN
- Process:
  - Website search: GuideStar, IRS, and the Foundation Center (2,351 initially found)
  - MN Council of NP's, member checking with NAP staff/board, member checking with key MN stakeholders to update database, and general internet research to find organizational websites (623 entries)
  - Emails and calls to organizations (193 entries)
  - Member checks with NAP staff/board, key MN informants, project participants, and local communities (118 entries)
- Major Findings: this is a fluid process and needs constant updating; use of member checking was integral to data reliability and validity; and using a multiple step process to sort through the data proved useful but time consuming

# Indian Database

- Sample Size: 87 Indian non-profits and foundations who have worked with Indian communities, organizations, or individuals in MN
- Process:
  - Website search: GuideStar, IRS, and Foundation Center (579 initially found)
  - MN Council of NP's, member checking with NAP staff/board, member checking with key Tribal stakeholders in MN, 7871 research, and general internet research to find organizational websites (44 entries)
  - Tribal website research, website/document review of Tribal databases, emails and calls to Tribal organizations (84 entries)
  - Member checks with NAP staff/board, key MN Tribal informants, Tribal project participant feedback (online), and feedback from Tribal communities while on site conducting research (87 entries)
- Major Findings: Native organizations are diverse so finding this information in “the same place” for each tribe was different; this process was time consuming based on insider/outsider status; use of local, trusted, and known researchers was important to this process; finding Tribal information through the IRS and the Tribal government is complex; this is a fluid process and needs constant updating; use of member checking was integral to data reliability and validity; and using a multiple step process to sort through the data proved useful but was also time consuming

# Minnesota



●	Cities
■	Tribes
●	Non Indian Non Profits
●	Indian Non Profits

# Online Survey to Non-Indian NP's and foundations

- Sample Size: 31
- Response Rates: 38%
- Process:
  - Created Zoomerang online survey
  - Survey deployed on 11-17-06
  - Survey closed on 1-2-07
  - 23 total questions
  - General question areas included on this survey were: type of organization, type of Indian community or organization they primarily work with, service and activity areas, benefits and challenges of working with Indian populations, levels and types of philanthropic giving, and future support/services they would need to help Indians more effectively/efficiently

# Major Findings: Non-Indian Survey

- 31 survey respondents said their highest service areas to Indian Country are:
  - Education – 21%
  - Human or Social Services – 18%
  - Health – 18%
- Participants provide the following assistance to Indian country:
  - Workshops – 32%
  - Technical assistance – 29%
  - Individualized services – 26%
- Top benefits of working in Indian Country: increase in cultural awareness and diversity, a deepening of relationships along with new perspectives, and strengthening or improving the overall conditions for Indians through a social connection

# Major Findings: Non-Indian Survey continued

- Challenges of working in Indian Country: outreach in rural tribe areas is difficult; scarce resources for Indians are available; difficulty learning appropriate and unique cultural traditions; low trust and high skepticism for outsiders; high rate of failed appointments (phone or in person); different cultural values means western treatment methods are not necessarily as effective; inter and intra tribal political differences made impact and sustainability of programs/services challenging
- Assistance that non-Indians need: training in the tradition and culture of Indians; more Indian staff; technical assistance on working with Indian communities in a culturally appropriate way; development of collaborative Indian partnerships; and communication tools or other culturally acceptable ways to reach Indian communities

# Online Survey to Indian NP's and foundations

- Sample Size: 20
- Response Rates: 33%
- Process:
  - Created Zoomerang online survey
  - Survey deployed on 12-15-06
  - Survey closed on 1-22-07
  - 29 total questions
  - General question areas included on this survey were: type of organization, type of Native American community or organization they primarily work with, service and activity areas, benefits and challenges of working with Native American populations, levels and types of philanthropic giving, future support/services they would need to help Native Americans, and their interest in deeper participation in study

# Major Findings: Indian Survey

- 20 Indian survey participants described their organization as:
  - 31% are Tribally chartered non-profit organizations
  - 15% of respondents listed themselves as a Indian program/department within a non-Indian K-12 school OR a Indian program/department within a non-Indian organization
- The range of organizational age for the responding organizations was 2 years to 150 years old; the average age for responding organizations was 25.5 years
- The average number of employees was 17 and average volunteers was 54
- The average board size was 9 and 77% of the organizations had a Indian director
- 27% of respondents have an endowment ranging from \$10,000 to \$1,800,000 which is an average of \$670,000
- Indian respondents said they provide these services to Indian Country:
  - Education – 69%
  - Health and Wellness – 62%
  - Arts and/or Cultural Preservation – 62%
  - Human and/or Social Services – 54%

# Indian Survey Findings continued

- Types of services Indian respondents provide:
  - Advocacy – 69%
  - Individualized services – 69%
  - Workshops, organize events, coalitions, etc. – 54%
- Benefits to working in Indian Country: successful fundraising; community connections and having more Indians join us in social justice work; the academic success of the children; working for the benefit of our Indian families and children; change can be witnessed; empowerment of Indians to improve lives

# Indian Survey Findings continued

- Challenges to working in Indian Country: working in a non-Indian organization often leads to cultural gaps; fundraising in younger communities is frustrating due to lack of resources; basic needs are not being met due to low/no funding; low participation and sustained involvement of Indians; lack of technical training/knowledge and support; very little Indian research available to guide our work; sustainability issues because there is not enough funds to keep staff and services
- Resources these Indian respondents still need: more staff involvement and commitment to projects; resources to attract healthy, educated, and culturally knowledgeable individuals to work in programming positions; staff retention strategies; financial training; professional development; updated computer technology; assistance with the 501 C-3 approval process; connecting us to funders; assistance with grant writing; evaluation training and technical assistance; sustaining funding to keep programs, staff, services or create new initiatives

# Phone Interviews

- Sample Size: 7
- Response Rates: 88%
- Process:
  - Created phone protocol and semi-structured phone interview instrument
  - Modified participant database and began making initial contacts via email, US mail, and phone to introduce ourselves, share project information, share interview questions, and set up a time for a phone interview
  - Individual and group interviews were accepted
  - BPC and local Tribal community members were employed to complete phone interviews
  - Phone surveys began on 1-9-07
  - Survey closed on 3-5-07
  - Transcripts were typed
  - 11 total questions
  - General question areas included on this survey were: learning about how participants are supported through fiscal or non fiscal resources; budgets for philanthropic funds that came into their organization; names of organizations they receive support from not on our databases; strengths of working with philanthropic organizations; challenges of working with philanthropic organizations; identification of solutions, and documentation of future assistance needs

# Phone Interview Major Findings

- Types of service interviewees received by philanthropic organizations:
  - Topic Areas:
    - Education
    - Health and Wellness
    - Human and/or Social Services
    - Economic Development, Employment, and/or Financial Literacy
    - Political and/or Public Affairs
  - Support Classifications:
    - Technical Assistance
    - Advocacy
    - Workshops
    - Development
    - College Courses

# Phone Interview Major Findings continued

- 100% of the phone interview participants had experienced an inability to serve their community due to low/no funds
- Nearly 30% of the participants recalled a time in the past when programs/services had to be cut completely or were never refunded to resume services
- 71% of respondents felt that with collaboration from the local (cities and counties), state, and federal governments that their major issues could be solved
- 100% who responded believe that with additional funding, specifically federal funding as stipulated by the treaty, major issues could be resolved
- Other comments to note: attracting money to remote areas is needed and diversification of funding streams is critical to survival

# Focus Groups

- Sample Size: 3 focus groups in MN; 38 total participants
- Process:
  - Developed focus group protocol for Minneapolis, Bemidji, and Lower Sioux communities
  - Focus groups were completed March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Focus groups lasted 2-2.5 hours
  - Several questions were asked on: current funding/initiatives; strengths; challenges; future assistance needed; and open comments/discussion
  - Questions were asked across the 12 topical areas: Education; Health & Wellness; Human and/or Social Services; Economic Development, Employment, and/or Financial Literacy; Legal, Advocacy, and/or Civil Rights; Political and/or Public Affairs; Environmental; Arts and/or Cultural Preservation; Community Development; Language; Land; or Other (please list):\_\_\_\_\_

# Major Findings: Focus Groups

- Participants provided information for the following areas:
  - Economic Development/Employment/Financial Literacy
    - 60 responses; Indians need to use these services more, strong need for financial literacy training, and utilization of Tribal policies/people more
  - Language
    - 54 responses; hiring fluent speakers is critical, teaching youth culture/language is necessary for Tribal survival, more \$\$\$ to these initiatives
  - Environmental
    - 38 responses; environmental connection to culture must be recognized, more funds needed for environmental protection, and educational offerings needed
  - Education
    - 38 responses; current cultural disconnect for students in public schools is a strong concern, curriculum development using culture/language is critical, and intergenerational education activities need to be used more in schools
  - Other Notes:
    - Connection of local Indigenous culture/laws to state, national, and international efforts
    - Development or restoration of Indigenous identity is needed due to loss of culture/language (children AND adults need this support)

# Limitations to the Study

- Small sample size for phone interviews
- Need to more deeply understand Tribal reservations (case study design would be better)
- Inclusion of more urban and rural Indian populations is needed
- Locating consistent and comparable data was difficult due to changing staff, not being on site, and gaining trust/access
- No centralized system to compare Tribal, local, state, and federal philanthropic data
- Reluctance to share fiscal data due to fear of losing already scarce resources or information being “used against us”

# Next Steps

- Large Group Exercise (15 minutes):
  - Do you have any responses, discussion, and questions about the information shared in the PowerPoint?
- Individual Exercise (15 minutes):
  - Using stickers and post it notes please individually answer the nine questions posted on chart paper:
    - use stickers for ranking questions 1-4
    - use post-it notes for open ended questions 5-9

# Next Steps

- Individual Exercise (15 minutes):
  - Use stickers for ranking questions 1-4
    1. Do you understand the MN Mapping project after today?
    2. Was there a connection with today's information and your community?
    3. Did you get information and resources that you can use "back home"?
    4. Did you have enough time to participate?
  - Use post-it notes for open ended questions 5-9
    5. Do you see ways that this type of project could be beneficial in your geographic area?
    6. If yes to #5 – how positively would you see communities engaging with this type of research?
    7. If yes to #5 – what funders in your area would support this type of research?
    8. How else could Native Americans in Philanthropy help you right now or in the future?

Please list specific training, technical assistance, or other ideas you have.
    9. Please list any other comments you have.

# Wrapping Up (10 minutes)

- Are there any other questions or discussion you still have?
- Sign in sheet for receiving today's PowerPoint, MN Mapping resources, or final report
- Give Aways
- For more information about the MN Mapping Project contact: Neely Snyder at NAP
  - [nsnyder@nativephilanthropy.org](mailto:nsnyder@nativephilanthropy.org) (email)
  - 612-724-8798 x 2# (direct phone)
- For more information about Indigenous research and evaluation see [www.nbowmanconsulting.com](http://www.nbowmanconsulting.com) or contact:
  - Nicole Bowman at [nbowman@nbowmanconsulting.com](mailto:nbowman@nbowmanconsulting.com)
  - BPC phone: 715-526-9240
- Anushiik (thank you for participating) and Adjourn 😊