



NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association



NICWA 2023 Annual Report

Relentless Advocacy for Native Kids

About NICWA

OUR MISSION

NICWA is dedicated to the well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native children and families.

OUR VISION

Every Native child must have access to community based, culturally appropriate services that help them grow up safe, healthy, and spiritually strong—free from abuse, neglect, sexual exploitation, and the damaging effects of substance abuse.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We help build tribal capacity to prevent child abuse and neglect through positive systems change at the federal, state, and tribal levels. By promoting prevention services, our programming supports the safety, health, well-being, and spiritual strength of Native children along the broad continuum of their lives.

TRAINING

We provide training, technical assistance, and professional development about Indian child welfare and related fields. From our annual conference—the preeminent national event dedicated to tribal child welfare and Native child well-being—to our trainings tailored for individual communities, NICWA provides timely and actionable information to those who serve Native children and families.

PUBLIC POLICY AND ADVOCACY

We advocate for policies that support tribal communities and their efforts to protect children, decolonize services, and employ cultural beliefs, traditions, and customs that are the foundation of safeguarding Native children and strengthening families.

RESEARCH

We conduct research and evaluation in service to tribal communities in ways that are sensitive to historical traumas and respectful of community needs, values, cultures, and traditions. We provide data to help inform services and advocate for funding for child welfare programs.

Dear NICWA Members, Donors, and Friends,

I am pleased to share with you the NICWA fiscal year 2023 annual report, *Moving Forward for Native Children*.

This year was marked by our stalwart and emboldened advocacy to protect the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) when the United States Supreme Court heard *Haaland v. Brackeen*, the case concerning the constitutionality of ICWA. In November 2022, we gathered on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court in a family-friendly prayer gathering surrounded by relatives and allies. Joined by many partners, we charted the Protect ICWA Campaign's policy, legal, and communications strategies that later resulted in a historic 7–2 Supreme Court decision upholding ICWA. We grew as an organization with six new staff members and a hybrid return to the office. In April, we supported over 1,800 conference attendees, mostly frontline tribal child welfare workers, at our 41st Annual Protecting Our Children Conference in Reno, Nevada. The annual conference was our first in-person conference since 2019. It was record-breaking in numbers, a joyous return to a community gathering, a celebration of the strength and wisdom of our cultures, and a generous sharing of our collective knowledge.

In the following pages, you will find a high-level report of our community development, training, and public policy and advocacy work. In closing I want to highlight a special publication, the [State of American Indian and Alaska Native Children and Families Report](#), released in this last fiscal year. This six-part series consists of data related to American Indian and Alaska Native child and family well-being, including economic indicators, adverse childhood experiences, child welfare system involvement, mortality rates and causes, and behavioral health and substance use. We heard high praises from many of you about the utility of this report for program planning, grant writing, and advocacy. As 2023 draws to an end, we're grateful for all that we've been able to accomplish together through our activism for Native children.

Thank you for your support and partnership,



Sarah F. Kastelic

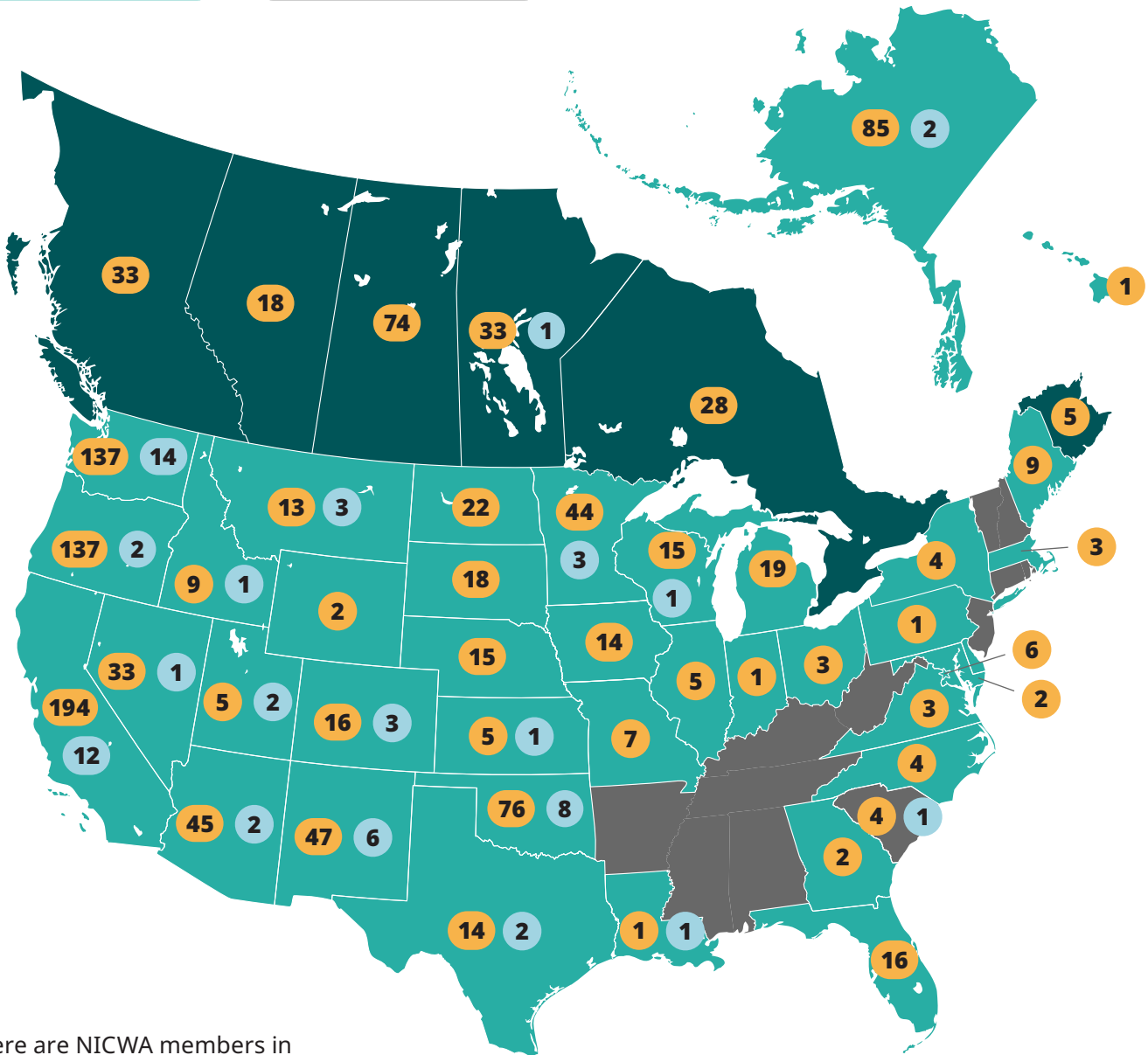
Sarah Kastelic
PhD, MSW, Alutiiq

NICWA Members

Our members are an international network of strong and diverse advocates, spanning the United States and Canada, working together to advance the vision of thriving Indigenous children and families for future generations. Members contribute to our programming and governance as an organization and play vital roles in our training institutes and annual conferences. NICWA members are part of an interconnected community of individuals, tribes, and organizations dedicated to strengthening the well-being of Native children and families.

[Become a Member](#)

[View NICWA Members](#)



There are NICWA members in

37 states **6** Canadian provinces

for a total of

1,222 individual members **60** tribal and organizational members **1,282** total NICWA members

NICWA By the Numbers



102,812

Total social media followers



5

Total press releases



16

Federal and state legislative bills tracked and advocated for related to our public policy work



7

VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON TRAINING INSTITUTES WITH:

6

Positive Indian Parenting trainings

3

Understanding the Indian Child Welfare Act trainings

1

Cross Cultural Skills in Indian Child Welfare training

283

Total people trained at Training Institutes

250

Total people trained at community trainings

337

Total people trained through our two online courses, Introduction to ICWA and Working with Substance-Abusing Families

98

Works cited in the State of American Indian and Alaska Native Children and Families Report


525

Volumes of NICWA curriculum sold

41st Annual Protecting Our Children Conference By the Numbers



 **1,802**
Attendees

 **380**
Tribes and
First Nations
represented


 **315**
International
attendees

 **131**
Presenters

 **73**
Workshops



 **40**
Sponsors

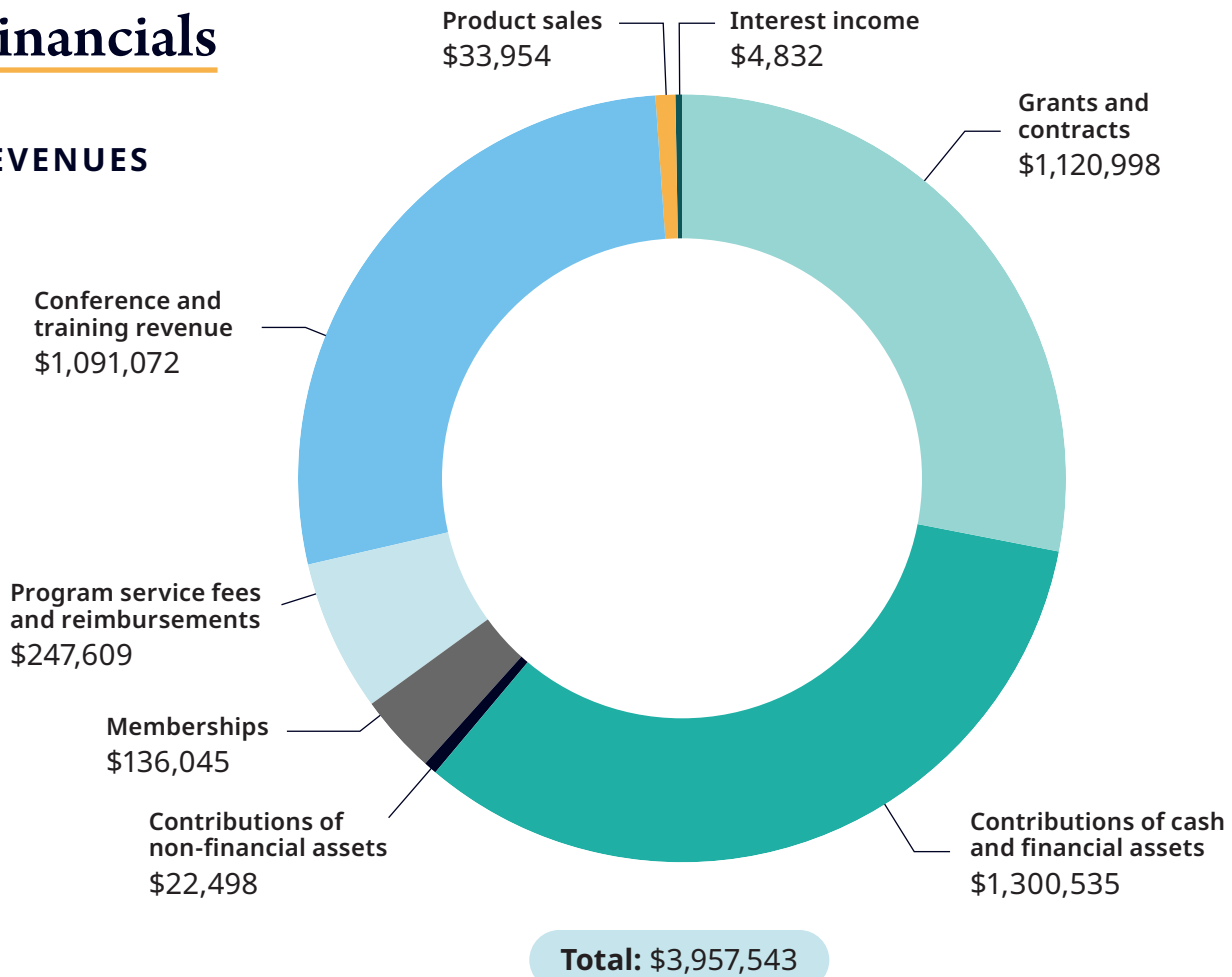
 **39**
Exhibitors

 **34**
Volunteers

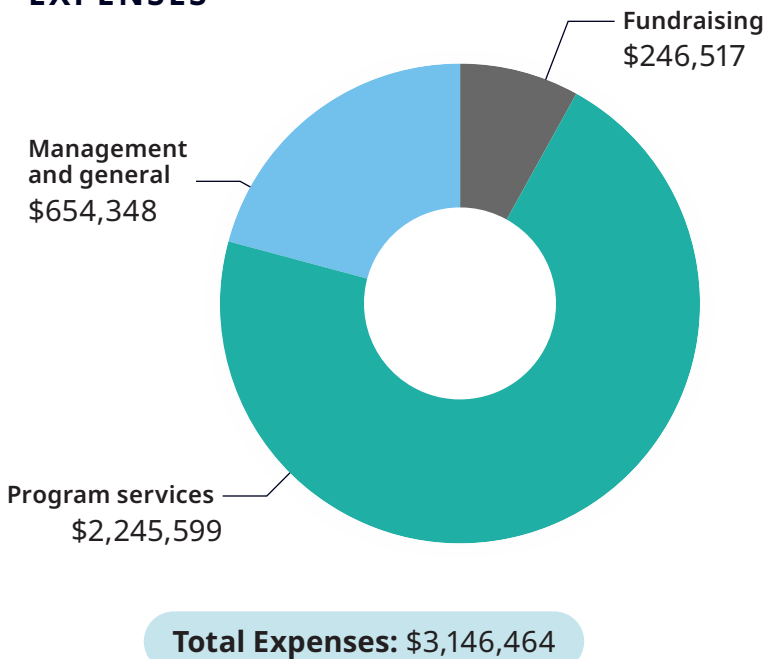
 **2**
Champions for
Native Children
honored

Financials

REVENUES



EXPENSES



Change in net assets
\$811,079

Net Assets, Beginning of year
\$4,509,721

Prior period adjustments
(\$43,339)

Net Assets end of year
\$5,277,461

NICWA Board and Staff

*As of the end of the 2023 fiscal year, 4/30/2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

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NICWA STAFF

Executive

Sarah Kastelic, *Alutiiq*
Executive Director

Kyra Antone, *Coeur d'Alene/Tohono O'odham*
Communications Specialist

Lynn Lindell, *Suquamish*
Development Project Coordinator

Amory Zschach,
Cheyenne Arapaho
Communications Director

April Ybarra Black
Executive Assistant to Sarah Kastelic and Library Specialist

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Mariah Garcia, *Pauite*
Operations Project Coordinator

Vilma Vere
Fiscal Assistant

Programs

Allie Brady
Training Manager

Terry Cross, *Seneca*
Founder and Senior Advisor

Alexis Contreras, *Grand Ronde*
Research Assistant

La Rae Driftwood, *Crow*
Program Project Coordinator

Mariah Meyerholz
Government Affairs and Community Development Specialist

Tara Reynon, *Puyallup*
Child Welfare Director

Puneet Sahota
Research Director

David Simmons
Director of Government Affairs and Advocacy



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National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

