

# 2026 SPECIALTY INSTITUTE

SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL



**Skills for Engaging  
Tribal Leadership on  
Domestic Violence  
Prevention & Response**



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**July 28-30, 2026**  
Durham, North Carolina

# Who We Are

## About Us

The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) is a national, Native women-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit advancing safety by strengthening Tribal responses to violence and ensuring Tribal Nations have the tools, resources, and authority to protect their citizens. We provide training, technical assistance, policy development, and advocacy grounded in the lived realities of Native women and communities.

## Mission

To provide national leadership to promote safety for Native women and communities by supporting culturally grounded grassroots advocacy.

## Vision

Collective liberation through the restoration of sovereignty and safety of Native women and communities.





# The Land We're On

The area now known as Durham, North Carolina, sits on the ancestral homelands of Native peoples who have stewarded this land for generations. Among the Tribal Nations with deep historical connections to this region are the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, whose ancestral villages were located along the Eno and Haw Rivers, as well as the Sappony and other Siouan-speaking peoples of the Piedmont.

Despite centuries of colonization, displacement, and policies designed to erase Indigenous identity and sovereignty, Native peoples in North Carolina continue to endure and lead. Today, the state is home to eight state-recognized Tribal Nations: the Coharie, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Haliwa-Saponi, Lumbee, Meherrin, Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation, Sappony, and Waccamaw Siouan.

Durham has also become home to Native peoples from many Tribal Nations, including those whose ancestral territories lie elsewhere. As in many cities across the United States, Native families have built community through intertribal relationships, cultural gatherings, advocacy organizations, and educational institutions.

The story of Durham is inseparable from the story of the Native Nations who have lived on and cared for this land since time immemorial. Their knowledge, traditions, and leadership continue to shape the region today, reminding us that these lands remain places of living Native presence, responsibility, and future.

# 2026 SPECIALTY INSTITUTE



## Strengthening Tribal Leadership to Protect Native Women and Communities

The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) is convening a national Specialty Institute focused on strengthening engagement between Tribal leadership and those working on the frontlines of domestic violence prevention and response.

Across Indian Country, Tribal advocates and domestic violence programs work tirelessly to support survivors. These efforts are strongest when Tribal leadership is actively engaged in prioritizing safety, resources, and coordinated community responses.

This three-day gathering will bring together Native advocates and organizations from across the country to develop practical skills, strengthen partnerships with Tribal governments, and build strategies that center survivor safety while advancing Tribal sovereignty.

Supporting this Institute helps ensure that Tribal leaders and advocates can work together to create stronger systems of safety for Native women and families.

# Why This Matters



American Indian and Alaska Native survivors of domestic violence face significant barriers to safety, including geographic location, jurisdictional complexities, underfunded services, and limited Tribal resources and support systems.

These challenges make it difficult for survivors to access emergency shelter, victim advocacy, legal assistance, and other life-saving resources.

At the same time, Tribal Nations are leading powerful solutions grounded in tradition and community. NIWRC works nationally to strengthen these solutions through training, technical assistance, and leadership development that support Tribal communities in responding to violence.

More than **84%** of AI/AN women have experienced violence in their lifetime.

**More than half** of AI/AN women have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime.

The homicide rate for AI/AN women is more than **10 times** the national average.

# How We're Generating Change



This Specialty Institute strengthens collaboration between Tribal leadership and the advocates serving survivors every day. Through expert-led workshops, peer learning, and strategy sessions, participants will gain:

- ✔ **Practical tools for engaging Tribal leadership in domestic violence prevention and response.**
- ✔ **Strategies for strengthening Tribal government partnerships.**
- ✔ **Approaches for building community trust and coordinated responses.**
- ✔ **Opportunities to exchange solutions with peers working across Indian Country.**

Effective engagement with Tribal leadership is critical to the effectiveness and sustainability of domestic violence (DV) programs in Indian Country. When Tribal leaders and advocates collaborate effectively, communities can better prioritize survivor safety, strengthen services, and uphold Tribal sovereignty.



# Why Partner?

1

## **Community Impact**

Demonstrate your organization's commitment to Native-led solutions that support safety, healing, and justice.

2

## **Relationship Building**

Connect with Tribal advocates, domestic violence programs, coalitions, and Native nonprofit leaders working across Indian Country.

3

## **Mission-Aligned Visibility**

Receive recognition among a national network of organizations dedicated to advancing safety for Native women and communities.

4

## **Purpose-Driven Engagement**

Support an initiative that equips advocates and Tribal leaders with tools to strengthen safety in their communities.

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### **Partners will also receive recognition across select event materials and communications, including:**

- Verbal recognition during event welcome and closing remarks.
- Recognition on event print materials and signage.
- Acknowledgment through NIWRC's social media and website.

# Sponsorship Opportunities

With your partnership, Tribal advocates and leaders will gain the tools, knowledge, and relationships needed to strengthen community responses to domestic violence and ensure survivors have access to the support they deserve.

## ■ Community Leadership Sponsor

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Helps sustain the full learning experience for participants, including expert-led workshops, facilitation, and collaborative strategy sessions that equip advocates with tools to effectively engage Tribal leadership and strengthen community responses to domestic violence.

**\$5,000**

## ■ Wellness & Healing Sponsor

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Supports wellness opportunities for Tribal program staff and attendees, including restorative services such as massages, Reiki, etc, creating space for healing, reflection, and renewal during the institute. These services recognize the emotional weight carried by frontline advocates and provide time for renewal and care.

**\$3,500**

## ■ Capacity Builder Sponsor

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Helps provide training curriculum, workshop facilitation, and learning materials that equip advocates and organizations with tools to build stronger partnerships with Tribal governments.

**2,500**



# Sponsorship Opportunities

## ■ Knowledge Sharing Sponsor



Supports the Peer Networking & Evaluation Mixer, a dedicated space for attendees to build relationships, share strategies, and exchange solutions across Tribal Nations. The gathering includes light hors d'oeuvres and a soda bar to encourage connection and reflection.

**\$2,000**

## ■ Survivor Support Sponsor



Supports a grounding activity led in partnership with the local Tribal Nation, offering advocates an opportunity to connect with the land, local culture, and one another. This experience centers reflection, cultural knowledge, and shared learning to strengthen relationships across Tribal Nations.

**\$1,000**

## ■ Community Partner



Contributes to scholarship support for advocates and emerging leaders, ensuring that those working closest to survivors can participate and share their knowledge with their communities.

**\$500**

### Interested in Becoming a Sponsor?

**We want to hear from you! Please contact:**

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# Join the movement.

Your support transforms the lives  
of Native women and communities.



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INDIGENOUS**  
WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

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