

ANNUAL REPORT

2017 - 2018

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs is to instill a positive vision for American Indians through preserving cultural identity by promoting and advocating for the rights, beliefs, and opportunities which impact the quality of life.

North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs

Tel 919-807-4440
Fax 919-807-4461

116 West Jones St., MSC 1317
Raleigh, NC 27609-1317

www.doa.nc.gov/cia
Name

Contents

From Our Executive Director	1
History and Purpose	2
Financial Resources	4
Program Descriptions	6
State Recognition	9
Tribes and Organizations	10
Conferences and Special Events	12
North Carolina Indian Unity Conference	12
North Carolina Indian Youth Unity Conference	12
Quarterly Meetings	14



From Our Executive Director - Update

The Annual Report from the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs provides a description of the Commission programs and an explanation of activities for the previous year. During this recurring process, it is a privilege to reflect upon our past endeavors as we face future horizons and pledge to become even more effective in our mission to advocate for the American Indian population in North Carolina.

With the support of The Honorable Roy Cooper, Governor of North Carolina, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Administration, the North Carolina General Assembly, our distinguished Commission members, and the citizens of this State, we will remain steadfast in our objective and build upon the accomplishments that have been made. We accept the challenges that lie ahead, and we are committed to introducing and promoting tools to achieve a better quality of life for the citizens whom we represent.

The Commission of Indian Affairs seeks to provide a unified voice for all the American Indian tribes in North Carolina. This report contains the Commission mission statement, purposes, statutory duties, and goals, and these are both the regulations and principles which guide our efforts for the Commission. As we face another year with enthusiasm and determination, we invite your continuing interest in all that we do.

Gregory A. Richardson
Executive Director

GOALS

- *Increase and maximize educational opportunities for American Indians in North Carolina.*
- *Increase the economic self-sufficiency of American Indians in North Carolina and maximize Indian economic development initiatives.*
- *Achieve parity in employment for Indians of North Carolina.*
- *Improve the health status of American Indians in North Carolina.*
- *Increase the public awareness of American Indians.*
- *Review petitions for state recognition from Indian tribes.*
- *Promote recognition of, and the right of, Indians to pursue cultural and religious traditions that they consider sacred and meaningful, and to promote public understanding and appreciation of Indian culture.*

History and Purpose

The North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs was created in 1971 by the North Carolina General Assembly in response to the requests of concerned Indian citizens from across the state. The Commission was established pursuant to North Carolina General Statute's 143B-404 through 143B-411. Specifically, the Commission was created to:

- Deal fairly and effectively with Indian affairs
- Bring local, state and federal resources into focus for the implementation or continuation of meaningful programs for the state's Indian citizens
- Provide aid and protection for Indians as needs are demonstrated
- Assist Indian communities in social and economic development
- Promote recognition of, and the right of, Indians to pursue their cultural and religious traditions

The Commission has eight statutory duties outlined in its enabling legislation as follows:

- Study, consider, accumulate, compile, assemble, and disseminate information on Indian affairs
- Investigate relief needs of Indians and assist in the preparation of plans for the alleviation of such needs
- Confer with appropriate officials of local, state and federal governments
- Review all legislation concerning Indians
- Conduct public hearings on matters relating to Indian affairs and subpoena any information deemed necessary
- Study the existing status of recognition of all Indian groups, tribes and communities



- Establish appropriate procedures for legal recognition by the state and provide for official recognition
- Initiate procedures for recognition by the federal government

About Our **Commission**

The membership of the Commission is composed of twenty-one representatives from eight Indian tribes and four Urban Indian Associations, five state officials, and an appointee of both the Speaker of the N.C. House of Representatives and the Lieutenant Governor. Ex-officio members include representatives from two statewide youth organizations, the North Carolina Native American Youth Organization (NCNAYO), and the North Carolina Native American Council on Higher Education (NCNACOHE).

The Commission operates under the direction of the North Carolina Department of Administration pursuant to G.S. 143A - 6(b) and (c) and is one of two advocacy agencies housed within the department. The Commission employs an executive director to carry out the day-to-day responsibilities and business of the Commission. The executive director serves at the pleasure of the Commission membership and is subject to legislative or other funds that would accrue to the Commission. The executive director is empowered to hire additional staff and consultants to assist in the discharge of his responsibilities, as determined by the Commission, in accordance with the administrative, budget, and management policies of the North Carolina Department of Administration. Additionally, the executive director performs all other administrative duties under the guidance of the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Administration, with respect to state regulations, statutes, and general government policy.

In the performance of its duties, the Commission held four quarterly meetings in SFY 2017-2018. These meetings were held in September and December 2017, March and June 2018. The quarterly meetings were held for the purposes of addressing issues of concern to the Indian citizens of North Carolina, the development of policies and/or programs necessary to alleviate the social and economic problems of the State's American Indian population, and the review of Commission service program activities. Reports were heard from the Commission's standing committees.

Officers

Chairman: Mr. Furnie Lambert of the Lumbee Indian Tribe

Vice Chairwoman: Mrs. Shirley Freeman of the Waccamaw-Siouan Tribe

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Isabell Freeman-Elliott, of the Coharie Tribe

Members

- State Officials
 - North Carolina Department of Administration
 - Secretary Machel Sanders: Designee/Christy Agner
 - North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
 - Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen: Designee/David Locklear
 - NC Department of Environmental Quality
 - Secretary Michael Regan: Designee/John Nicholson
 - NC Department of Labor
 - Commissioner: Cherie Berry: Designee/Jennifer Haigwood
 - NC Department of Commerce
 - Secretary Anthony Copeland: Designee/George Sherrill
 - President Pro Tem Appointee
 - Daniel Locklear
 - Speaker of the House Appointee
 - Wanda Burns-Ramsey
- American Indian Representatives
 - Coharie Intra-Tribal Council: Isabell Freeman Elliott, Lenora Locklear
 - Cumberland Co. Association for Indian People: Gladys Hunt, Helen Cook
 - Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation: Sam Lambert, Marvel Welch
 - Guilford Native American Association: Jennifer Revels-Baxter, DeVane Burnette, Sr.
 - Haliwa-Saponi Tribe: Jeffrey Anstead, Charles Richardson
 - Lumbee Indian Tribe: Larece Hunt, Rev. Ricky Burnette
 - Meherrin Indian Tribe: Constance Mitchell
 - Metrolina Native American Association: Walter Baucom, Jesse Jacobs
 - Sappony Indian Tribe: Ms. Dorothy Stewart Yates
 - Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation: Mr. Tony Hayes
 - Triangle Native American Association: Danny Bell
 - Waccamaw-Siouan Tribe: Elton Ray Jacobs, Shirley Freeman
- Ex-Officio Members:
 - NC Native American Youth Organization: Zane Richardson, Co-Chair and Brayden Nokosi Locklear, Co-Chair
 - NC Native American Council on Higher Education: Vacant

Funding Sources

- NC Commission of Indian Affairs Allocation (NC CIA)
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 Program
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Action Partnership
- Indian Child Welfare
- Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)-Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)

Program Revenue

Description	State Appropriations	Federal Funding	Earnings
NC CIA	308,798		
Section 8 Housing Voucher		4,355,568	50,495.15
WIOA		240,275	
Action Partnership			57,174
Indian Child Welfare			
LEAP		87,736	
VAWA		69,042	
FVPSA		20,000	

Total Revenues

- State Appropriations = \$308,798.00
- Federal Revenue = \$4,995,915.42
- Earnings = \$107,669.15



Caption

Program Descriptions

Community Development Programs

The Community Development Programs focus on developing partnerships and collaborations with local, state and federal resources for the implementation of programs and services for American Indian Senior Citizens, Veterans, Families, Children, Students and American Indians experiencing life changing circumstances which includes victimization. Listed below are some highlights of each program.

- American Indian Workforce Development Program
 - Job training and employment opportunities to unemployed, under employed and low income American Indians in NC.
 - Program service area is in 59 of the 100 NC counties.
 - Skill development through vocational programs at community colleges.
 - Adult work experience component.
 - 55 participants during this reporting period.
 - Program is funded under Title I, Section 166 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

- Domestic Violence/Crime Victim Programs
 - Establishes advocates within tribal communities.
 - Provide service and referrals to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.
 - Conducts outreach to the American Indian population statewide to notify of available resources.
 - Provides educational resources to the American Indian Communities plus many other services.
 - Program funded through FVPSA and VAWA

- Housing Assistance Program

- Housing Choice Voucher Program
- Rent assistance to eligible families in the following counties:
 - Granville
 - Hoke
 - Person
 - Sampson
 - Warren
 - Limited assistance in Halifax and Columbus Counties
- Low Income Housing Tax Credit Project
 - Raeford/Sandy Ridge Apartments.
- Emergency Voucher Program to eligible families.

- Indian Child Welfare Services
 - Assistance and referrals provided to families needing guidance in regards to Indian Child Welfare.
 - Assistance to DHHS agencies in regards to tribal enrollment questions and verification of enrollment questions.
 - Working to establish a program to recruit and train new foster families for American Indian Children in NC.

- Low Energy Assistance Program
 - Educational and outreach programs, on programs available at local department of social service offices, for:
 - American Indian Households.
 - Disabled/Elderly.
 - Families with young children.

- Supporting Undergraduate Native Student Program
 - College educational access and retention program.

- Federal poverty income guidelines apply.
- Provides financial assistance to eligible students.
- Approximately 50 students served each year.

Program History

In 1971, the Commission received its first appropriation of \$12,500 from the North Carolina General Assembly. Since that time, State support has been expanded, and federal funding of service programs has been secured.

Commission staff administers programs and delivers services. The staff conducts other major activities and initiatives as well as those required by General Statutes. Most staff administers programs and services supported by federal grants. State funds supported seven staff positions including the executive director, two clerical positions, three community developers and an economic developer.

Tribes



State Recognition

Since 1976 the Commission has administered procedures for the state recognition of previously unrecognized American Indian tribes and organizations in North Carolina. Authorized by N.C.G.S. 143B-406, the Commission administers tribal recognition procedures, as established under Chapter 15 of the North Carolina Administrative Code. A twelve-member Recognition Committee, composed of representatives of each American Indian tribe and urban American Indian organization, makes recommendations on recognition matters to the full Commission. The Meherrin Tribe of Hertford County was granted state recognition under these procedures in 1986. In 1997, the historic tribal group known as the Indians of Person County had their recognition status reinstated by the North Carolina General Assembly, and are now recognized as Sappony. In March 2000, the Commission officially recognized the Raleigh-based urban Indian organization, Triangle Native American Society, Inc. In February 2002, an Orange County Superior Court Order, issued in accordance with a decision rendered by the North Carolina Court of Appeals, granted legal recognition of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation.

The Commission is now considering the status of a group from Maxton (Robeson County) calling itself the "Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina." The Commission's Recognition Committee began its preliminary review of the group's petition in March 2013.

Key factors addressed during the North Carolina tribal recognition process include the petitioning group's ability to trace its ancestry back to American Indian tribes indigenous to North Carolina prior to 1790 (1 NCAC 15.0203[a]); the petitioner's submission of its membership lists ("tribal rolls") of its interrelated members (1 NCAC 15.0209[6] and 15.0202[5]), which must be consistent with submitted genealogical charts and information; and the petitioning group's satisfaction of five of eight criteria that address various aspects of continuous historic American Indian tribal identity in North Carolina (1 NCAC 15.0212).

The rules which govern the process for state recognition of American Indian tribes may be found at this link: [Recognition Information](#)



Tribes and Organizations

Coharie Indian Tribe

7531 N. US Hwy 421
Clinton NC 28328
Rev. Wilbert Ammons, Chief
Gregory Jacobs, Tribal Administrator
Phone (919) 564-6909
Fax (919) 564-2701

Cumberland Co. Assoc. for Indian People

2173 Downing Road
Fayetteville, NC 28301
Roy Maynor, Chairman
Gladys Hunt, Executive Director
Phone (910) 483-8442
Fax (910) 483-8742

Eastern Band of Cherokee Nation

PO Box 455
Cherokee NC 28719
Richard Sneed, Principal Chief
Mr. Paxton Meyer, Executive Officer
Phone (828) 359-7027
Fax (828) 359-0344

Guilford Native American Association

PO Box 5623
Greensboro, NC 27435
Frances Stewart Lowery, Chairperson
Rick Oxendine, Director
Phone (919) 273-8686
Fax (919) 272-2925

Haliwa-Saponi Tribe

PO Box 99
Hollister NC 27844
Ogletree Richardson, Chief
Archie Lynch, Tribal Administrator
Phone (252) 586-4017
Fax (252) 586-3918

Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

PO Box 2709
Pembroke, NC 28372
Harvey Godwin, Chairman
Dock Locklear, Tribal Administrator
Phone (910) 521-7861
Fax (910) 521-7790

Meherrin Tribe

PO Box 274
Ahoskie, NC 27910
Wayne Brown, Chief
Phone (919) 209-0934

Metrolina Native American Association

8001 N. Tryon Stree
Charlotte NC 28262
Rebecca Laclaire, Executive Director
Phone (704) 926-1524
Fax (704) 347-0888

Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation

PO Box 356
Mebane NC 27302
Tony Hayes, Chairman
Phone (336) 227-4594

Sappony

PO Box 3265
Otis Martin, Chief
Dante Desiderio, Executive Director
Phone (434) 585-3352

Triangle Native American Society

PO Box 26841
Raleigh, NC 27611
Danny Bell, President
Phone (919) 996-9822

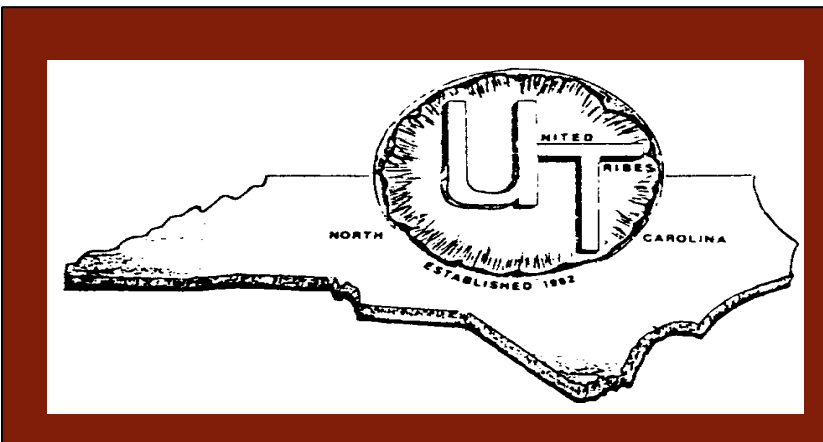
Waccamaw Siouan Indian Tribe

PO Box 69
Bolton, NC 28423
Rev, Mike Jacobs, Chairman
Brenda Moore, Housing Director
Phone (910) 655-8778
Fax (910) 655-8779

Conferences and Special Events

Each year the Commission co-sponsors many activities and events in collaboration with tribes and organizations. Additionally, the Commission provides staff support for Indian conferences, workshops, and other special events.

North Carolina Indian Unity Conference



The 43rd Annual North Carolina Indian Unity Conference was held in Greensboro, North Carolina, March 1-3 2018. United Tribes of North Carolina sponsored the conference, in collaboration with the Commission and tribes and organizations. The conference attracted over 300 participants. Commission staff coordinated various conference activities such as the exhibition and conference facilities; served as facilitators, moderators, recorders and/or speakers at various workshops and general assemblies; assisted with conference registration; and supervised conference security.

North Carolina Indian Youth Unity Conference

The 34th Annual North Carolina Indian Youth Unity Conference was held June ____ at the University of North Carolina at Methodist University in Fayetteville, North Carolina in June. The conference was Co-sponsored by the North Carolina Native American Youth Organization (NCNAYO). The event was attended by over 275 Indian youth and adults representing Indian tribes and organizations from across the State of North Carolina. The highlights of the conference included a powwow, Mister and Miss NCNAYO pageants, talent show, an awards banquet, and art and essay contests. College scholarships were awarded to a number of graduating seniors during the conference.

American Indian Heritage Month in North Carolina

The Honorable Roy Cooper issued a proclamation which proclaimed November 2017 American Indian Heritage Month in North Carolina by an official proclamation during the fiscal year. In collaboration with the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources/N.C. Museum of History, the 20th Annual North Carolina American Indian Heritage Celebration was held at the North Carolina Museum of History. The annual event was attended by more than 10,000 people, and is the largest event held at the museum. United Tribes of North Carolina commissioned a poster for American Indian Heritage Month, and the Commission coordinated numerous activities associated with American Indian Heritage Month.

North Carolina Indian Senior Citizens Coalition Annual Conference

We continue to support the efforts of the North Carolina Indian Senior Citizens Coalition Annual Conference held the first Friday in November in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Highlights of the event included a special presentations, workshops focusing on health, nutrition, physical fitness, and personal safety. There is also a quilt exhibit, vendors, and a highlight of the evening is the banquet and pageant.

North Carolina Indian Economic Initiative

The NC Indian Economic Initiative (NCIEDI) is a 501 C-3 corporation established in 2001 by a Commission Task Force. The NCIEDI was an outgrowth of the Commission's Year 2000 Strategic Plan and was developed for the purpose of addressing Indian Economic Development issues to provide direct services such as business assistance, business planning, financial guidance, etc. Their offices are located in Raleigh, North Carolina.

North Carolina American Indian Fund

The North Carolina American Indian Fund Initiative is a collaborative effort between the Commission and Indian tribes and organizations in North Carolina. The fund was established because the resources for meeting the human and economic needs of Indian communities are very limited. Additionally, the creation of the fund is in response to the need for dedicated funding for scholarships, health, human services, education, and tribal organizational infrastructure programs. The Triangle Community Foundation, located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, manages the American Indian Fund. The North Carolina American Indian Scholarship Fund awarded sixteen \$1000 scholarships to deserving North Carolina American Indian college students during the June NCNAYO Youth Unity conference.

Quarterly Meetings

- September 2015 Raleigh NC
- December 2015 Raleigh NC
- March 2016 Held in conjunction with the NC Unity Conference
- June 2016 Raleigh NC

Quarterly Meetings are generally held the first Friday of September, December, March and June.

Organizational Chart

