

South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs: **Native American Affairs Program**

The Native American Affairs Institute is charged with the mission of serving as the liaison between South Carolina's Native American population and their governments and state government. The Commission carries out its duties under Chapter 31, Title 1 of the SC Code of Laws of 1976, Section 1-31-40 (A) (6) (10) and Chapter 139, Article 1 of the Code of Regulations which include but are not limited to the following:

- Influencing public policy and state services,
- Maintaining an advisory committee,
- Development and dissemination of statistical data,
- Addressing the needs of the population, and
- State Recognition.

Additionally, the Commission is the State of South Carolina's official point of contact for Native American Indian Affairs. We serve as the **"Indian Affairs Commission"** for the state as listed with national partners including the National Conference of State Legislatures, Governor's Interstate Indian Council, National Congress of American Indians, U.S. Department of Interior, U. S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Homeland Security-FEMA , U.S. Department of Agriculture and various other states' Indian Affairs Commissions. South Carolina is one of approximately 27 other state governments that have state Commissions or other similar Indian agencies established to advocate and provide services for Indian citizens.

The Native American Affairs Institute's primary purpose is to **increase socio-economic and educational opportunities** while instilling a positive vision for Native American Indians of South Carolina through promoting and advocating for their rights, beliefs and continued cultural identity. The Commission serves on many advisory boards representing minority communities' interest on various public and private boards and organizations.

The Native American Affairs Institute has partnered with our State's Native American people through the State's ONLY mandated Native American Advisory Committee to accomplished many tasks over the years. Some of the projects and tasks that provided were:

- **technical assistance** to Local, State and Federal government agencies, Colleges and Universities, and tribal communities;
- **trainings** on Cultural Diversity, Outreach, and issues affecting American Indians
- **information and referral** services Native and non-native people through the country;
- written and partnered on several **grants** opportunities;
- continued work on **State Recognition** process and
- developed **partnerships** with local, state and federal agencies on historical and cultural projects.

Past Projects:

- DHEC Diabetes and Tobacco Survey and Outreach Partnership
- OCTech Green Jobs Partnership
- TASH Families and Self-Advocates with Disabilities Empowerment Training
- DHEC Influenza Pandemic Emergency Preparedness Outreach
- Genealogical, Cultural and Historical Research



Major Accomplishments and Impacts of the Native American Affairs Program in South Carolina 2004-2010

Provided program support and assistance in the following areas:

- Economic Development
- Business Development
- Health
- Housing
- Education
- Public Safety
- Indian Law
- State Recognition

The **FIRST** in South Carolina State Government History to:

- provide a process for Native American entities to become officially recognized by the State of South Carolina;
- convene first Native American Affairs State Conferences highlighting issues and culture;
- convene the first Native American Disability Health Forums/Social Security Forums through a partnership with the USC-Medical School Disability Resource Center;
- work with the US Census 2010 American Indian and Tribal Outreach and Mapping Project;
- provide cultural competency trainings specific to Native American Indian Culture, history, and concerns;
- work state and federal agencies in regards to compliance with state and federal laws regarding Native American Indians; and

