

TWO SPIRIT & NATIVE LGBTQ+ CENTER FOR EQUITY



Two Spirit & Native LGBTQ+ Center for Equity (2S Center) is a national non-profit organization developed to address the needs for advocacy, resources, violence prevention, and healing in the Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQ+ and broader communities. The 2S Center's primary purpose is to restore self-determination to Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQ+ relatives, by reclaiming Two-Spirit identities into community and cultural structures.

2S Center's work is guided by our Mission, which is to restore the traditional roles of Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQ+ relatives by leading with compassion, honoring resilience, and leading violence prevention and policy advocacy today and for future generations.

2S CENTER'S VALUES SERVE AS A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR THE ORGANIZATION

“ As we are organizing this work, we want to stand on established values as individuals from our communities, our expertise and our own traditional knowledge, with humility.

1. Being accountable to our communities.
2. Being action-oriented.
3. Valuing and centering our work in culture and Indigenous knowledge.
4. Valuing and recognizing those who are often forgotten in this work.
5. Maintaining a balance in this work.



2S Center is working to combat the mental health and well-being disparities that our community members face, including higher rates of violence, less access to culturally-safe services, and a lack of representation¹.

- 84% of Two-Spirit individuals report experiencing violence in their lifetime, while nearly half of Native/Indigenous LGBTQ+ youth have experienced homelessness or housing instability—the highest rate among all racial groups².
- One-half (50%) of American Indian and Alaska Native respondents who saw a health care provider in the past year reported having at least one negative experience related to being Transgender³.
- Indigenous LGBTQ young people face disproportionately high rates of mental health challenges and structural inequities compared to the overall LGBTQ youth population, including elevated suicide risk and attempt rates, homelessness and housing instability, food insecurity, and attempts to convert their Two-Spirit or LGBTQ+ identity⁴.



In order to address these issues, 2S Center has adopted a Four Pillar Approach for our services.

FOUR PILLAR APPROACH

PILLAR	ACTIVITIES	OUTCOME
Research & Data	Develop, collect, and house literature, resources, and materials.	Develop a clear picture of Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQ+ people's health, well-being, and safety.
Training & Technical Assistance	Conduct training and technical assistance with non-Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQ+ organizations that serve our communities.	Support all organizations to provide culturally safe, accessible, and supportive services to Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQ+ people.
Capacity & Resource Building	Provide support nationally through capacity building services for Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQ+ organizations	Support Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQ+ organizations to be stable, resourced touchstones for their community members.
Policy & Advocacy	Develop model codes and policies for Tribes and other jurisdictions, while engaging in critical conversations and decisions.	Develop culturally safe laws, policies, and Tribal codes that provide adequate protections and rights to Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQ+ people.

3-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Our 3-Year Strategic Plan will focus on our Four Pillar Approach, as well as the vital infrastructure of the organization that ties it all together, pursuing our overall mission to **restore the traditional roles of Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQ+ relatives**. Key objectives and partnerships for each year are below.

YEAR 1

- Establish and solidify the core organizational infrastructure, including foundational administrative governance, and financial systems, such as fundraising and marketing
- Collaborate with Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) efforts, including presenting at MMIR Summits and attending the NCAI VAWA Task Force meetings
- Conduct Tribal Code & Policy Project, working with UCLA School of Law and the Williams Institute
- Co-facilitate the NCAI Two-Spirit Task Force, developing the Task Force's description and goals

YEAR 2

- Stabilize organizational systems and financial capacity and conduct major fundraising events
- Develop the Marlon Fixico Blackkettle Resource Library on the 2S Center's website
- Support regional Two-Spirit organizations across the country by establishing a sponsorship grant fund and offering capacity and resource building support.

YEAR 3

- Continue to deepen the long-term stability of the organization
- Establish the 2S Center as a national leader in Two-Spirit and Native LGBTQ+ advocacy, research, and technical assistance through ongoing partnerships and fundraising.

2025 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secured over \$200,000 in funding in the organization's first year, from foundation and grant partners including a significant multi-year grant commitment from the NoVo Foundation (\$450,000 over 3 years), Ishkode Fund, Kindle Foundation, Trans Justice Funding Project, and the Colorado Trust Foundation.
- Received IRS Tax-Exempt Status, solidifying the 2S Center's infrastructure and financial viability.
- Conducted multiple Virtual Talking Circles to support Native Two-Spirit and Trans communities through political and social changes.
- Established national presence by attending and presenting at over 15 major national and international convenings, including the International Two-Spirit Gathering, the Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits (BAAITS) Powwow, and the HIP/NAP Joint Conference.



WE ARE SEEKING FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING PARTNERS!

**PLEASE REACH OUT TO:
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**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND
SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS**



**TWOSPIRITCENTER.ORG
@TWOSPIRITCENTER**

1. Two-Spirit | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health
2. USW Summary of the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
3. <https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTS-AIAN-Report-Dec17.pdf>
4. The Trevor Project's Research Brief: The Mental Health and Well-Being of Indigenous LGBTQ Young People