

# WCA + NIF; the origins of Natives Count!



2008, Na'ah Illahee Fund co-created the Washington Census Alliance, a statewide coalition of 92 organizations led by and working in communities of color.

Our shared goal was to launch the most ambitious campaign ever to reach historically undercounted populations for Census 2020.

We made a successful case to the Washington State Legislature, who appropriated 15 million dollars for outreach to historically undercounted populations.

We are so proud to live in a state that knows that a healthy society is also fair and just for all peoples.

# Washington Census Alliance

- WCA created a network of over 92 organizations in 20 counties across Washington and deployed a distributed organizing model (growing to over 700 trusted messengers across the state) and worked with local government and the census bureau to ensure a fair and accurate count.
- During the census, over 22,000 people were reached.
- These organizations were supported by the WCA team (staff and advisors) and a coordinating committee made up of 12 organizations that are part of WCA
- WCA will now be transitioning into different civic engagement projects, such as redistricting which will continue into the end of next year



## Our Role

- Our 27 grantees were made up of 12 sovereign Tribal Nations, 12 Native Non-Profits, and 3 Native Community Groups for a total of approx. 147 Trusted Messengers across the State.
- 79% of Tribes in WA State increased their response rate
- In 2020, response rates for Washington State's Native American Tribes were nearly 10% higher than the national average for Native Americans living on reservations.



# Na'ah Illahee Fund

We are an Indigenous women-led organization dedicated to the ongoing regeneration of Indigenous communities.

Focused on Indigenous Ecology, Food Sovereignty, and Wise Action, we work to advance climate and gender justice, while creating healthy pathways towards self-determination and movement-building.

- Indigenous Ecology, Foods and Land Restoration
- Youth Cultural Arts & NDN Tech
- Grant Making & Fiscal Sponsorship
- Mamook Sikhs Indigenous Allyship Course
- E'Lip Tillikum Land Conservancy
- Wise Action Policy Advocacy & Civic Engagement



# Looking Forward



- Continue engagement of the Trusted Messenger network
- Facilitate community input into the re-districting process
- Build civic engagement within urban and rural BIPOC communities at the local and state levels
- Research and develop state policies that are relevant to BIPOC communities
- Inclusive GOTV campaigns
- Advance BIPOC leadership at policy tables
- Develop and support BIPOC candidates
- WA Census Alliance becomes WA Community Alliance