South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations

Performance Metrics

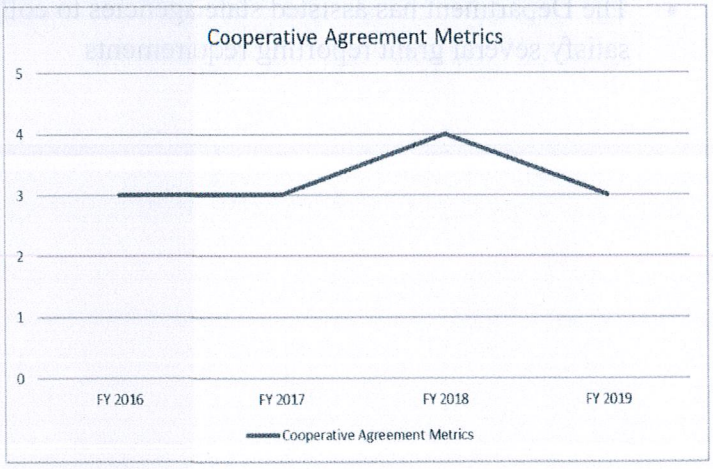
The mission of the Department of Tribal Relations includes recognizing the 9 tribes of SD as distinct political entities, supporting tribal self-governance, working with tribal leaders in a cooperative government–to-government relationship, identifying and coordinating state and federal resources to increase partnerships between state and tribal agencies, and introducing or supporting legislation which improves the quality of life for Native American state citizens.

Goal: Cooperative Development of Tribal Inclusive State Policy and Programing with State Agencies and Constitutional Offices

- Development of tribal specific grant review guidelines adapted to Indian Country jurisdictional issues with Governor's Office of Economic Development
- Development of Tribal Specific Annex within State Disaster Response Plan with Office of Emergency Management
- Updates to publicly distributed Tribal Tax Fact publication with Department of Revenue

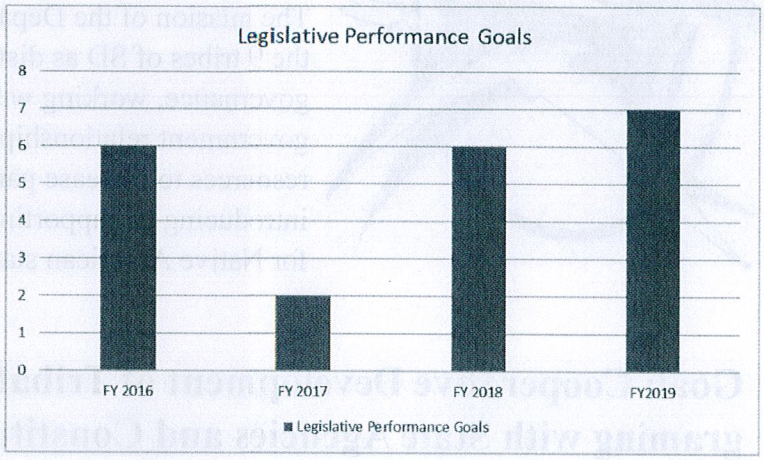
Goal: Establishment of Intergovernmental Agreements made by Tribal Governments with State Agencies and Constitutional Offices for Cooperative Works

- Sisseton-Wahpeton and Flandreau Santee Parole Program partnership with Department of Corrections
- Tribal Unified Commercial Code Business Filing Agreements with Office of Secretary of State
- Memorandums of Understanding with Department of Game, Fish, and Parks for Cooperative Wildlife Management and Data Sharing



Goal: Increase Tribal Government Participation in the South Dakota Legislative Process and Introduce or Support Legislation Developed to Improve the Quality of Life for the Native American Population in the State

- Assisted Legislature Leadership in Development of the State of the Tribes Address
- Developed in partnership with the Legislative Research Council an annual tribal leader legislative training offered to increase tribal input on bills during Legislative Session
- Plan and produce the State-Tribal Relations Day listening session, legislative reception, and rotunda ceremony highlighting state-tribal cooperation on various government policy topics



- Develop, introduce, and support numerous bills to the Legislature supporting tribal interests and self-governance efforts

Goal: Utilize Alternative Dispute Resolution Methods to Resolve Outstanding Financial Impasses Originating from Federal Pass Through Grants

- The Department has assisted the Office of Emergency Management to recoup FEMA disaster recovery grant dollars committed in Indian Country for projects which were not completed.
- The Department has assisted the Department of Labor and Regulation to establish a repayment plan for an unemployment insurance account which fell into serious default
- The Department has assisted state agencies to collect necessary reporting data from Indian Country to satisfy several grant reporting requirements