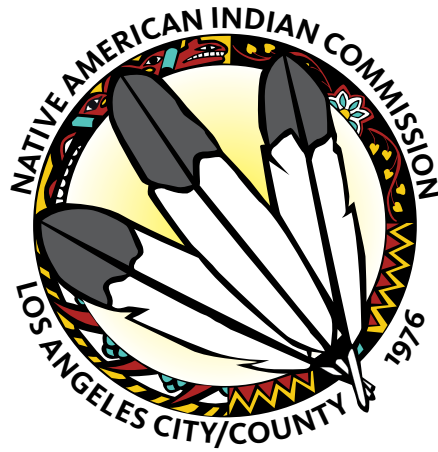




Photo by: Benny Uy

# ANNUAL REPORT 2010



**COMMISSIONER**

**APPOINTED BY**

RUDY ORTEGA JR., Chairman Fernandeño Tataviam	City of LA Mayor Villaraigosa
CHRISSIE CASTRO, Vice Chairperson Navajo	City of LA Mayor Villaraigosa
CHERI THOMAS, Treasurer Quinault/Yurok	Supervisor Gloria Molina
CAROLYN ECHEVERRIA Gabrieleno/Tongva	Native Community
RAMON ENRIQUEZ Tewa – Nambe Pueblo	City of LA Mayor Villaraigosa
DAWN JACKSON Saginaw Chippewa	Native Community
Kimberly Morales-Johnson Gabrieleno/Tongva	Native Community
MAXINE JUDKINS Apache/Cherokee	Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich
IAN SKORODIN Choctaw	City of LA Mayor Villaraigosa
VACANT	City of LA Mayor Villaraigosa
VACANT	Supervisor Gloria Molina
VACANT	Supervisor Don Knabe
VACANT	Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
VACANT	Native Community
VACANT	Native Community
EMERITUS VACANT	Commission

RON ANDRADE, Executive Director  
Luiseno



## Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission

The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission is proud to submit our preliminary Annual Report for the year 2009-2010 and will be released following our 35<sup>th</sup> year anniversary event.

The Ordinance creating the Indian Commission dated June 25, 1976 provides for an Annual Report to be made to the County Board of Supervisors and City of Los Angeles regarding the activities of the Indian Commission.

**With this report we are proud to note that the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission is entering our 35<sup>th</sup> year of serving the Indian community of Los Angeles. It is important to note that my father, Rudy Ortega, Sr. was one of the original members of the first appointees to the Indian Commission.**

The Indian Commission remains the only Indian Commission of its nature in the United States. Further the Self Governance Board created in 1993 is the only Self Governance Board administering a Community Service Block Grant serving urban Indians in the United States. The Indian Commission was formed due to the leadership of Supervisors Ed Edelman and Kenneth Hahn and with the support of Mayor of Los Angeles, Tom Bradley.

The Indian Commission has been witness to extensive changes and progress for the American Indian community of Los Angeles. Yet, the Indian Commission realizes that there is still much work to be done.

The Indian Commission recognizes that this must be a collaborative effort with the Board of Supervisors and the City of Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission is proud to report our activities for the period 2009-2010 and looks forward to many accomplishments in the coming years. As we have noted in previous reports, this work is significant given that the Commissioners serve on a voluntary basis and the staff of the Commission is comprised of one professional staff member and one consultant worker.

Sincerely,  
*R Ortega*  
Rudy Ortega, Jr.  
Chairman



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# ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

LA City Contribution  
32% Growth

32%

five major Indian reservations within a reasonable commute distance that contribute more than \$1 billion a year to the local Los Angeles economy

The Ordinance creating the Indian Commission dated June 25, 1976 provides for an Annual Report to be made to the County Board of Supervisors and City of Los Angeles regarding the activities of the Indian Commission. This report illustrates the various activities of the Indian Commission during the period from the period January 2009 through September 2010.

The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission is comprised of 15 members. Five members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors, five members are appointed by the Mayor of Los Angeles, and five members are elected in community-wide elections. In addition, the five community elected members and one City and one Supervisorial appointee comprises the Self Governance Board. The Self Governance Board is charged with operating and managing the Community Service American Indian Block Grant. As a result of legislation sponsored by the Indian Commission, the County of Los Angeles is the only county in California authorized to receive Community Service American Indian Block Grant funds.

The Los Angeles City and County American Indian population remains the largest concentration of American Indian and Alaskan Natives in the United States. The metropolitan service area which includes Orange County has the largest Indian population in the United States. In addition, there are five major Indian reservations within a reasonable commute distance that contribute more than \$1 billion a year to the local community.

The Indian Commission is proud to note that the contribution from the City of Los Angeles for support of the Indian Commission has increased from the original amount of \$15,000 to \$47,000 per year. This increase has enabled the Indian Commission to provide increased services to the Indian Community.

The areas of activities of the Indian Commission cover a wide range of issues and activities for the benefit of the Indian community of Los Angeles. These areas include:

Intergovernmental Activities

Legislative Advocacy

Grantsmanship

Leveraging Private Resources

Community Education

The Indian Commission has also included recommendations for what we feel will better serve the Indian community and will meet the requirements of the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of Los Angeles. We have included the Recommendations at the beginning of this report in an effort to indicate the limits on our work and the lack of accomplishments that may have occurred. **As we have noted previously, the work of the Commission significant in it's breadth given that the Commissioners serve on a voluntary basis and the staff of the Commission is comprised of one professional staff member and one consultant worker.**

A photograph of a city skyline, likely Los Angeles, featuring several prominent skyscrapers. A large red triangular overlay is positioned on the left side of the image, containing a list of five Native American bands. The text is white and centered within the red area. The background shows a dense urban landscape with various buildings and greenery under a clear sky.

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians

Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians

Over 10,000 American Indians received “Emergency Services” in the Los Angeles County



Photo by: Benny Uy

# MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

## Community Services American Indian Block Grant (CSAIBG)

The Indian Commission took significant efforts to protect and retain the CSAIBG program for the Los Angeles Indian community which has been provided to the Indian community since 1993. The Board of Supervisors and the Indian Commission share grant authority for this program. The Indian Commission received approximately \$383,379 per year for the operation of the CSAIBG program for FY09 and FY10 for a total of \$766,758. These services were designated as "Emergency Services" by the State. During this period the three contract American Indian agencies provided a series of services to over 10,000 American Indians in the County of Los Angeles. The Community Services American Indian Block Grant (CSAIBG) program administered by the Self Governance Board of the Indian Commission served over 10,000 American Indians in the Los Angeles County area. The Self Governance Board administers sub-contracts with three American Indian groups, **United American Indian Involvement (UAI)**, **Gabrieleno/Tongva Tribe**, and **Pukú Cultural Community Services**. The types of services included intake and referral, emergency food, emergency shelter housing, employment assistance, education, youth services, and many other areas of services. The Self Governance Board administers the CSAIBG program in conjunction with the Board of Supervisors and is the only urban area grantee in the State of California.

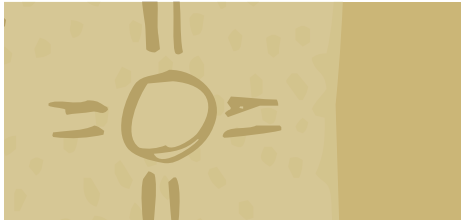
**These are very important services since almost all of the non-Indian service providers in the County provide little of no services to the American Indian community.** As an example of the lack of services, the Community Health Centers in California wrote a letter in response to President Bush's budget that the Community Health Centers would NOT be able to provide services to the American Indian clients if the Indian Health Service program was eliminated in Los Angeles. In President Obama's Budget it was recommended that the Community Services Block Grant program be eliminated from the Department of Health and Human Services budget. The Indian Commission made extensive efforts to notify the Indian community nationwide of the potential for the loss of the CSBG program. The loss to the Indian community nationwide would have been approximately \$7 million. At present, the Senate has not approved the President's budget after extensive lobbying efforts of coalitions within the CSBG community including the Indian Commission.

As a part of the Community Service Block Grant nearly 90% of that amount is subcontracted to American Indian service agencies. In addition, the Indian Commission advocates for approximately \$8 million in federal funding that is also allocated to Indian agencies in the County of Los Angeles. The Indian Commission is the most active off reservation agency in the State advocating on behalf of legislation pertinent to the Indian community. The Indian Commission has been able to achieve many significant accomplishments for the betterment of the Indian community but the lack of funding limits the potential benefits that might be achieved.



# MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION



Indian Commission/Self Governance Board was awarded **\$688,965** through President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009

## CSBG-ARRA

The Indian Commission/Self Governance Board was awarded \$688,965 in November 2009 through the State Office of Community Development. This enabled the Indian Commission to create 21 positions with a final count of 16 full time positions. Funding from the Indian Commission enabled the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians to create a tribally owned business, NDN.ME which is a full service internet development company. Funding from the ARRA program equipped Pukúu Cultural Community Services to assist the American Indian Healing Center to sustain outreach staff to enable the clinic to expand their third party billing systems. Funding from the ARRA program enabled the United American Indian Involvement program (UAI) to hire billing specialists as well as outreach staff to increase the number of Indian people who could utilize the UAI programs.

## Special Indian Child Welfare program for American Indians

The Commission is proud to announce, that as a result of the efforts of the Indian Commission, a new law addressing the needs of Indian children in the child welfare system was introduced and passed in the State legislature. AB770 was signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger in August, 2009. This law enables tribes to assume jurisdiction for their Indian children in the child welfare system pursuant to the federal law, Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 became Public Law 110-351 on October 7, 2008. The language of the law as proposed by the Indian Commission indicates: This bill would make it the policy of the state to maximize the opportunities for Indian tribes to operate foster care programs for Indian children pursuant to the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. This bill would require the State Department of Social Services to modify the state foster care plan required under specified provisions of federal law to implement the provisions of the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 in a manner that maximizes the opportunities for Indian tribes to operate foster care programs for Indian children.

## Indian Child Welfare Act

The Indian Commission has agreed to serve as a member of an ad hoc committee established by the Department of Children and Family Services to review and make recommendations for the American Indian unit. Los Angeles County, among all counties nationwide, has the highest number of Indian children within the protective system.

## Kiicha project

The Indian Commission initiated the Kiicha project to assist Indian youth who would be emancipating from the child welfare system. Kiicha is a traditional Luiseno Indian word referring to "coming home". The Indian Commission offered to assist any Indian child who would be leaving the foster care program and would be looking for employment or any other social service. Contacts were made with Indian social service agencies who have offered to assist any emancipating Indian child. Also, support was received from surrounding Indian Tribes which have also to provide assistance to the emancipating youth.

## Los Angeles City American Indian Heritage Month November 2009 & 2010

The Indian Commission has partnered with the City of Los Angeles to conduct the Heritage month activities conducted by the City of Los Angeles. The Indian Commission has coordinated the special day activities conducted at City Hall which has included presentations by the Mayor, appearances before the City Council, and special activities conducted for the American Indian community.

## Board of Equalization (BOE) Publication 146 — 2009

The Indian Commission assumed the lead in working with the BOE in the revision of BOE publication 146. With the support of now Congresswoman Judy Chu and with the continued support of BOE Chairperson Betty Yee, these revisions included the extension of special tax exemptions for State recognized tribes which would have applied to the Gabrieleno Tongva Tribe of San Gabriel. The final revisions to Publication 146 were extensive and widely supported by Indian Tribes and communities throughout the State.

## **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs (OJJDP) — 2010**

Commissioners and staff researched the availability of funds from the OJJDP office to benefit the Indian youth in Los Angeles. Meetings were held with federal program staff regarding the availability of funding and program requirements. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention seriously under funds California. In 2010, California received \$1,200 from OJJDP. The State kicks in \$80,000 from their own funds but it is still only \$81,000 for all the Tribes of California which total 110 Tribes. There are very few juvenile detention centers funded by BIA/HIS. This means that the majority of Indian kids are in State operated detention centers. This means we need to determine just how much of the OJJDP funds are allocated to Indian Tribes or Indian communities in all States. Further review must be done of those portions of the regulations we hope to change for the benefit of Indian children.

## **Special Forest Products Final Rule Issued 2009**

The Indian Commission worked closely with the incoming administration to suspend and eventually remove proposed regulations designed to restrict the opportunity for tribes such as the Gabrieleno and Fernandeno to gather cultural and religious products from U.S. Forest Lands in California. The proposed regulations restricted gathering of cultural and religious items from Forest Service lands to only federally recognized Tribes.

## **2010 Census**

The Indian Commission did extensive work on the conduct of the 2010 Census. The Indian Commission attended meetings and conferences conducted by the Regional Office of the Census Bureau. The Indian Commission coordinated with the regional tribal and off-reservation communities to promote the Census efforts.

## **International Visitors Council of Los Angeles:**

The Indian Commission has assisted the International Visitors Center in hosting visitors from Chile. The delegation was comprised of indigenous leaders from Chile who asked to meet with Tribal leaders in southern California. The Indian Commission coordinated meetings for the visitors with the Indian school at the Soboba Indian reservation in San Jacinto and the Pala Indian reservation in San Diego.

## **Federal Recognition**

The Indian Commission has continued to work with the local indigenous Tribes in their efforts to gain federal recognition. The Indian Commission has coordinated meetings between various federal legislators, State legislators, and other federally recognized Tribes in an effort to assist the local Tribes.

## **Racial Mascots**

The Indian Commission has coordinated with Indian groups who have sought, in a long-standing effort, to remove racial mascots from sport team names in the State of California. Despite wide spread support for this bill from every Indian community in the State, the Governor vetoed previous bills. Continuing efforts are planned to remove the use of Indian mascots.

## **Legislative and Program research**

The Indian Commission provides extensive legislative and program research pertaining to American Indian issues to all American Indian community groups, colleges, Tribes, legislative offices, and interested individuals within Los Angeles County. The Indian Commission maintains a database of Indian agencies within the County and continually monitors federal and State legislation, Court cases of importance to the Indian community, federal regulatory actions pertinent to the Indian community, and program availability for the Indian community from State, federal, and private sources.

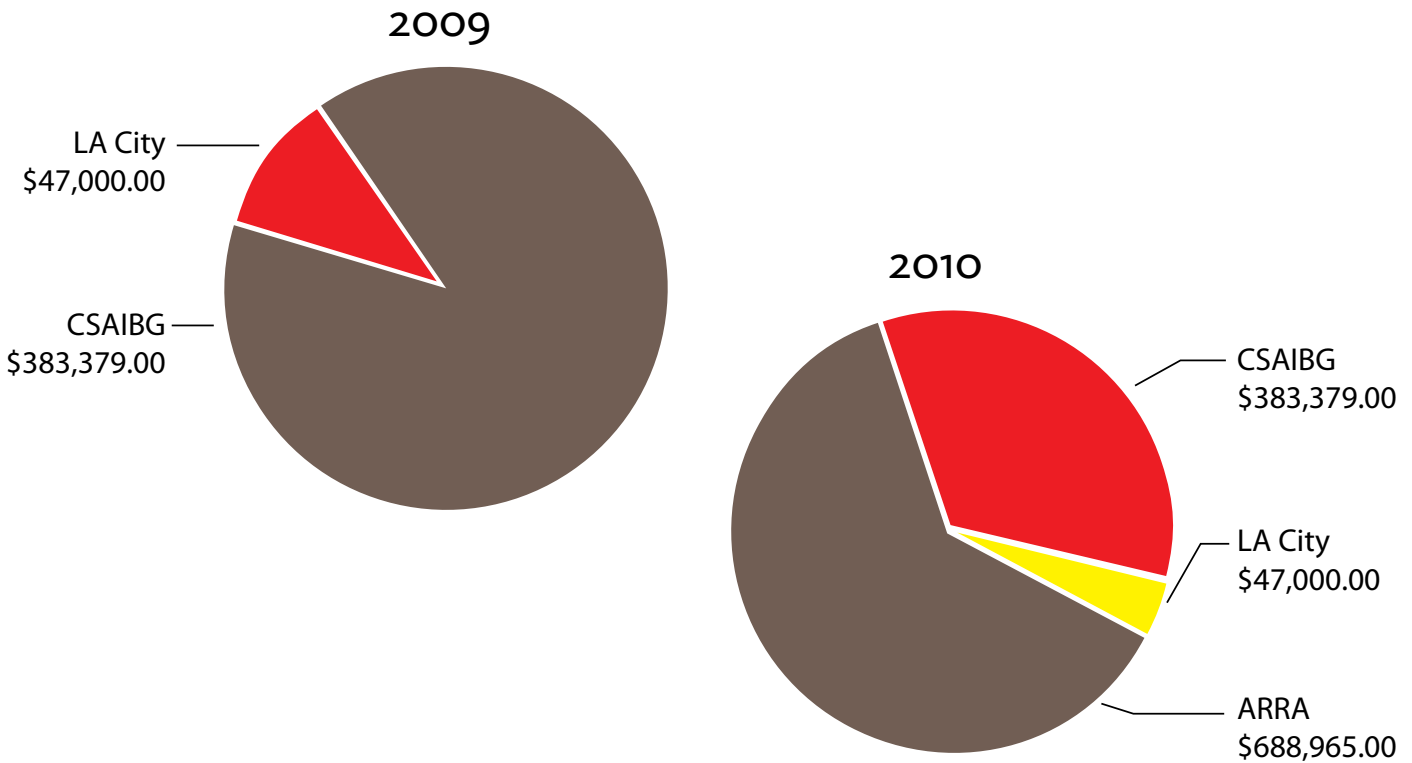
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Indian Commission  
advocates for approximately  
\$8 million in federal funding



# GRANTSMANSHIP & CHARTS

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION



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## City Budget Contribution

The County received funding from the City of Los Angeles in the new amount of \$47,000 per year to support the efforts of the Indian Commission. Funds have been received from the City for year 2004. The Indian Commission staff has arranged to provide all the necessary funding information to the City Clerks office for 2006.

## CSAIBG grant - RFP, grant negotiations with State, grant negotiations with grantees.

Indian Commission staff has continued oversight of the CSAIBG grant and has clarified the law as it pertains to the Indian program. The State requested that all CSBG grantees clarify their status and certify that each agency is in compliance with the tri-partite board requirement as stated in the federal law. The Indian Commission provided information to the State that the Self Governance Board was in compliance with the law. The State has certified that the Self Governance Board does meet the requirement of the law. Further, Commission staff has negotiated with the Indian organizations that have been funded as a part of the CSAIBG program. The Self Governance Board maintains oversight and monitoring of the activities of each of the CSAIBG grantees.

## Southern California Indian Scholarship Fund

The Indian Commission has been very active with the efforts of the Fund in the area of fundraising. The Indian Commission assisted in securing an agreement with Congressman Joe Baca to be the keynote speaker at the 2009 banquet.

## Speaking arrangements

The Indian Commission has assisted other agencies seeking speakers or participation of the Indian community in their events.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

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**AS NOTED IN THE TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR THIS REPORT**, the Indian Commission has continued to serve the Los Angeles Indian community for 30 years. Yet, the Indian Commission is funded for only one staff position from the County of Los Angeles and a yearly \$47,000 contribution from the City of Los Angeles. The Indian Commission in conjunction with the County of Los Angeles manages a contract for the Community Services American Indian Block Grant in the amount of \$347,968 for FY 2005.

The work of the Indian Commission and the assistance of the Community and Senior Services (CSS) has become distant and strained during the past years. As an example, we were informed that the Net County Cost (NCC) allocated to CSS for the Indian Commission has nearly doubled in the recent years. While we greatly appreciate the support of the Board of Supervisors, CSS failed to notify the Indian Commission of this increase. In 2007, Cynthia Banks, Director of DCSS, stated that CSS desperately needed the funding the Indian Commission receives from the City of Los Angeles (\$47,000) to make up the shortfall between the NCC allocated by the County and the administration costs allocated to the Indian Commission. Now that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) has increased the NCC, we would like to know what happened to the City contribution of \$47,000 and why hasn't the Indian Commission been notified of the revised budgets.

The Indian Commission and Self Governance Board have experienced extensive interference in our program operations. We have experienced staff contacting our State monitors to request information instead of simply asking the Indian Commission. In the case of the \$688,965 received by the Indian Commission in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funds, CSS staff stated they didn't feel we could operate the program and recommended NOT accepting the funds. The ARRA funds were eventually accepted but it required the Indian Commission contacting the BOS.

We have experienced excessive delays in receiving reimbursements for costs attributed to the Indian Commission. The Indian Commission and Self Governance Board members have forgone the stipends that they are legally eligible to receive and instead have redirected those funds to our programs. Yet, excessive amounts of time have been taken to reimburse the cost of food and drinks for their meetings. These costs have not been excessive totaling around \$35.00 per meeting. In comparison, the stipend costs would total over \$300.00 per meeting.

In May, 2010 the Indian Commission was moved without reason to a smaller, less accessible room to the Indian community at 3333 Wilshire. This afforded the Indian Commission limited space and eliminated the possibility of space for volunteers or interns. The Commission is still trying to get basic help with the office space after a year of being moved.

### **Recommendations:**

#### **1. Increased engagement between Board Deputies and Supervisor Appointees**

As noted in the Ordinance creating the Indian Commission, quarterly or monthly meetings should be held with Board office deputies and the Supervisor appointees to the Indian Commission to review problems/activities/challenges facing the Indian community. As an example, the Indian community has had recent problems with the Coroner's office with the release of the remains of Indian deceased. There was no one in CSS who could assist us with resolving these issues.

The Indian community continues to experience problems with the administration of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). Recent California court decisions have mandated that Indian youth in juvenile facilities are also covered under the provisions of ICWA yet no effort has been made to include the Indian Commission or other Indian agencies on the implementation of the court decision on Los Angeles County juvenile facilities.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

**2. Mandated meetings between CSS and Indian Commission:**

Mandatory meetings between CSS key staff and the Indian Commission should be mandated to address concerns such as budget, fiscal, contract development, etc. This would eliminate the necessity of seeking external information on the Commission activities such as contact with State offices.

**3. Defined budgeting and accounting guidelines:**

Clear, defined budgeting and accounting guidelines for administering Indian Commission funds received as a part of Net County Cost as well as the administration of funds received from the City of Los Angeles or from private donations.

**4. Expanded resources for adequate staffing:**

Increase of funding from the County and City to enable the Indian Commission to employ or contract for additional positions to assist in the work of the Indian Commission.

**5. Greater coordination with City and County agencies:**

Increase in cooperation with City and County agencies to assist in the development of programs and a corresponding increase in funding for Indian programs. In previous years the Department of Mental Health of the City of Los Angeles chose not to assist the Indian Health Clinic in applying for a SAMHSA grant for the direct benefit of the Indian community. The Indian Commission assisted the Clinic in finding an Indian organization to secure the funding. Subsequently a grant of approximately \$1 million per year for five years was awarded to the Indian Clinic. As a result the City of Los Angeles lost nearly \$70,000 in administration funds available from the grant.

**6. Mandated City and County data collection, compilation and sharing:**

Increase in data compilation and data sharing between City and County agencies with the Indian Commission and Los Angeles Indian agencies. The City and County agencies either do not compile or do not report data relative to the Indian Community. As a result, the ability of the Indian community to utilize data in program planning or fundraising is very limited.

**7. Increased appointments of American Indians on City and County Commissions and Boards:**

Increase in the participation of American Indians in Commissions and Boards of the City and County. While the County of Los Angeles has the largest population of American Indians of any county nationwide, there are virtually no American Indians appointed to various Commissions and Boards with the exception of the Los Angeles Indian Commission and the Workforce Investment Board. While the Indian Commission has been in existence for 35 years, the Indian Commission has not been utilized to identify potential Indian candidates for other Commissions and Boards. The Indian Commission had occupied a position on the City Community Action Board but that position was removed from the Commission in 2003.