

Dakota Ojibway Child & Family Services

"TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN"



Indigenous Youth Aging Out of Care



OVERVIEW



Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services was the first Indigenous Child Welfare Agency in Canada to be mandated in 1981 to provide a full range of child welfare services. The original intent and vision of the agency has been “Taking Care of Our Own”. During the last 36 years the agency has remained true and steadfast to fulfilling this vision.

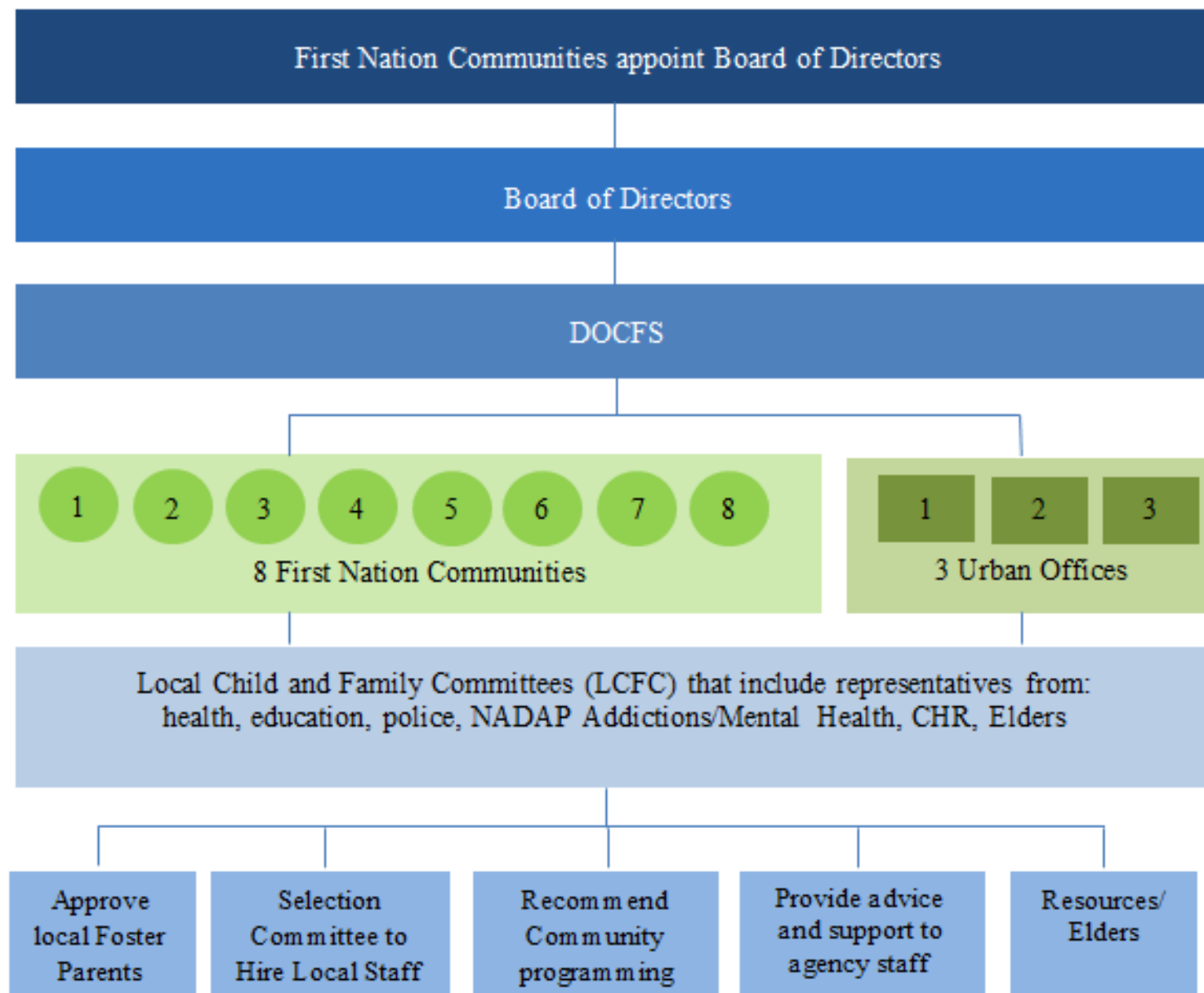
VISION

“Taking Care of Our Own”

MISSION

Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services will protect our children and strengthen our families and communities capacity to care for their children.

GOVERNANCE



INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Canada Stats

- 1,700,000 Indigenous people across Canada
- First Nation, Metis, Inuit and non-status
- With distinct languages, customs and traditions



INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Historical Impacts

- Treaties
- Colonialism
- Residential Schools
- 60's Scoop
- Discrimination
- Poverty



CHILDREN IN CARE

- In 2013, there were an estimated **62,428** children in out-of-home care across Canada ([Jones, Sinha, & Trocmé, 2015](#)).
- **57.8%** of youth experiencing homelessness reported some type of involvement with child protection services in their lifetime.

**Report: Child Welfare and Youth Homelessness in
Canada: A proposal for Action, Canadian Observatory on
Homelessness Press**

Manitoba Stats



- **68.2%** of youth experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg spent time in care of Child Welfare. Manitoba has over 11,000 children in care
- Estimated that **500** youth leave care in Manitoba very year

Report: Here and Now, The Winnipeg Plan to End Youth Homelessness

Economic impact



- Former Indigenous youth earn \$326,000 less in their life time compared to average Canadians
- Over a 10 year period the cost to the economy could be estimated \$8 billion in lost productivity

***Report: First Nation Child & Family Caring Society -
The Aboriginal Children in Care Working Group,
Aboriginal Children in Care: Report to Canada's
Premiers***

Youth aging out of care compared to their peers, are more likely to: [?]



- leave school before completing their secondary education [?]
- become a parent at a young age [?]
- be dependent on social assistance [?]
- be unemployed or underemployed [?]
- be incarcerated/involved with the criminal justice system [?]
- experience homelessness [?]
- have mental health problems and [?]
- be at higher risk for substance abuse problems

Jurisdiction issues



- Indigenous children are served by complex systems, including Provincial and Federal legislation and policy standards
- First Nation youth On Reserve
- Urban Services Off Reserve
- Limited prevention / life skills programs

Indigenous Youth Voices



- Prevention and early interventions
- Mentorship
- Access to housing supports
- Access to healing, addiction and mental health supports that are culturally appropriate services
- Life skills

Promising Practices



Across the country, Indigenous led programs are finding innovative ways to support Indigenous youth

- Beaver Medicine Bundle (Winnipeg) – Housing First Approach for youth aging out of care
- Ndinawe Second Stage Housing (Winnipeg) - for youth aging out of care
- Lu'ma Native Housing Society (Vancouver) – Youth Mentorship and Housing Program
- DOCFS Youth Transitioning Coordinator

CONTACT INFORMATION



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