

THE FIVE Rs OF INDIGENOUS PHILANTHROPY

At Native Americans in Philanthropy, we embrace the Five Rs of Indigenous Philanthropy: **Respect, Reciprocity, Responsibility, Relationships, and Redistribution.**

These values are outlined by the International Funders for Indigenous Peoples and were built upon the foundational 4 Rs Core Cultural Values developed by LaDonna Harris and Americans for Indian Opportunity. Together, they guide our work and serve as essential practices for anyone engaging with Indigenous communities. When these values are honored, philanthropy becomes more ethical, effective, and grounded in Indigenous ways of being.

RESPECT begins with recognizing the inherent rights, worldviews, and self-determination of Indigenous peoples. This means approaching partnerships with humility, honoring sovereignty, and making space for Indigenous ways of knowing and being. Respect is the foundation of all meaningful and lasting collaboration.

RECIPROCITY is a two-way street, and to practice reciprocity is to “be open to learning, unlearning, and receiving.” It means sharing resources and knowledge in equal measure and honoring what is offered with meaningful and sustainable support. True reciprocity creates balance and ensures that relationships are grounded in mutual benefit.

RESPONSIBILITY calls us to act with integrity, transparency, and intention. It means including Indigenous Peoples in decision-making, designing accessible and flexible processes, and staying accountable to the communities we serve. Upholding this value requires more than good intentions—it demands consistent action and care in every part of the philanthropic relationship.

RELATIONSHIPS are the heart of meaningful philanthropy. Building trust takes time and it means listening deeply, showing up consistently, and collaborating with authenticity. Relationships thrive when we invest in long-term connection over short-term outcomes.

REDISTRIBUTION asks us to shift both resources and power into Indigenous hands. This includes removing barriers, funding Native-led work directly, and creating space for self-determined solutions. When we invest in Indigenous leadership, we ensure that Indigenous Peoples are decision-makers, not just grantees.