

## **WHITE EARTH OPIATE TREATMENT CENTER**

### **BACKGROUND for HF 3537**

This is a multi-purpose campus for sale with a central facility as well as dorms and cabins on the property. The vision of the Behavioral Health initiative at White Earth is to utilize the space for substance abuse treatment programming. The opioid crisis is not unique to White Earth but has impacted our region particularly hard. Mahnomen County has the highest opioid overdose and treatment entry admissions per capita than other areas in the State. Mahnomen County is encompassed entirely within the White Earth Reservation.

### **SUCSESSES:**

White Earth open the first drug & alcohol treatment facility for children in 2007 located in Bemidji. The facility has been successfully treating youth at this facility. In 2013, it added a MOM's program for pregnant teens who were addicted. The girls were placed in the program and it has significantly reduced the number of newborns born addicted to drugs.

White Earth has created one of the first culturally specific integrated care systems addressing the opioid crisis in both residential as well as outpatient treatment programming. White Earth began these programs in 2015, with over 100 inpatient treatment successful graduates and over 100 outpatient treatment successful graduates, as well as over 190 current members in treatment.

### **NEEDS:**

We have a men's inpatient treatment facility that can only house 8 men in inpatient capacity with 4 additional men in aftercare. We have nothing for men to have their children reside with them in treatment while avoiding out of home placements. We don't have sober housing for men following inpatient treatment nor while in outpatient treatment and as a result have a large population of homeless sober men, which increases risk for relapse.

Our women's inpatient facility has a capacity for 26 women, but has a waiting list of 20 women. Women can reside in this facility with their children to avoid out of home placement for their children.

We don't have space at any of our facilities that's conducive to group activities, recovery oriented community activities where people can continue to receive sober support on the evenings, weekends. Cultural activities that are scheduled throughout the week, and are directly responsible for our population's success in treatment, have no facility to consistently provide this.

The White Earth Opiate Treatment Center poses the possibility of offering expanded inpatient, aftercare, sober housing for men. Alternatively it offers expanded women's inpatient treatment with aftercare and sober housing. The remainder of the facility allows for a permanent home for cultural activities and community sober support activities.

White Earth is requesting \$1 million to help with renovations to the facility

### **TREATMENT FUNDING**

Once the facility is open, the county and the State will no longer need to budget funding for the treatment of members. The treatment dollars will come from a federal program called "638 funding"