

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Wednesday, March 6, 2024

CSVANW Calls for Swift and Transparent Action Following Allocation of \$200k in State Budget to Address MMIWR Crisis

Albuquerque, N.M. – The [Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women \(CSVANW\)](#) is urging swift and transparent action following the allocation of \$200,000 in the New Mexico State budget to address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIWR).

CSVANW recognizes this funding as a significant step forward in addressing the urgent need for action to combat the MMIWR crisis. However, the organization emphasizes the importance of ensuring that this funding is utilized effectively and that the resulting task force operates with transparency, inclusivity, and accountability.

"This allocation of funding represents a critical opportunity to make tangible progress in addressing the MMIWR crisis," said Tiffany Jiron, Executive Director for CSVANW. "However, it is essential that this funding is used in a transparent and accountable manner, with meaningful input from MMIWR advocates and survivors."

CSVANW is calling on the state to prioritize the voices of MMIWR advocates and survivors in the formation and operations of the task force funded by this allocation. The organization emphasizes the importance of a trauma-informed and culturally sensitive approach in addressing the MMIWR crisis.

Transparency and accountability are paramount in this process. CSVANW urges the state to provide regular updates on the progress and activities of the task force, ensuring that the needs of MMIWR survivors and families are met.

"As advocates for justice, healing, and safety for Indigenous communities affected by MMIWR, we are committed to ensuring that this funding is utilized effectively to address this crisis," Jiron said. "We will continue to advocate for transparency, inclusivity, and accountability in the implementation of this funding to ensure meaningful action is taken."

CSVANW remains dedicated to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to address the MMIWR crisis and to advocate for the safety and well-being of Indigenous women and their relatives.

For media inquiries or further information, please contact media@csvanw.org

###

[CSVANW](#) is an award-winning organization at the forefront to a dynamic approach to the tribal domestic and sexual violence fields that is demonstrating the most effective, creative and innovative ways to address and prevent the cycle of violence within tribal communities.

1-Minute Statement:

"At CSVANW, we commend the allocation of \$200k in the NM State budget for a new task force addressing the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons crisis. This is a crucial step forward in addressing the urgent need for action. However, we must ensure that this task force is transparent, inclusive, and accountable to the communities it serves. CSVANW urges the state to prioritize the voices of MMIWR advocates and survivors in the formation and operations of this task force. Together, let's work towards justice, healing, and safety for Indigenous communities."

2-Minute Statement:

"At CSVANW, we applaud the allocation of \$200k in the NM State budget for a new task force dedicated to addressing the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons crisis. This funding demonstrates a commitment to taking concrete steps towards addressing this urgent issue.

"However, while this allocation is a positive development, it is crucial that we ensure transparency, inclusivity, and accountability in the formation and operations of this task force. CSVANW believes that the voices of MMIWR advocates and survivors must be central to the work of this task force. We urge the state to prioritize the inclusion of these voices in decision-making processes and to actively engage with Indigenous communities throughout the process. Additionally, we emphasize the importance of a trauma-informed and culturally sensitive approach in addressing the MMIWR crisis.

"Transparency is paramount in this process, and CSVANW calls on the state to provide regular updates on the progress and activities of the task force. We believe that transparency fosters trust and accountability and ensures that the needs of MMIWR survivors and families are met.

"CSVANW remains committed to advocating for justice, healing, and safety for Indigenous communities affected by MMIWR. We will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that the voices of MMIWR advocates and survivors are heard and that meaningful action is taken to address this crisis."

Statement during the recent legislative session:

We support the appropriation in the current New Mexico budget from the legislature to fund a MMIP task force within the Attorney General's office, as it could provide the necessary resources and institutional support for the task force's longevity. We call on Governor Michelle Lujan-Grishman to not veto this item of the budget, and for Attorney General Raul Torrez to support the work should the budget be approved.

We deeply value and appreciate the work of the previous task force and all its members. However, we must address the concerning lack of communication from the governor's administration since the dissolution of the MMIWR Task Force as well. CSVANW is actively

advocating to secure our spot on the council to ensure that the voices of MMIWR advocates are heard and represented.

CSVANW emphasizes the importance of elevating the continued need for transparency and accountability in this work. We believe that all stakeholders should be actively engaged in the process to ensure that the needs of MMIWR survivors and families are met.

We also recognize the importance of culturally sensitive and trauma-informed approaches in addressing the MMIWR crisis. CSVANW is committed to working collaboratively with partners to develop solutions that center the voices and experiences of Indigenous communities.

Ultimately, CSVANW remains steadfast in our commitment to justice and healing for MMIWR survivors and families. We will continue to advocate for systemic changes that address the root causes of violence and ensure that Indigenous communities are supported and empowered to heal."