



NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association

Protecting our children • Preserving our culture

Relational Worldview

A tribal and cultural framework for
service delivery and program
development

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What is “culture”?

- Let’s brainstorm...
- the integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief, and behavior that depends upon man's capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations
- the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group
- the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterizes a company or corporation

Individual Cultural Competence

“The state of being capable of functioning effectively in the context of cultural differences”



Elements of Cultural Competence

1. Awareness and acceptance of difference
2. Awareness of own cultural values
3. Understanding the “dynamics of difference”
4. Development of cultural knowledge
5. Ability to adapt practice to fit the cultural context of the client/family

Linear Worldview

Social Work/Medical Model

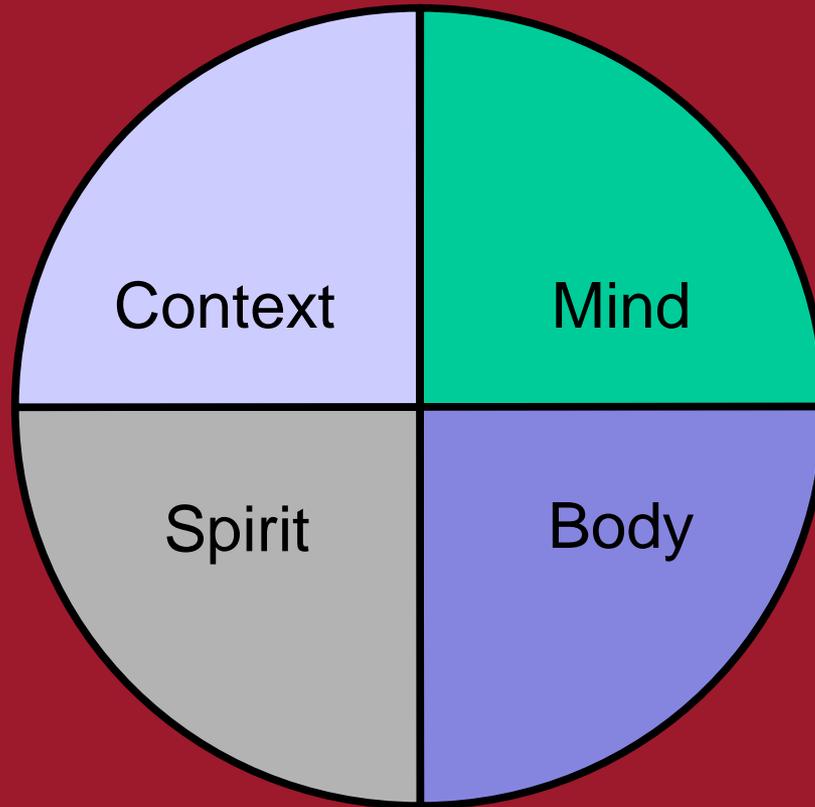


Cause → Effect → New Cause → New Effect

Social History → Presenting Problem → Assessment → Treatment → Outcome

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Native and Tribal Thought



BALANCE

Relational Worldview

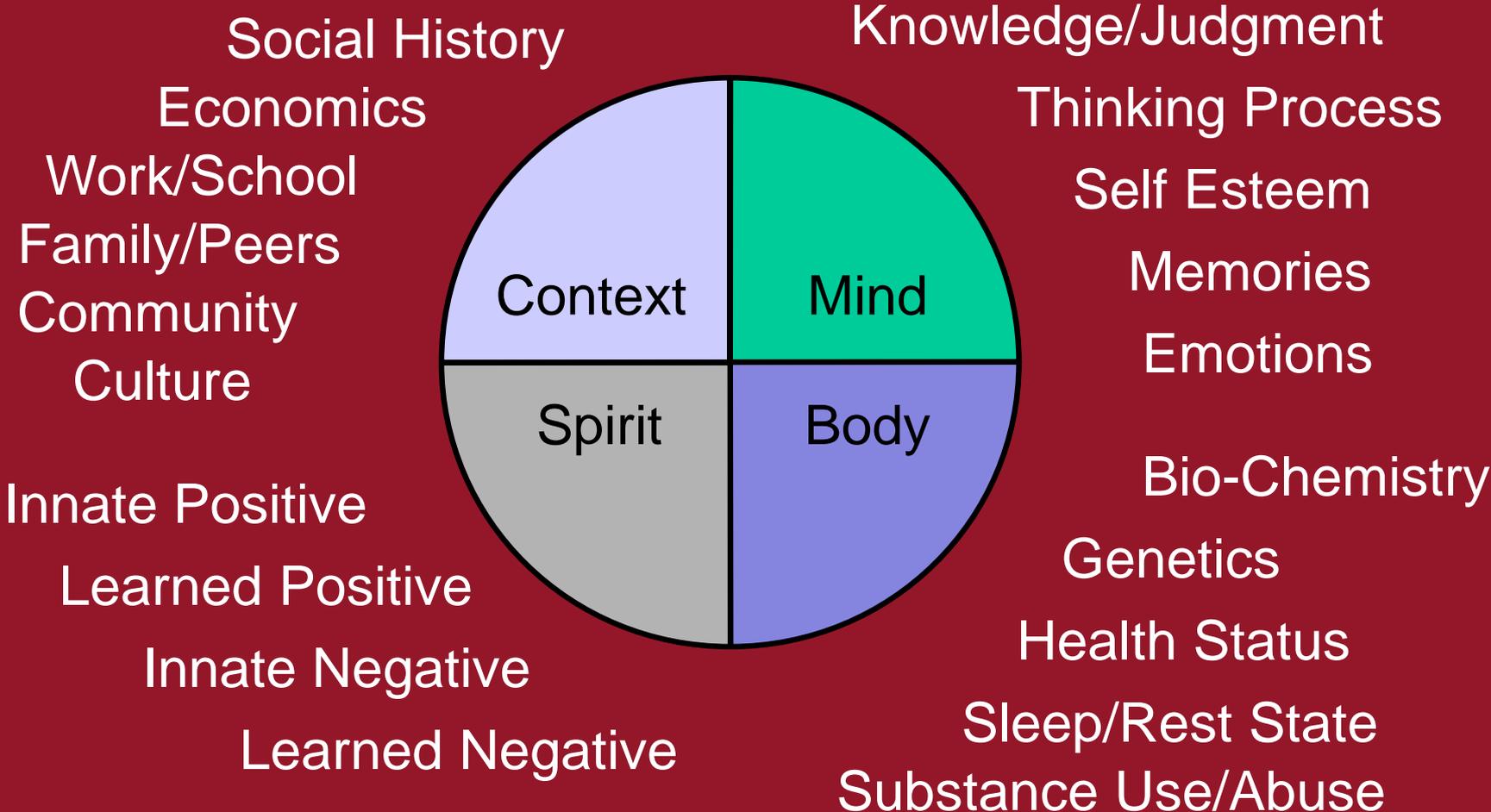
Native and Tribal Thought

- Fluid, cyclical view of time
- Each aspect of life is related
- Services aim to restore balance
- Interventions may not be directed at “symptoms”
- Underlying question is “how?”



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Individual and Family Level



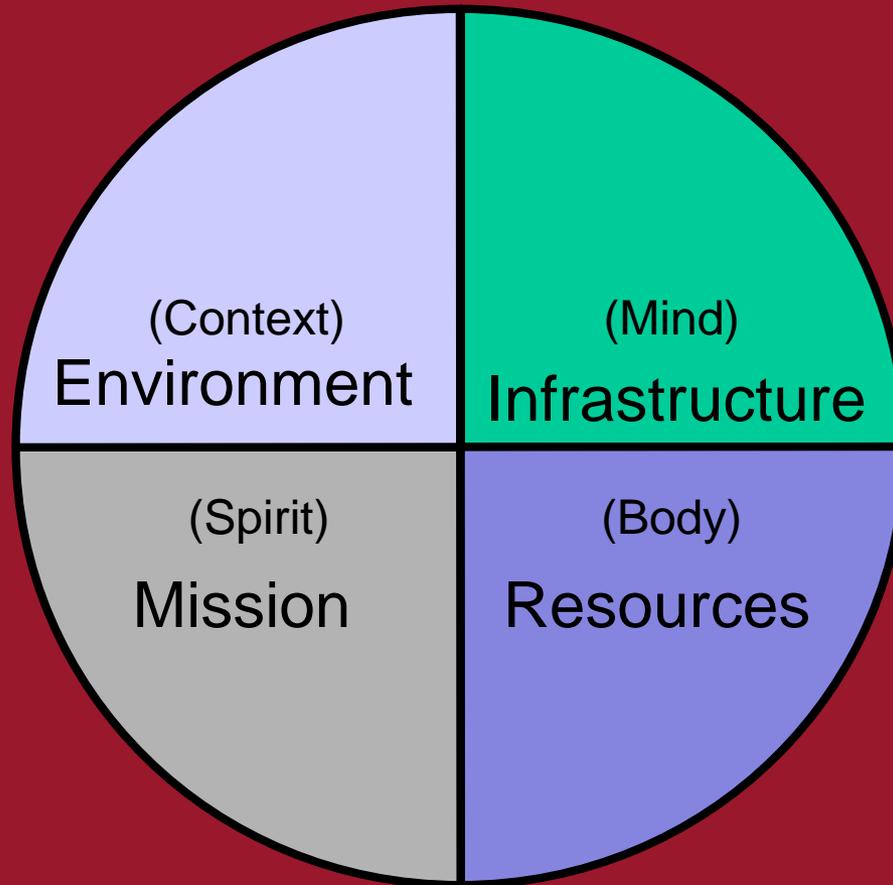
From Individual to Organization

- The model of balance can be applied to organizations and communities.
- Each element of the individual model has a parallel in an organization.
- This is the basis for NICWA's approach to technical assistance.



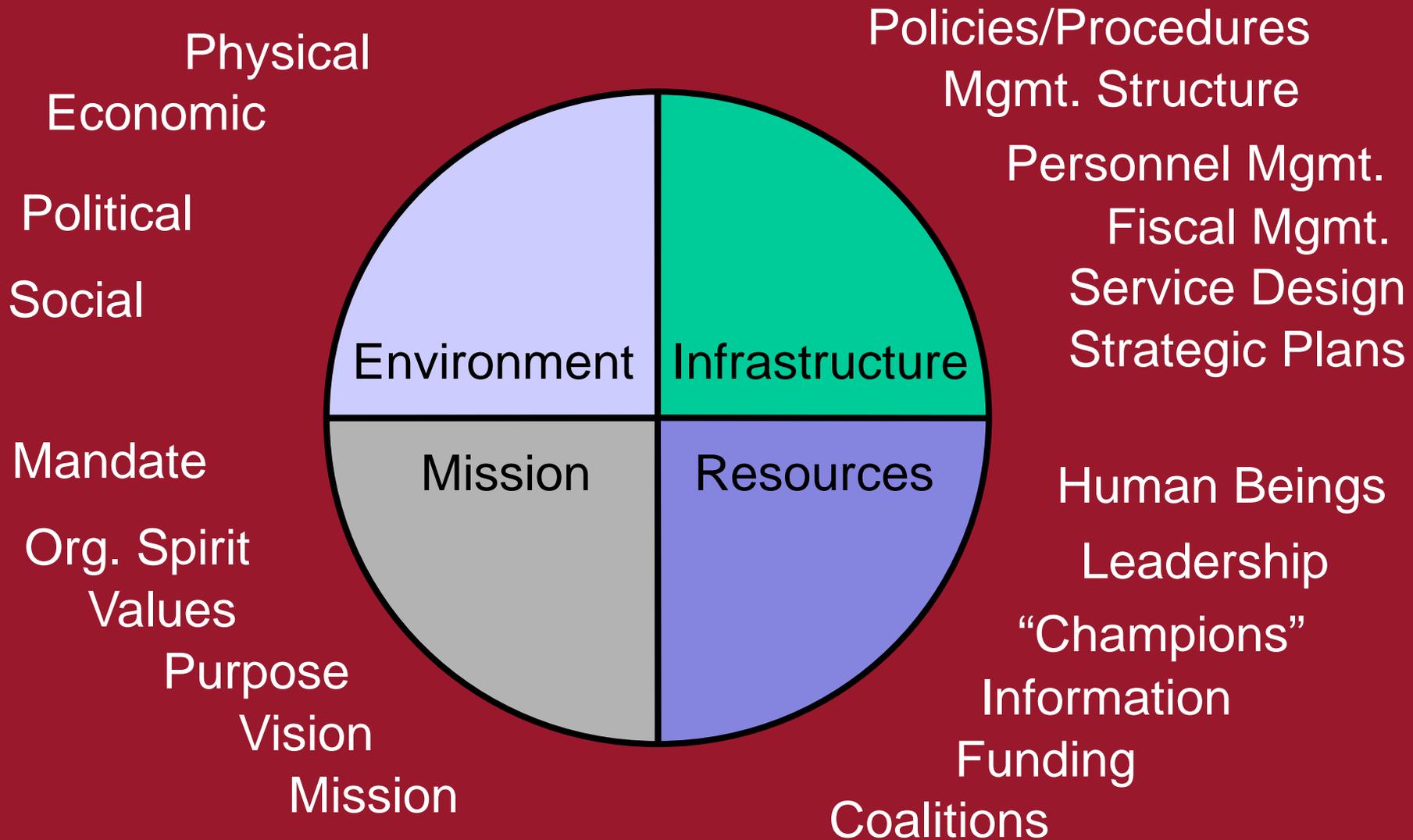
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Organization and Community Level



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Organizational Level



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*Let us put our minds together and
see what kind of life we can build for
our children* -
Sitting Bull



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