



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

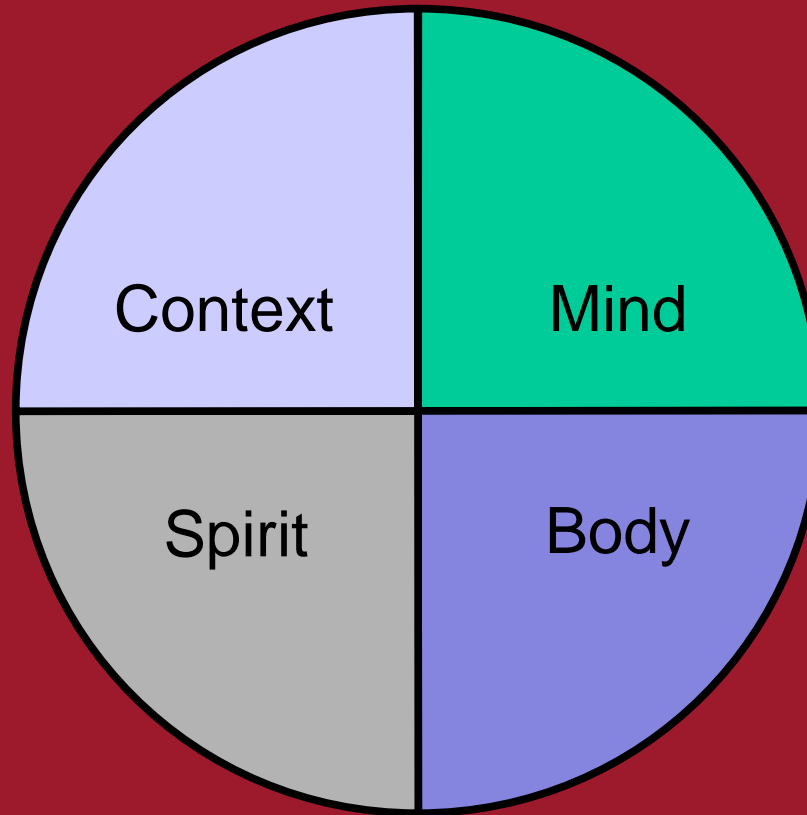
## Social Work/Medical Model



**Social History → Presenting Problem → Assessment → Treatment → Outcome**

# Relational Worldview

## Native and Tribal Thought



**BALANCE**

# Relational Worldview

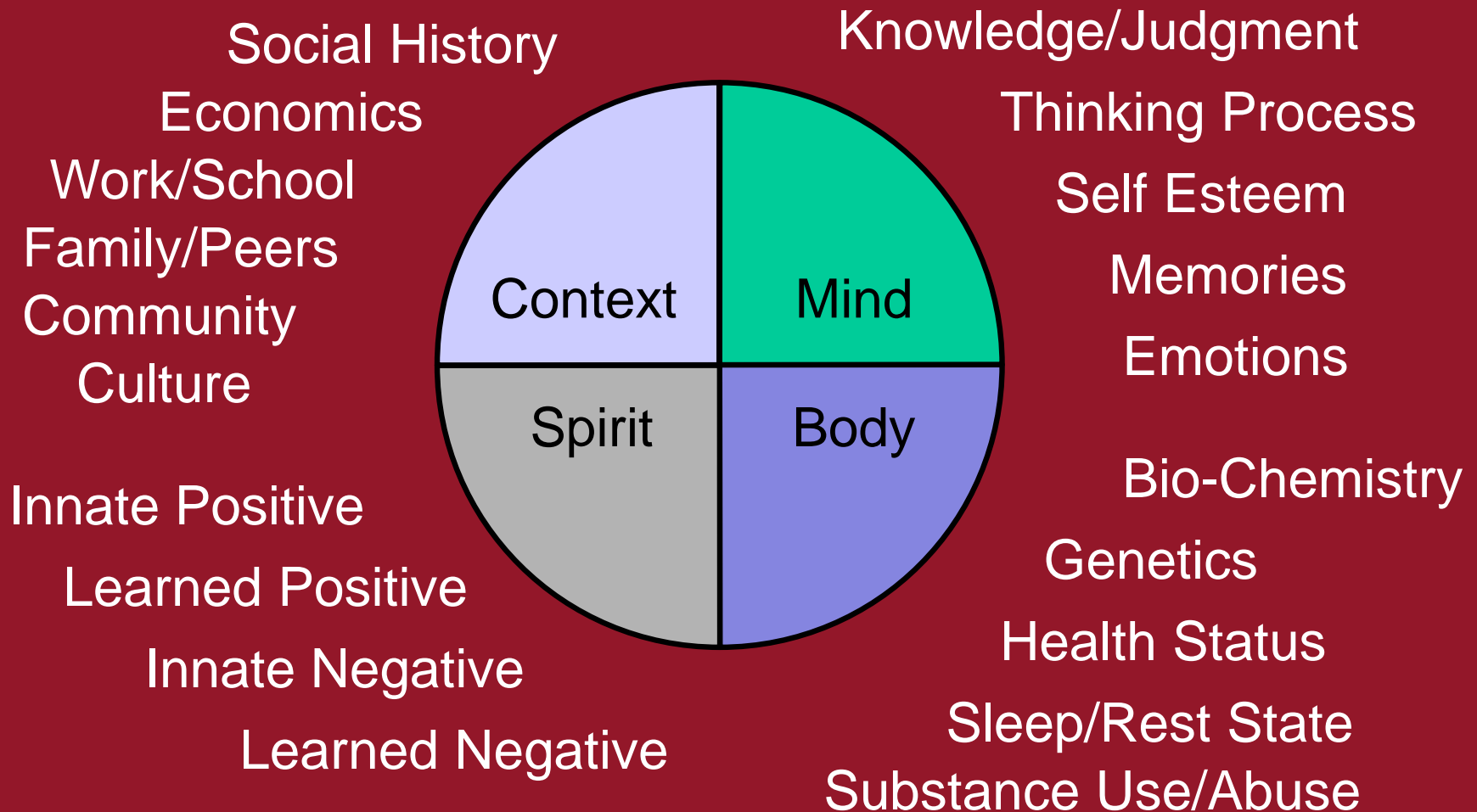
## Native and Tribal Thought

- 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?”



# Relational Worldview

*Individual and Family Level*





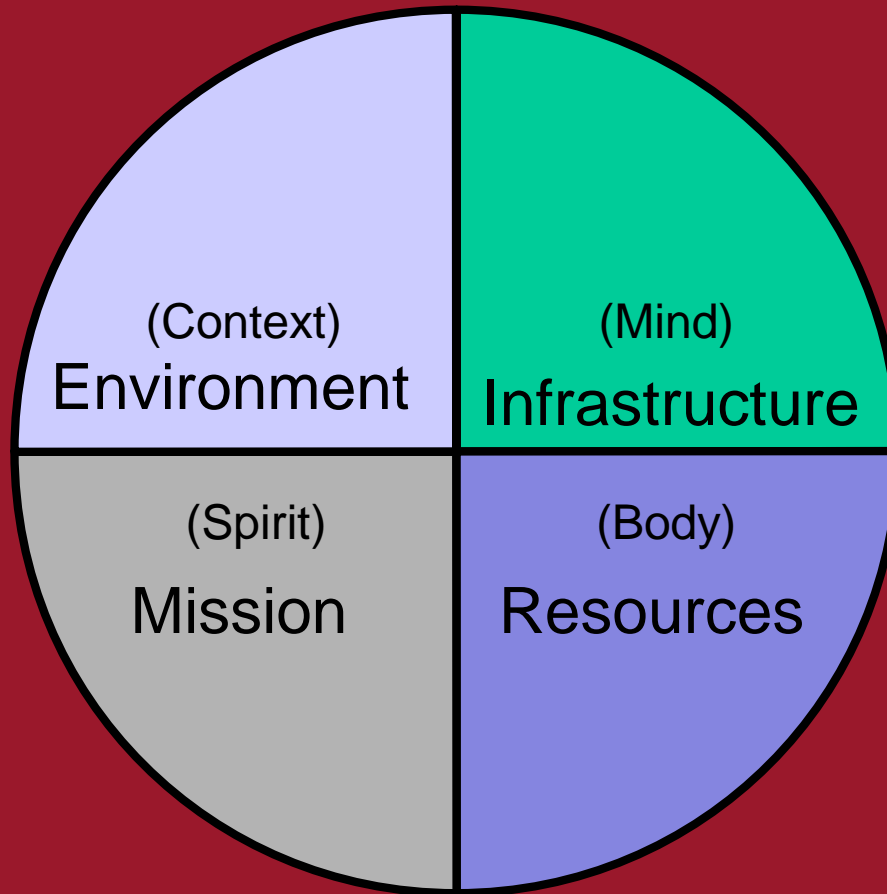
# From Individual to Organization

- 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.



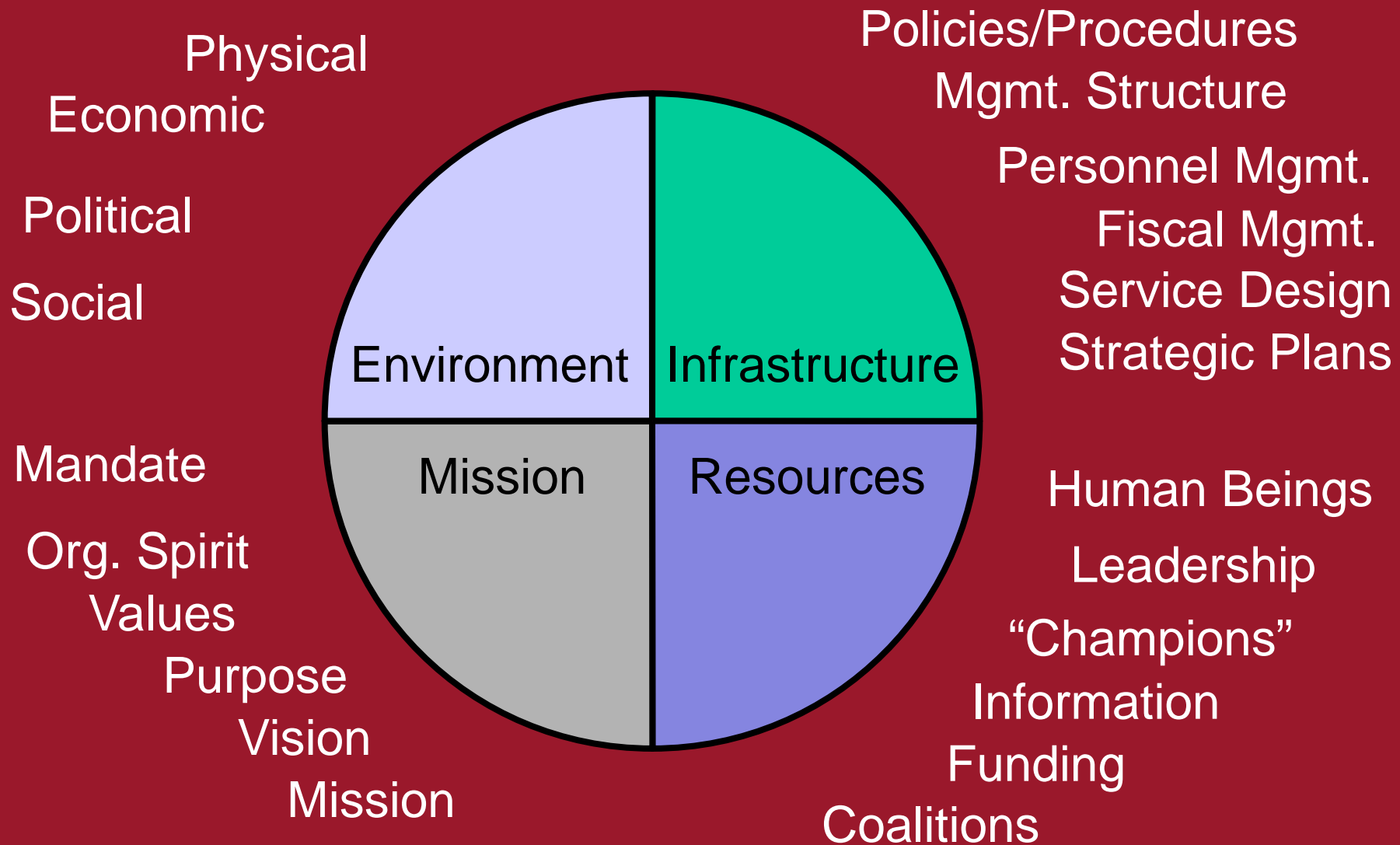
# Relational Worldview

## *Organization and Community Level*



# Relational Worldview

## *Organizational Level*



[www.nicwa.org](http://www.nicwa.org)

# National Indian Child Welfare Association

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



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