

TECPHI

Tribal Epidemiology Centers Public Health Infrastructure Program



TECPHI
Tribal Epidemiology Centers
Public Health Infrastructure Program

September, 2018

Funding for this publication is provided by the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Building Tribal Public Health Infrastructure Component B
Cooperative Agreement (No. NU58DP006390)



TRIBAL
EPIDEMIOLOGY
CENTERS

Tribal Epidemiology Centers

Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs) were established in 1996 by the Indian Health Service (IHS) to serve American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribal and urban communities by performing seven core functions in consultation with and on the request of tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations (T/TO/UIOs).

TEC Core Functions:

1. Collecting data;
2. Evaluating existing delivery systems, data systems, and other systems impacting health;
3. Identifying health priorities and health status objectives;
4. Making recommendations for health service needs;
5. Making recommendations for improving health care delivery systems;
6. Providing epidemiologic technical assistance; and
7. Providing disease surveillance and assisting in the promotion of public health.

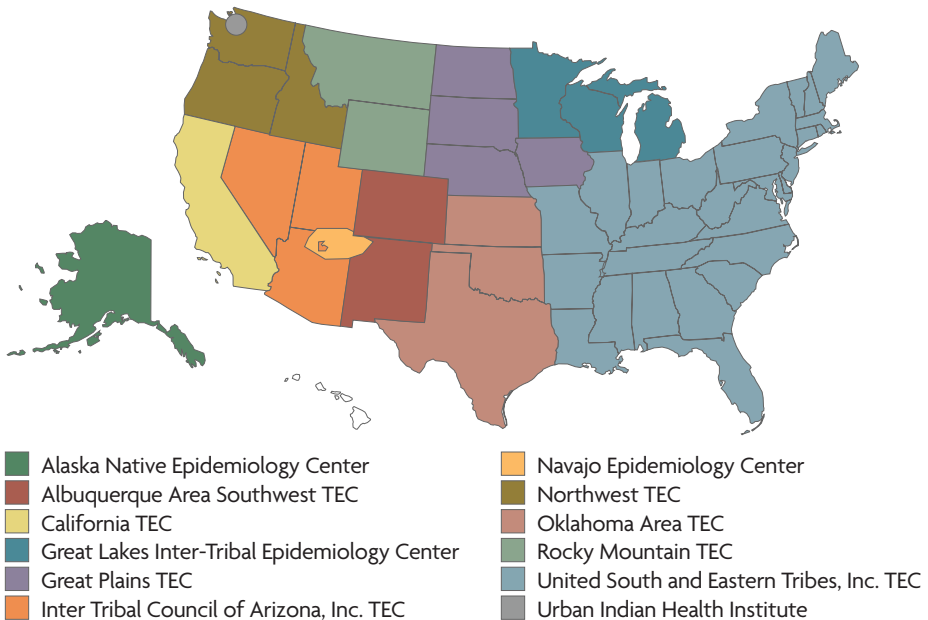
TECs work in partnership with local tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian organizations, and partners to improve health and well-being of their tribal community members by offering culturally-competent approaches that work toward eliminating health disparities and achieving health equity for AI/AN populations.

TEC Mission:

To improve the health of AI/AN people by:

- Identifying and understanding health problems and disease risks;
- Strengthening public health capacity; and
- Developing solutions for disease prevention and control.

12 Tribal Epidemiology Centers:



In 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion funded a new 5-year cooperative agreement called the Tribal Epidemiology Centers Public Health Infrastructure Program (TECPHI).

TECPHI seeks to increase the capacity of Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs) to deliver public health services to and with the tribes, tribal organizations and urban Indian organizations (T/TO/UIO) they serve. TECPHI supplements funding that TECs receive from other sources, including the Indian Health Service, and will expand the capacity of TECs to perform their seven core functions.

TECPHI intends to contribute to reductions in chronic diseases and risk factors, reductions in disparities for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) health outcomes, and improvements in overall health and wellness through increased public health infrastructure and capacity.

Public health infrastructure is the foundation that enables the public health system to function, including a workforce trained in public health core competencies, information and data systems for rapidly assessing and communicating information, and the ability to respond to public health needs in a culturally responsive and relevant way. TECPHI intends to increase TECs' ability to respond to the health priorities of T/TO/UIOs, increase TEC and tribal workforce capacity, expand culturally-centered information dissemination, and increase TECs' ability to work in consultation with tribes and honor their sovereignty over data collection, ownership, and systems.

Public health capacity is the ability to perform essential public health functions and respond to ongoing public health needs. TECPHI intends to expand TECs' ability to perform the seven core functions, and to provide the highest quality public health support to the T/TO/UIOs that they serve.

All 12 TECs are funded under the TECPHI program. Each of the TECs' projects are unique, however, they all feature three key strategies to contribute to reductions in chronic diseases and risk factors, reductions in disparities in health outcomes, and improvements in overall health:

1. Strengthening public health capacity and infrastructure;
2. Implementing activities to improve effectiveness of health promotion and disease prevention; and
3. Engaging in sustainability activities.

LONG-TERM GOAL

Improved health and wellness in Indian Country

SHORT-TERM GOALS

Improved
public health
services

More culturally
responsive
information

Stronger
public health
workforce

Better data and
communications
systems



WHAT IT TAKES

Tribal Epidemiology Centers

Staff

Funding

Tribal partners

Other partners

Technical Assistance

TECs are providing ongoing and enhanced technical assistance to T/TO/UIOs. Activities include the exchange and/or the provision of resources, information, training, data access, collection, and management, program development, implementation, maintenance, evaluation, and identification of health priority areas. Technical assistance may include site visits, presentations, data requests, evaluation assistance, etc.

TEC Workforce Development

TECs are hiring staff to increase capacity and supporting staff to attend professional development training to ensure a high level of epidemiological skills and public health competencies. Other activities include supporting interns, student practicum placements, and developing workforce development tools such as staff training modules and internship curricula.

Trainings

TECs are providing trainings to the tribal workforce on a range of public health topics to build core public health competencies. Training topics include surveillance, epidemiology, quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and analysis, grant writing, and grant management.



Data Access and Analysis

TECs are increasing access to data and enhancing capacity in data analysis. Activities include: updating tribal registries; creating linkages with major state and hospital registries; oversampling the AI/AN population in various population health surveys; expanding surveillance reach to rural populations; identifying data gaps; increasing the number of data sharing agreements; and developing new databases to complement existing data systems.

Grant Writing Training and Support

TECs are providing grant writing training and support to enable T/TO/UIOs and other TECs to increase the number of successful grant applications. Training topics include grant writing, grant management, grant reporting, evaluation, and how to effectively partner and leverage resources. Grant writing support includes identifying appropriate grants to apply for, providing data for grant applications, and other assistance in the preparation and review of grant applications.

Publications

TECs are producing a variety of publications to disseminate high quality, current, and culturally representative data to the public. The purpose of these publications is to increase awareness of health status and needs, and to communicate progress on public health initiatives. Publications include evaluation or programmatic fact sheets and reports, published manuscripts or articles, pamphlets, brochures, and other works like online publications or digital stories.



Partnerships

TECs are cultivating partnerships with T/TO/UIOs and other TECs to expand data sharing and access, contribute to state and federal initiatives, increase communication, and share best practices among health and non-health sector partners on chronic disease prevention and other priority areas.

Community Health Assessments

TECs are conducting, or supporting T/TO/UIOs to conduct community health assessments to identify community health status, strengths, resources, needs, and health priorities.

Communities of Practice

TECs are implementing communities of practice with T/TO/UIOs and other TECs to facilitate knowledge-sharing, problem-solving, and communication. A community of practice is a group of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do, and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.

Data Management Systems

TECs are developing or enhancing data management systems to improve data collection, public health surveillance and monitoring, quality assurance, and accessibility of data by T/TO/UIOs.

Subawardee Projects

TECs are utilizing a subawardee model to provide funds to T/TO/UIOs to increase capacity and infrastructure to conduct community health assessments, assemble/enhance coalitions, develop strategic plans for health promotion disease prevention activities, improve data quality, and receive targeted technical assistance and training. Subawards range from mini-grants to larger, long-term projects.

Public Health Priority Setting

TECs are providing technical assistance to T/TO/UIOs to develop local public health priorities and health improvement agendas. Activities include assembling advisory committees, evaluating availability and quality of data, conducting surveillance, collecting data for planning and monitoring, and understanding disease incidence and prevalence rates.

Collaborative Projects

TECs are working collaboratively with T/TO/UIOs and other TECs on specific projects to enhance services and to leverage resources. Projects include joint training delivery, publications, site visits, quality improvement, and technical assistance.

TEC Websites

TECs are expanding their web and online presence to enhance user experience and increase availability and reach of online resources, information, training, and communication.

TECPHI

Project Focus (as of September, 2018)	Alaska Native Epidemiology Center	Albuquerque Area Southwest TEC	California TEC	Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center	Great Plains TEC
Technical Assistance	●	●	●	●	●
Workforce Development	●	●	●	●	●
Trainings	●	●	●	●	●
Data Access and Analysis	●	●	●	●	●
Grant Writing Training/Support	●	●	●	●	
Publications	●	●		●	●
Partnerships		●	●	●	●
Community Health Assessments	●	●	●		
Communities of Practice		●		●	●
Data Management Systems	●	●			●
Subawardee Projects		●	●		●
Public Health Priority Setting		●			
Collaborative Projects		●			
TEC Websites		●			●

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. TEC	Navajo Epidemiology Center	Northwest TEC	Oklahoma Area TEC	Rocky Mountain TEC	United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. TEC	Urban Indian Health Institute	TECPHI Network Coordinating Center
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Project Title:

Building Public Health Infrastructure for
Alaska Native People

Project Summary:

During Year 1, in collaboration with Alaska Native tribal health organizations (THOs) and other statewide and external partners, the Alaska Native Epidemiology Center (ANEC), will work to build public health capacity and infrastructure by:

- Updating and enhancing the production process for creating Alaska Native health status fact sheets;
- Submitting at least one manuscript for publication;
- Providing technical assistance to THOs;
- Assessing and increasing access to data sources related specifically to injuries, maternal child health (MCH), and chronic diseases such as cancer and cardiovascular disease;
- Educating and disseminating information on the 25 Leading Health Indicators, health priorities, and strategies from the Healthy Alaskans 2020 State Health Improvement Plan;
- Assessing capacity to provide more comprehensive evaluation services for THOs;
- Increasing staff expertise related to TEC core functions;
- Supporting workforce development with training opportunities and scholarships;
- Identifying public health priorities by conducting community health assessments (CHA), or using previous CHAs or other available data;
- Cultivating multi-sector collaborations at Area tribe, state, and federal levels; and
- Implementing activities to improve the sustainability of tribal public health efforts.

Estimated number of people to be served as a result of this award: 166,146





Project Title:

Strengthening Tribal Public Health Infrastructure for Chronic Disease Prevention and Management Program

Project Summary:

In partnership with the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board, Inc. (AAIHB), the 27 Albuquerque Area Tribes, and external partners, the Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (AASTEC), will work to build public health capacity and infrastructure by:

- Establishing a Tribal Data Users Workgroup to identify tribal data priorities and improve data capacity;
- Creating a regional Native Wellness Think Tank to identify chronic disease priority areas and related best practices;
- Enhancing tribal data quality and public health surveillance systems;
- Distributing sub awards to Area tribes to implement community health assessment activities;
- Providing training opportunities for tribal partners to build sustainable public health capacity in the domains of epidemiology, community health assessment, strategic action planning, indigenous statistics and methodologies, public health program planning, implementation, and evaluation, grant writing, and evidence-based best practices for chronic disease prevention/management;
- Providing data-related and evaluation technical assistance to determine local health priorities; and
- Providing student internships with a structured 12-week curriculum.

Estimated number of people to be served as a result of this award: 104,000



Project Title:

California Tribal Epidemiology Center Building Public Health Infrastructure Initiative



Project Summary:

In collaboration with 74 of the 109 California tribes (67% of tribes), the California Tribal Epidemiology Center (CTEC), housed within the California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB), will work to build public health capacity and infrastructure by:

- Enhancing adult and youth Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) data, including oversampling of AI/AN data that will be comparable to data from other populations;
- Conducting Community Needs Assessments with Tribal and Urban Indian health programs to identify local chronic disease health concerns and priorities;
- Increasing CTEC staff statistical capacity to prioritize and report on surveillance data; and
- Providing data, evaluation, and grant writing training and technical assistance to California Indian health programs, tribes, and current CDC-funded CRIHB program sites.

Estimated number of people to be served as a result of this award: 192,211





Project Title:

Bemidji Area Thriving (BAT) Project

Project Summary:

In collaboration with 34 Tribes, four urban Indian areas, and three IHS Service Units in the Bemidji IHS Area (Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Chicago), the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center will work to build public health capacity and infrastructure by:

- Providing grant writing training and technical assistance for Bemidji Area communities;
- Providing evaluation training and technical assistance for Bemidji Area communities;
- Actively participating in the TECPHI Community of Practice;
- Producing at least one ad hoc Area-level data report each year to examine a specific topic on AI/AN health in greater depth;
- Developing and implementing the Bemidji Area Childhood Immunization Project;
- Supporting Bemidji Area communities in developing scientific publications and presentations on chronic disease prevention and other health priority areas; and
- Increasing GLITEC staff capacity through professional development opportunities.

Estimated number of people to be served as a result of this award: 340,000





Project Title:

Building Public Health Infrastructure in Tribal Communities to Accelerate Disease Prevention and Health Promotion in Indian Country

Project Summary:

In collaboration with 17 Tribes and 1 Service Area in serving the Great Plains IHS Area (South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa), the Great Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center (GPTEC), housed within the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board (GPTCHB), will work to build public health capacity and infrastructure by:

- Expanding the Data Coordinating Unit, including digital assets, data products, and services;
- Expanding the Great Plains Area Data Workgroup;
- Expanding the Tribal Public Health Liaison program to enhance tribal-level public health practice and support workforce development;
- Developing tracking and response procedures for response to requests for technical assistance;
- Providing funding and technical assistance in support of Tribal Public Health Projects;
- Creating a Tribal Health Evaluation Toolkit and providing training and technical assistance;
- Preparing publications for the promotion of tribal public health practices;
- Building capacity for mapping Great Plains health systems, plans, and policies; and
- Conducting site visits to tribal partners throughout South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa.

Estimated number of people to be served as a result of this award: 179,400





Project Title:

Building Public Health Infrastructure in Tribal Communities

Project Summary:

In collaboration with 44 Tribes, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona Tribal Epidemiology Center (ITCA TEC), housed within Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA), will work to build public health capacity and infrastructure by:

- Establishing Memorandums of Agreement, funding, and advanced training and technical assistance to eight tribes;
- Coordinating a Public Health Working Group open to all Area tribes;
- Reviewing Area Community Health Assessments for health indicator identification, prioritization, and local data quality improvement;
- Conducting evaluation of data sources used for Tribal public health;
- Developing health profiles, health improvement plans, and other needed tribal health reports and presentations;
- Coordinating strategic planning training and grant writing training for all Area tribes; and
- Developing Annual and Final Reports for partners.

Estimated number of people to be served as a result of this award: 446,700





Project Title:

Navajo Nation: Public Health Infrastructure

Project Summary:

In collaboration with the Navajo Nation extending across Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, the Navajo Epidemiology Center (NEC), housed within the Navajo Department of Health (NDOH), will work to build public health capacity and infrastructure by:

- Implementing an Indicator-Based Information System (IBIS) for public health on the Navajo Nation for data collection and health status surveillance and monitoring;
- Organizing a Navajo Nation Health Data Symposium (NNHDS) with tribal partners to identify key data indicators and use and access of IBIS;
- Assessing the needs and resources of the System and Area;
- Cultivating multi-sector collaborations; and
- Providing technical assistance, including site visits, throughout the Area.

Estimated number of people to be served as a result of this award: 100,000





NORTHWEST
PORTLAND
AREA
INDIAN
HEALTH
BOARD
TRIBAL
EPIDEMIOLOGY
CENTER

Project Title:

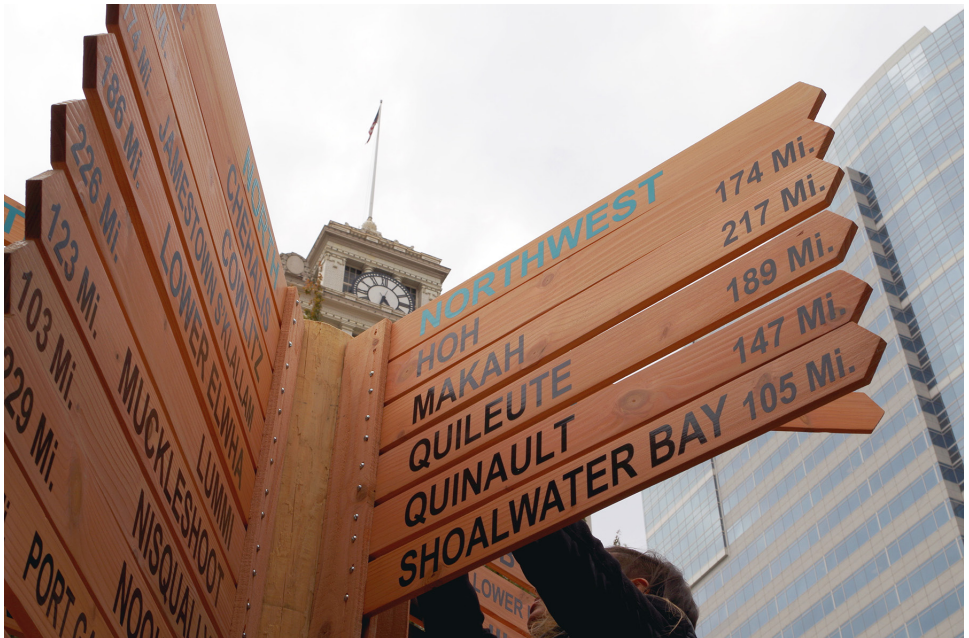
Improving Data and Enhancing Access-Northwest (IDEA-NW)

Project Summary:

In collaboration with the 43 federally recognized tribes of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, the Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (NWTEC), housed within the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB), will work to build public health capacity and infrastructure by:

- Expanding NWTEC's access to linkage-corrected datasets that can be used to assess community health and AI/AN health disparities;
- Organizing technical and project staff into workgroups to improve coordination on priority issues, including a Biostatistical Core and Maternal and Child Health Workgroup;
- Expanding training, technical assistance, and epidemiology services to improve Tribes' access and utilization of health data for community health improvement activities;
- Developing an electronic monitoring system to improve the collection and reporting of evaluation data; and
- Providing grant writing training and technical assistance among Portland Area Tribes.

Estimated number of people to be served as a result of this award: 353,000





Project Title:

Southern Plains Tribal Health Board Public Health Infrastructure Project

Project Summary:

The Oklahoma Area Tribal Epidemiology Center (OKTEC), housed in the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board (SPTHB), serves the 43 federally recognized tribes in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The Public Health Infrastructure Project aims to build and strengthen public health capacity and infrastructure within tribal communities, as well as, increase the internal capacity of the OKTEC to assist the tribes they serve by:

OKLAHOMA AREA
Tribal Epidemiology Center

- Integrating OKTEC staff with the Cherokee Nation Public Health Services project to provide infrastructure and expertise for tribal partners who are interested in accreditation;
- Enhancing training and technical assistance for area tribes surrounding public health;
- Increasing the chronic disease prevention education and training opportunities for the Kansas tribes;
- Initiating an Inter-Tribal Oral Health Community of Practice (ITOHCoP) to build a network of tribal oral health stakeholders;
- Collaboratively working with Oklahoma City Indian Clinic to improve colorectal cancer screening processes and outcomes, and sharing the experience and knowledge with area tribal clinics;
- Implementing and evaluating Wellness Around Traditional Community Health, a public health program for 2-5 year olds in tribal early childhood education facilities, which is centered around improving nutrition and physical activity among Native youth; and
- Providing grant writing training and technical assistance to area tribes.

Estimated number of people to be served as a result of this award: 877,475





Project Title:

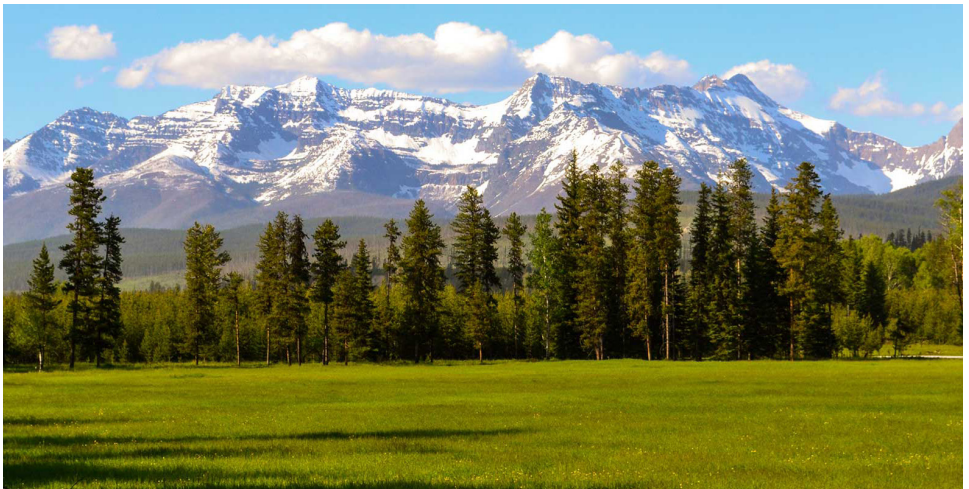
Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Center - Public Health Infrastructure (RMTEC-PHI)

Project Summary:

In collaboration with 10 Tribes located in Montana and Wyoming, the Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Center (RMTEC), housed within Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council (RMTLC), will work to build public health capacity through:

- Increasing access to local, state, and national surveillance systems and datasets;
- Creating an inventory of existing disease surveillance datasets, variables, and identifying gaps;
- Establishing Rocky Mountain Community of Practice (RMCoP), a group of public health professionals to help steer the project;
- Identifying public health priorities of the Tribes;
- Providing technical assistance to Tribes in Montana and Wyoming on their health priority areas;
- Increasing staff capacity through trainings and other professional development opportunities;
- Building capacity to develop periodic reports that reflect topics of interest to the Tribes;
- Establishing a structure to strengthen the collaborative process around grant writing training and support with Tribes; and
- Strengthening partnerships with Tribes to better address and respond to their health priority areas.

Estimated number of people to be served as a result of this award: 77,000





Project Title:

USET Community Health Infrastructure Project (CHIP)

Project Summary:

In collaboration with 27 of the 30 federally recognized Tribal Nations within the (IHS) Nashville Area that encompasses 13 States, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) Tribal Epidemiology Center (TEC), will work to build public health capacity and infrastructure by:

- Conducting Tribal Public Health Infrastructure Assessments (TPHIA) to evaluate and increase IHS Nashville Area-wide public health infrastructure and capacity at both the USET TEC and Tribal Nation level;
- Coordinating with IHS Nashville Area Tribal Nations to identify infrastructure, public health assets, and deficits to design, implement and grow health promotion and disease prevention (HPDP) programs;
- Producing and sharing reports detailing the results of the TPHIA with appropriate partners;
- Addressing the needs identified by the TPHIA by planning and implementing HPDP programs, infrastructure, technical assistance, and public health knowledge/communication;
- Using the results of the TPHIA, to identify and apply for resources and funding opportunities to improve the sustainability of this project within both the USET TEC and Tribal Nations;
- Identifying and recruiting IHS Nashville Area Tribal Nations that could benefit from a TPHIA to further define their public health needs; and
- Assisting identified IHS Nashville Area Tribal Nations in completing their own TPHIA to eventually improve each Tribal Nation's health policies, systems, and environments.

Estimated number of people to be served as a result of this award: 85,440





Project Title:

Building Resilience and Action to Nurture
Community Health (BRANCH)

Project Summary:

In collaboration with 62 urban American Indian and Alaska Native serving organizations, the Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) will reclaim traditional values of data, evaluation, and research to strengthen public health capacity, address health disparities, and promote health resilience in urban Indian communities.

The UIHI BRANCH initiative will provide urban Indian health organizations with:

- Technical assistance in the areas of grant writing, indigenous evaluation, data collection, and data usage.
- Trainings on topics like epidemiology, evaluation, and grants; cultural knowledge systems; indigenous methodologies; chronic disease prevention and addressing disease states.
- Funding for four competitive community grants per year, focused on indigenous approaches to chronic disease prevention and management.
- Increased access to reliable and quality data on the health status of urban Indian communities.
- Formalized internships to train and encourage an American Indian and Alaska Native public health workforce.

Estimated number of people to be served as a result of this award: 1,500,000



Tribal Epidemiology Centers Public Health Infrastructure (TECPHI) Network Coordinating Center

Project Title:

Building Tribal Public Health Infrastructure Component B

Project Summary:

In collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and the 12 TECPHI Component A Awardees (CAA), the Network Coordinating Center, housed within the Alaska Native Epidemiology Center, will work to build public health capacity and infrastructure by:

- Establishing an ongoing network of CAA funded organizations and partners;
- Establishing a coordinated, collaborative community of practice to facilitate knowledge-sharing, problem-solving, and communication across the network;
- Engaging the network of CAA organizations and CDC in preparing meetings for the project;
- Coordinating collaborative activities to optimize the ability of the network of CAAs to strengthen public health capacity and infrastructure;
- Developing and maintaining an internal and external website for the network;
- Developing and implementing a plan for tracking and disseminating network-related publications, presentation, products, and other materials;
- Creating a plan to sustain program efforts after grant period ends;
- Developing and implementing an evaluation plan to coordinate monitoring of TECPHI accomplishments and outcomes; and
- Providing technical assistance to CAAs on program evaluation and quality improvement activities.



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