

PROGRAM SUMMARY

CDC COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant

Key Impacts:



This project supported key opportunities for the career advancement of indigenous healthcare professionals, helping them achieve their goals of obtaining advance certification and training through place-based, accessible and affordable healthcare education and certification. This approach improved both individual professional careers and the healthcare services of the tribal communities served by these professionals.



Community Health Representatives



AMERICAN INDIAN
HEALTH-AHEC

American Indian Health Workforce Development

Program Description:

Partnering with school districts and educational organizations, AIH-AHEC initiated numerous activities throughout the state promoting health career programs. These efforts 1) provided enhanced youth and clinical workforce education and career development opportunities, and 2) created a pathway for current health care professionals working in Tribal Health Care facilities to enhance their professional skills through certification/training programs which will impact their communities.

Program Goals:

- ▶ Identify and develop culturally relevant, community-based, indigenous health workforce training and programming.
- ▶ Invest in and retain current health care professionals working in Tribal communities to advance their professional contributions within their communities.



CDC COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant Strategies:

Strategy 1: Expand existing and/or develop new mitigation and prevention resources and services to reduce COVID-19-related disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved.

Strategy 4: Mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19 health disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Center for Rural Health





Milestones:

- ▶ With Gila River Health Care, organized the “Exploring Nursing Education and Patient Care” Conference, designed to enhance professional development. Over 60% of attendees received Continuing Education credits.
- ▶ Developed an AHEAD Indigenous Healthcare Career Advancement Training Funding Application to advance skills and provide certification opportunities to healthcare professionals in specialized areas. To date 75 applicants have obtained certification.
- ▶ Over 83 health care professionals working in Tribal Health Care facilities across 15 Arizona Tribal communities were provided Professional Development stipends for varieties of certification and/or training to benefit career paths and communities.
- ▶ Assisted 10 nursing healthcare professionals employed by Tribal facilities to obtain Sexual Abuse Nursing Certification (SANE).

- ▶ Sponsored the 2024 Indians in Nursing: Career Advancement and Transition Scholars Program (INCATS) Tribal-Academic-Practice-Partnership Summit. Over 35 current nursing students and professionals. Board and Health Care facility representatives met to identify barriers facing Native American students and develop strategies.
- ▶ Submitted the White Paper: “Addressing Health Profession Career Disparities in Native-Serving High Schools in Arizona and working with Native American communities’ Institutional Review Boards (IRBs)”



Stepping into the future:

AIH-AHEC will continue to collaborate with Native-serving high schools to create clear educational pathways from secondary education to health careers and thus improve the understanding of and address the barriers facing American Indian students. AIH-AHEC will seek additional funding support to continue with the professional development training of current health care professionals committed to working within Tribal Health Care facilities.

Partnerships developed or strengthened:



Gila River Health Care
Whiteriver Indian Hospital
Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation
Winslow Indian Health Care Center
Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community
Pascua Yaqui Tribe
Tohono O’odham Nation Community College

San Carlos Apache Health Care
Hopi Health Care Center
Fort Defiance Indian Health Board, INC
U of A INCATS Tribal-Academic-Practice Partnership
Northern Arizona University (NAU)
Local high schools

Primary



Health Equity SDOH Primary Area of Impact:

Secondary



Education
Employment
Health Systems and Services

Tertiary



Housing
Income and Wealth

Physical Environment
Public Safety
Social Environment
Transportation



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Center for Rural Health

