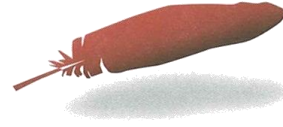


National Indian Health Board



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NIHB Announces Strong Systems, Stronger Communities Tribal Awardees

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) is pleased to announce the selection of 10 Tribal health departments for the Strong Systems, Stronger Communities (SSSC) initiative. For this first cohort of SSSC awards, NIHB will provide a total support package of \$90,000 to the 10 Tribal organizations. This opportunity builds on a former project - NIHB's Tribal Accreditation Support Initiative (ASI) and continues NIHB's commitment to strengthening Tribal public health systems by offering support and technical assistance to Tribes as they complete projects to improve their performance, meet national public health accreditation standards, and/or promote interconnection across the public health system to improve population health.

"The National Indian Health Board is happy to be supporting Tribes as they find innovative ways to grow their public health systems. We are excited to witness these Tribes work together to solve problems, undertake activities that will directly improve health outcomes in their communities, and become leaders in advancing Tribal public health" said NIHB Chief Executive Officer Stacy A. Bohlen.

Performance improvement and system improvement (PI/SI) is a continuous process that promotes high quality public health services. The path in strengthening public health capacity is unique for each Tribe. Seven of the SSSC awardees have constructed their own individual workplans that will accomplish specific and concrete steps toward increased performance improvement practice, increased innovation in response to system integration challenges, and/or progress toward national public health standards. Some Tribes will be working on conducting community health assessments to obtain Tribal specific data which they can use to inform policy, planning and programming. Some will be focusing efforts on developing community health improvement plans that will guide their public health initiatives. Others will be implementing quality improvement, performance management, strategic planning, or workforce development initiatives that will strengthen the health department.

Three awardees will be participating in a self-assessment cohort exploring national public health accreditation. These Tribes will receive training, create a performance-improvement team, and engage in a self-assessment of their current public health capacities in relation to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Standards and Measures.

All will be sharing and learning from each other through an in-person training and through TALC (Tribal Accreditation Learning Community), a peer learning opportunity coordinated by NIHB. TALC is open to all Tribes interested in sharing and learning about public health performance improvement, system improvement, and public health accreditation in Tribal communities.

The following is a list of the SSSC Tribal awardees:

Self-Assessment Cohort

- Lummi Nation
- Taos Pueblo
- Fort Berthold Diabetes Program (Three Affiliated Tribes- Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation)

Performance/System Improvement (PI/SI) Cohort

- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Forest County Potawatomi Community
- Lower Sioux Indian Community
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- San Carlos Apache Tribe
- Sonoma County Indian Health Project
- Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

The SSSC project is made possible by funding and support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support, and is administered by NIHB. As part of the SSSC, NIHB and CDC will provide sites with technical assistance, opportunities for peer-to-peer networking, and access to national networks and resources. More information on SSSC, including specific details on awardee projects, resources for PI/SI, and information about TALC can be found at <https://www.nihb.org/tribalasi/index.php>

National Indian Health Board Mission Statement

Established by the Tribes to advocate as the united voice of federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes, NIHB seeks to reinforce Tribal sovereignty, strengthen Tribal health systems, secure resources, and build capacity to achieve the highest level of health and well-being for our People.