National Indian
Health Board

Request for Applications
**Strong Systems, Stronger Communities: Strengthening Tribal
Public Health Systems**

Applications due Friday, September 4, 2020

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are pleased to announce the third cycle of funding for Strong Systems, Stronger Communities (SSSC) for Tribes.

WHAT IS SSSC? This opportunity builds on NIHB's Tribal Accreditation Support Initiative (Tribal ASI) that ran from FY 2014-2018, and the FY 2018-2020 cycle of SSSC, and continues NIHB's commitment to the strengthening of Tribal public health systems by offering support and technical assistance directly to Tribes for projects designed to build their public health capacity.

The intended outcomes of SSSC are:
- *Increased performance improvement practice*
- *Increased innovation in response to system integration challenges, and*
- *Progress toward national public health standards.*

Tribes who have participated in Tribal ASI and SSSC in the past have reported the following benefits:

- *Improved Credibility*
- *Improved State and Local Relations*
- *Increased Staff Pride and Assurances*

- *Exercise in Tribal Sovereignty*
- *Quality Improvement of Services*
- *Improved Health of the Community*

For the Tribal Health Departments who worked with the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) on accreditation-related efforts:

- *95% of Tribes made progress towards meeting the PHAB Standards and Measures, by building capacity and improving health department performance.*
- *79% of Tribes increased their resources related to public health improvement, including funding, staffing, and building partnerships.*
- *68% of Tribes have seen increased leadership support for their public health improvement efforts by making progress on accreditation-related efforts.**

*Based on NIHB's Accreditation Readiness Model Evaluation Results

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SSSC? Official health entities of federally recognized Tribal governments, Tribal organizations, or inter-Tribal consortiums, as defined in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, as amended.

WHAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) FOR SSSC IS PROVIDED? NIHB conducts an in-person awardee meeting (circumstances permitting) for each cohort. This meeting will be held virtually if an in-person meeting is not possible. Technical assistance also includes monthly one-on-one TA for awardees, national webinars, training opportunities at NIHB national conferences, a monthly Tribal Accreditation Learning Community (TALC), and networking with other Tribal, national and regional resources.

HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE? There are 2 separate funding opportunities available.

Self-Assessment Award - $3,000 each

PI/SI Award - up to $10,000 each, with up to an additional $2,000 provided for travel to the NIHB in-person training

Applicants may apply for either or both of the NIHB SSSC funding opportunities. Please refer to each RFA for more details.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE 2 SSSC FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES?

The **Self-Assessment Award** is intended for Tribal entities new to performance improvement who wish to conduct a self-assessment of their current ability and departmental needs to meet public health accreditation standards, as defined by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The Self-Assessment awardees will receive training, form a team, and complete a self-assessment.

The **PI/SI award** will support projects through two paths: performance improvement (**PI) projects** to build public health capacity, and **system improvement** (**SI) projects**, which focus on incorporating health equity, cross-sector collaboration and interconnection of various systems that can impact the public health of the community. Tribes will have the opportunity to perform work by choosing project categories in either the PI path, SI path, or both. Support for public health accreditation activities is offered, but seeking accreditation is not required.

Examples of PI or SI projects include:

Performance Improvement Examples	System Improvement Examples

• *Tribal Health Assessments*
• *Tribal Health Improvement Plans*
• *Workforce Development Plans*
• *Performance Management Systems*
• *Quality Improvement Plans*
• *Departmental Strategic Plans*
• *Documentation Review/Mock Site Visits*
• *Stakeholder and Community Engagement Activities*
	• *Projects that build partnerships between public health programs and other Tribal departments such as…*
	    o *Environmental Protection*
	    o *First Responders*
	    o *Social Services*
	    o *Healthcare services*
	    o *Criminal Justice*
	• *Projects to develop new public health programs within or in partnership with the healthcare system*
	• *Projects that work on healthcare transformation and/or improve access to care*

HOW CAN FUNDS BE SPENT? Acceptable uses: Staff wages, Supplies, Equipment, Training, Travel, Printing, Media, Meeting Expenses, Incentives, Consultants

TO APPLY: The request for applications (RFA) can be downloaded, completed as a Word document, and then submitted. Completed applications are due to NIHB via email by **Friday, September 4, 2020, by 11:59pm Eastern Time.**

[Download the Request For Applications (RFA) and Application Package for the Self-Assessment Award](#)

[Download the Request For Applications (RFA) and Application Package for the PI/SI Award](#)

National Indian Health Board

NIHB and CDC staff will host a

PI/SI Award Pre-Application Webinar
Tuesday, August 11, 2020 from 2:00pm-2:30pm ET

Register for the Pre-Application Webinar or cut and paste this address into your browser
https://nihb.webex.com/nihb/j.php?MTID=ee16f4854ee1bb0cf8a3e67e4bb3da314
Event Password: SSSC

Self-Assessment Award Pre-Application Webinar
Tuesday, August 11, 2020 from 2:30pm-3:00pm ET

Register for the Pre-Application Webinar or cut and paste this address into your browser
https://nihb.webex.com/nihb/j.php?MTID=eb28e4802dde9919645504db9e90b9664
Event Password: SSSC

Additional questions about this RFA may be directed to Sarah Price, sprice@nihb.org.
NIHB and CDC staff will not answer any questions or provide any information that may provide
an unfair advantage to any applicants.

Additional information may be found by visiting www.nihb.org/tribalasi