

Detroit Health Clinic Receives \$480,000 SAMHSA Grant

The American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeast Michigan recently received a Garrett Lee Smith State and Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Grant. The grant will fund a project to serve at risk American Indian/Alaska Native youth and young adults in the region.

Detroit, Michigan August 15, 2011: The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services (SAMHSA) has awarded the American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeast Michigan (AIHFS) a Garrett Lee Smith State and Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Grant. The grant will consist of \$480,000 a year for three years. The grant will be used for the clinic's *Manidookewigashkibjigan Sacred Bundle: R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Project*, which serves American Indian/Alaska Native youth and young adults ages 10-24 in Detroit and Southeastern Michigan. The project is in collaboration with State and County Suicide Prevention authorities.

Jerilyn Church, Director of AIHFS, was enthusiastic about the increased funding, "We are grateful that SAMHSA has awarded us this opportunity to improve the lives of Native American youth in the Detroit area. For us this is not an abstract subject. By helping young people, we also help their families and our entire community to thrive."

The *Manidookewigashkibjigan Sacred Bundle: R.E.S.P.E.C.T* (Respecting, Engaging, Supporting, Protecting, Empowering, Connecting, and Teaching) project will work to prevent suicide in at risk American Indian youth through evidence-based practice interventions and treatment strategies as well as culturally infused Practice-Based Evidence. Urban American Indian/Alaskan Native people ages 10-24 are at higher risk for suicide than other racial/ethnic groups due to multiple stressors.

The goals of the project include increasing the number of people trained to assess and treat at risk youth, increasing the number of youth identified at risk, increasing the number of at risk youth referred for behavioral health care and who receive behavioral health care, and increasing the promotion of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The outcome of these goals can be measured by 1) *Outreach* for increased awareness, 2) *Training* to increase the ability to identify and treat at risk youth, 3) *Screening* to increase identification of at risk youth, and 4) *Treatment*, measured by the number of youth receiving culturally appropriate behavioral health care.

Dr. Elizabeth Chapleski of AIHFS said: "I am confident that the grant will enable AIHFS to meet these goals." She further stated that the infrastructure grants from SAMHSA "will support an array of strategies and activities for delivering and sustaining effective mental health services in an integrated, culturally competent and comfortable setting."

Southeastern Michigan holds the largest Native American population in the state and the 10th largest Native American population in the country. The 2010 census showed that the American

Indian and Alaskan Native population in the greater Detroit area is growing. The American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeast Michigan is a non-profit health center serving the Native American community of Southeastern Michigan. They provide comprehensive, culturally-integrated health care to persons with or without insurance. Their programs include medical and behavioral health services, health education services, outpatient substance abuse treatment and prevention programs, and an active youth program.

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