



Detroit Health Clinic Receives \$736,000 SAMHSA Grant

The American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeast Michigan recently received a State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Cooperative Agreement. The grant will fund project to build on its work with at risk American Indian/Alaska Native youth and young adults statewide.

Detroit, Mich., December 1, 2014 - 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 State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Cooperative Agreement. The grant will consist of \$736,000 a year for five years. The grant will be used for the clinic's Manidookewigashkibjigan Sacred Bundle Project, which serves American Indian/Alaska Native youth and young adults ages 10-24 in Detroit and Southeastern Michigan with a goal to partner with tribal communities throughout the state. The project will build collaborations with State, County Suicide Prevention authorities and crisis centers.

Ashley Tuomi, DHSc, Executive Director of AIHFS, was enthusiastic about the increased funding, "We are grateful that SAMHSA has awarded us this opportunity to continue improving the lives of Native American youth in the Detroit area and providing assistance to other Tribes in Michigan. By helping young people, we also help their families and our entire community to thrive."

The Manidookewigashkibjigan Sacred Bundle 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 1) increasing the number of persons in schools, foster care systems, juvenile justice programs, and tribal sites trained to identify and appropriately refer youth at risk for suicide. 2) Increase the number of clinical service providers trained to assess, manage, and treat youth at risk for suicide. 3) Improve continuity of care and follow-up of youth identified at risk for suicide who are discharged from emergency departments and inpatient psychiatric units. 4) Increase identification of risk, referral to and utilization of behavioral health care services. 5) Increase the promotion and utilization of the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#). 6)

Comprehensively implement applicable sections of the 2012 [National Strategy for Suicide Prevention](#) to reduce rates of suicide ideation, attempts, and deaths in our communities.

Four measurable outcomes include: 1) Increased Outreach for suicide awareness (1400 annually, 7000 total), 2) Expanded Training and technical assistance to improve ability of local and tribal community members and professionals to identify, manage and treat youth at risk (100 annually, 500 total); 3) Continued Screening to increase identification of at-risk youth (100 annually, 500 total), and 4) Improved and expanded Treatment measured by an increase of at-risk youth receiving culturally appropriate behavioral health care (50 annually, 250 over 5 years).

Nickole Fox, MA, of AIHFS and Project Director of this grant said: “I am confident that the grant will enable AIHFS to build upon the last three years of suicide prevention efforts.” She further stated that the partnership grants from SAMHSA “will support an array of strategies and activities for delivering and sustaining effective mental health awareness, education and training in an integrated, culturally competent way.”

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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