

Promoting Suicide Prevention Efforts in American Indian/Alaska Native Communities (AI/AN): A Cross-Agency Approach*

OVERVIEW OF APPROACH: Promoting effective suicide prevention efforts in AI/AN populations at-risk for suicidal ideation and behavior through cross-Agency (e.g., HRSA, IHS, and SAMHSA) collaboration and coordination focusing on three strategies: (1) strengthening the behavioral health workforce, (2) telehealth applications to outreach behavioral health services, and (3) resource tools that could be further disseminated and applied (e.g., screening for depression and suicide, etc.).

Workforce and Training Activities*

HRSA

- ❖ National Health Service Corps loan repayment - 610 Tribal clinical sites eligible to offer appropriate clinicians loan repayment. (1)
- ❖ Health Centers Training Calendar with archived and live distance-based trainings, including behavioral health. (2)
- ❖ Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant Program - supports community needs assessments, planning and implementation of home-visiting programs in at-risk communities, and research and evaluation activities to expand knowledge of culturally specific home-visiting practices. (3)
- ❖ MBHET program - advanced generalist curriculum designed to prepare students for mental health practice in rural settings. (4)
- ❖ Alaska psychology internship training consortium for medically underserved areas. (5)

IHS

- ❖ Loan Repayment Program - loan repayment for qualified student loans in exchange for 2-year obligation at an Indian health program site. (6)
- ❖ Scholarship Program - 104 scholarships for disciplines in behavioral health in exchange for service obligation at an Indian health program site. (7)

SAMHSA

- ❖ Adolescent Suicide Prevention Program Manual. (8)
- ❖ Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) Memorial Act, State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Grant Program - Cooperative Agreement aiding development/implementation of youth suicide prevention and early intervention strategies. (9)
- ❖ Cross-site evaluation of Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) Youth Suicide Prevention Program. (10)
- ❖ Gathering of Native Americans (GONA) promoting community healing and planning. (11)
- ❖ Good Behavior Game - classroom-based behavioral strategy to reduce aggressive, disruptive behavior. (12)
- ❖ Life is Sacred Actionable Knowledge brochure. (13)
- ❖ Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk training offered by the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC). (14)
- ❖ Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) AI/AN Website. (15)
- ❖ Indian Country Child Trauma Center - trauma-related treatment protocols, outreach materials, service delivery guidelines. (16)
- ❖ Suicide Prevention Resource Center, Tribal Local Evaluation Affinity Group - provides quarterly virtual meetings for peer-to-peer sharing and learning. (17)
- ❖ Tribal Training and Technical Assistance Center. (18)

Telehealth Resources and Activities*

IHS

- ❖ Telebehavioral Health Center of Excellence (TBHCE) - a national program focused on building telebehavioral health infrastructure within the IHS. (19)

SAMHSA

- ❖ Native American toolkit for crisis centers - The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline toolkit helps Lifeline crisis centers build partnerships with Native American communities. (20)

HRSA & SAMHSA (Joint)

- ❖ HRSA-SAMHSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions (CIHS) Telebehavioral Health Learning Community - Telebehavioral Health Training and Technical Assistance Series. (21)

Tanana Chiefs Conference & SAMHSA (Joint)

- ❖ Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) has deployed an integrated and diverse suite of telemedicine equipment to dozens of urban and rural facilities to increase access to care and improve quality of care. (22)

Resources and Tools*

HRSA

- ❖ Rural Mental Health First Aid – training individuals to recognize warning signs of acute mental health concern and directing to seek care. (23)
- ❖ Bullying Prevention Initiative - addresses warning signs of bullying and halt risks of suicidal behavior; has sent resources to IHS area offices. (24)

IHS

- ❖ Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative (MSPI) - demonstration project aimed to increase access to methamphetamine and suicide prevention services, improve the quality of behavioral health in this area, and promote the development of new and promising services. (25)
- ❖ Health Locator- this map can be used to find IHS, Tribal or Urban Indian Health Program facility. (26)
- ❖ IHS funded Northwest Portland Media Campaign - a new media campaign that encourages Native communities to address substance abuse by teens and young adults. (27)

SAMHSA

- ❖ Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) Quarterly Tribal Collaborative Conference Calls. (28)
- ❖ To Live to See the Great Day That Dawns guide - supports AI/AN communities to develop effective, culturally appropriate suicide prevention plans. (29)
- ❖ Community Readiness Model - Native Aspirations lays groundwork for comprehensive suicide prevention planning. (30)
- ❖ LGBTQ2-S Resource List – Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) website that provides outreach to the LGBTQ2-S youth. (31)

HRSA & SAMHSA (Joint)

- ❖ HRSA-SAMHSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions archived webinar presentation, “Suicide Prevention Tools for Primary Care Providers.” (32)

IHS & SAMHSA (Joint)

- ❖ National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Task Force - IHS and SAMHSA are participants. (33)
- ❖ White Mountain Apache Celebrating Life Suicide Surveillance and Case Management – collaborating on suicide prevention programming and resources with Johns Hopkins University. (34)
- ❖ White Mountain Apache - SIQ Imminent Risk - used to assess imminent risk and provide immediate referral and transport to the emergency room if individuals are in immediate danger. (35)

Other Resources Utilized by SAMHSA Grantees

- ❖ The Native Wellness Institute - brings about positive changes in lifestyles, relationships, education, and overall wellness of Native Americans. (36)
- ❖ The Alaska Postvention Resource Guide- resources for Alaskans who respond after a suicide occurs. (37)
- ❖ American Indian Life Skills Development - a school-based curriculum with demonstrated suicide-prevention success. (38)
- ❖ Sources of Strength - youth suicide prevention project that uses peer social networks to change unhealthy norms. (39)
- ❖ The Road to Evidence: The Intersection of Evidence-Based Practices and Cultural Competence in Children’s Mental Health- policy paper on evidence based practices. (40)
- ❖ CONNECT Program - provides customized postvention and prevention training for AI/AN communities. (41)
- ❖ Community Wellness Teams - sustainable grassroots programs empowering Alaskan communities. (42)
- ❖ Healthy Families: The Yupik Way of Life - parenting class focusing on the developmental process necessary for healthy, balanced adult lives. (43)
- ❖ Native H.O.P.E. - provides a peer-counseling curriculum focusing on suicide prevention and related risk factors. (44)
- ❖ Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium - promotes good health and healing, working with Tribal health groups. (45)
- ❖ Red Road to Wellbriety - celebrates successful and continued recovery from alcohol and drug addiction in AI/AN communities. (46)

* **NOTES TO USERS:** (1) All acronyms are spelled out in the comprehensive list – Tribal Suicide Prevention Resources for HRSA/IHS/SAMHSA; and (2) Numbers in parentheses () correspond to numbered items in this comprehensive list. [DATE: 6-3-14]