



ALBUQUERQUE AREA INDIAN HEALTH BOARD, INC.

Jicarilla Apache Nation • Mescalero Apache Tribe • Ramah Band of Navajos
Southern Ute Indian Tribe • Tóhajiilee Band of Navajo • Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

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The Community Health Education and Resiliency Program Receives the Capacity Building Assistance for HIV Prevention Programs to End the HIV Epidemic Award

Albuquerque, NM – The [Community Health Education and Resiliency Program](#) (CHERP) at the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board, Inc. (AAIHB) is awarded \$7 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) over the next 5 years. CHERP will launch the National Native HIV Network Technical Assistance Center.

The CDC *Capacity Building Assistance for HIV Prevention Programs to End the HIV Epidemic in the United States* Cooperative Agreement supports a network of providers to implement a multi-component program that builds individual competencies, technical expertise, strengthens organizational capacities, and enables supportive structural environments for the nation’s HIV workforce to plan, integrate, implement, evaluate, and sustain HIV prevention and surveillance programs. It promotes and supports national HIV prevention goals and strategies, CDC’s High-Impact Prevention (HIP) approach, and the Division of HIV Prevention’s HIV equity priorities of addressing social determinants of health and syndemics affecting HIV-related outcomes.

“In 2015, the National Native HIV Network (NNHN) was established through the grassroots efforts and contributions of dedicated individuals in the fields of public health and HIV. Over the years, we have built our capacity and formed meaningful partnerships through our network of National and Federal partners, and most importantly our NNHN Regional Representatives,” shares Savannah Gene, CHERP Program Director. “We are thrilled and deeply grateful to expand our work and enhance our services to Native communities through this cooperative agreement. This support will enable us to further our mission and make a greater impact on public health within Native communities.”

The National Native HIV Network Technical Assistance Center (NNHN-TAC) recognizes the importance of meaningful collaborations towards addressing the burden of HIV and syndemic conditions within American Indian and Alaska Native populations. Therefore, the NNHN-TAC will work with a network of providers to implement training and capacity building assistance (CBA) for High-Impact HIV Prevention Programs to tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian organizations, health departments, and other community-based organizations across the country and U.S. Territories.

Kurt Begaye, Senior Capacity Building Specialist shares, “Not since 2013 has a Native organization been funded to provide HIV capacity building services to American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities. This funding allows us to fill a crucial void that has been in existence for over a decade. We are excited for this opportunity and look forward to elevating HIV services for Native communities.”

The NNHN-TAC will begin implementation on September 3, 2024. For more information, contact Kurt Begaye at kbegaye@aaihb.org.

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About the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board, Inc.:

The Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board, Inc. (AAIHB) is an Indian-owned and operated nonprofit organization that serves tribal communities in New Mexico, southern Colorado, and west Texas. AAIHB's goal is to positively impact the health and well-being of the communities served.

About the Community Health Education and Resiliency Program:

The Community Health Education and Resiliency Program (CHERP) at the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board, Inc. provides trauma-informed and strengths-based capacity building in STI/HIV prevention, opioid and substance use prevention, positive youth development, and mental health. Our program tailors to community needs to equip tribal public health professionals with the skills, resources, and tools to implement effective interventions and services. Through our approach, CHERP aims to promote community well-being while addressing health inequities and fostering a culture of care and support.