



ASSESSING THE FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING A TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE, PHASE II “EXPLORING NEW PATHWAYS TO SUPPORT TRIBAL HEALTH”

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

Red Star Innovations (Red Star) released a report in February 2013 examining the role a tribal public health institute (TPHI) might play to improve health among American Indian and Alaska Native communities.¹ Findings gathered through strong Tribal engagement and outreach, including regional and national roundtables and various analyses, clearly suggest that a TPHI is desirable. Based on the input received, a TPHI could benefit the Tribal public health system by helping address gaps between community health needs and existing services in ways that strengthen, build, and respect current capacities, increase efficiency and further develop the evidence-base to improve health outcomes in Tribal communities.

Disproportionately high rates of chronic diseases, such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes, exist among many AI/AN peoples compared to all races. Greater investments are needed to build Tribal public health infrastructure and capacities to improve health outcomes. Based on outcomes from a comprehensive needs and assets assessment conducted during phase I, a TPHI could support Tribal public health in the following roles:

- Serve as a trusted source of resource information and research for Tribal Leaders, decision makers and administrators;
- Build public health capacity at the Tribal and regional levels to deliver the 10 Essential Public Health Services;
- Provide Nation Building through executive leadership training, public health law and policy development, workforce development and peer networks; and
- Liaise with federal agencies, foundations and other public health entities, complementing the work of existing Tribal organizations advocating for greater public health equity.

PHASE II: The TPHI Advisory Board, made up of Tribal public health representatives, agreed that continued leadership and guidance from Tribes and TLOs is necessary to build consensus around the future directions a potential TPHI. Therefore, phase II of the TPHI feasibility project has the overarching goal of engaging Tribes in a consultative process to obtain recommendations regarding a potential TPHI's primary purpose and core functions; organizational structure and governance; and sustainability. A final “blueprint” report will summarize Tribal Leader recommendations for the development of a TPHI, which can be used as a guide future directions.

Leadership and guidance from Tribes and Tribally Led Organizations are essential to a TPHI's creation and sustainability. A National Tribal Leaders Forum is being held to engage Tribes in a consultative process to determine the structure, governance and role of a TPHI. Visit the website to register.

**JOIN US AT THE
NATIONAL TRIBAL
LEADERS FORUM
ON MARCH 11-12,
2015 IN PHOENIX,
ARIZONA TO
DETERMINE THE
FUTURE DIREC-
TION OF A TPHI!**

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Visit the TPHI website at www.redstar1.org/tphifeasibility for general project information, to view webinars, receive newsletters, and register for the National Tribal Leaders Forum.

1. http://redstar1.org/tphifeasibilityproject/lib/docs/tphi_findings_report.pdf