

August 13, 2013

Dear Program Director,

The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board is recruiting sites (Tribal Schools/Colleges, Urban Indian Health Centers and other Tribal Youth Programs) to evaluate the effectiveness of **NATIVE VOICES** - a new sexual health video for Native teens and young adults (15-24 years).

Participating sites will be randomly assigned to one of three groups: 1.) a control group that will receive sexual health fact sheets 2.) a group that will watch the Native VOICES video (appx. 23 minutes long), or 3.) a group that will watch the video and participate in a facilitator-led group discussion.

We want to share this information in the hope that you, or another program/school in your community might be interested in participating as a project partner. If so, we would love to hear back from you.

The **NATIVE VOICES** evaluation will take place from January 1, 2014 through January 1, 2015. The goal of **Native VOICES** is to help young people understand the complexities surrounding sexual health and to encourage youth who are sexually active to use protection.

- Other benefits to your participation include:
 - Access to culturally-appropriate, age-appropriate sexual health materials
 - Site incentives include: compensation for up to two site coordinators in the amount of \$1,000.00 per coordinator, in addition to \$2,000.00 per site for printing, marketing, transportation, and facility costs in relationship to the study.
 - Incentives for AI/AN teens and young adults who participate
 - If effective, NATIVE VOICES will be made available free-of-charge throughout Indian Country

Other Important details:

- Sites must have at least 75 AI/AN youth (ages 15-24 years old) who are eligible to participate in the study.

If your site is interested in becoming a Native VOICES Partner – Please:

1. Read all information attached to this email. The MOA is a *draft* document that will be modified based on the needs of your site.
2. Fill out the “Request to Participate Form for Sites” and return it to the *Native VOICES* Project Coordinator, Mattie Tomeo-Palmanteer, by **October 1, 2013**. The *Native VOICES* project will select sites based on information contained in the form.

3. Mattie Tomeo-Palmanteer will contact you if the *Native VOICES* project has further questions, and to inform you whether or not your site has been selected.

We look forward to working with you on this exciting endeavor, which may be recognized as the first AI/AN sexual health video on the CDC's diffusion of evidence based intervention (DEBI) website.

Please help us with this important work. We look forward to hearing from you and hope you will be able to participate in the study.

Sincerely,

Mattie Tomeo-Palmanteer, BSW

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The ***Native VOICES*** project is supported by a four-year grant from the Indian Health Service, issued through their Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) program. The primary aims of the project are to evaluate an evidence-based HIV/STD prevention intervention that addresses the needs of AI/AN youth, and offer AI/AN communities a cost-effective intervention.