



NPAIHB staff turns out an amazing amount of work – and sometimes it is quite measurable, such as one of the grant applications sent out in May. Michelle Edwards, Grants Administrator, is holding a paper copy of the 744-page application for the “NARCH VI” (Native American Research Centers for Health). She and Dr. Tom Becker, along with a number of potential research partners, worked on the application intermittently for several weeks. Clearly, she is delighted to have it finished and sent two weeks before the deadline. The application proposes two training projects and two research projects:

Using Telemedicine to Prevent Vision Loss among AI/AN Diabetics

Telemedicine has a large potential public health impact if we are able to document even a small increase in the proportion of eye exams. This impact increases further if we find telemedicine to be more cost-effective, efficient, and sensitive to progressive diabetic retinopathy when compared to traditional surveillance methods.

Improving Colorectal Cancer Screening in NW American Indian Tribes. The overall budget for this application (including all projects) is just over 5.4 million

At the end of this study, we will have results that can be used to inform the development and implementation of CRC screening education programs throughout tribes in the NW region. Considering that many tribes have high CRC incidence and mortality, our projects should be viewed as an important step toward addressing a major public health problem in NW tribal communities and nationwide

Improving Health Research Skills for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Trainees

The proposed training program will increase the numbers of well-trained AI/AN health researchers who are committed to improvement of health among tribal people nationwide. Our academic partners will assist us in this task as we help to create learning experiences that will foster career development of young AI/AN research trainees.

Summer Research Training Institute for AI/AN Health Professionals

Building on our earlier success in offering Summer Institute research courses that are focused on career development for AI/AN health professionals, we propose to offer additional summer courses for Native American trainees. In collaboration with our academic partners, we will assess training needs and offer up-to-date classes on a variety of topics of relevance to career advancement in AI/AN health-related research.

The decision regarding funding will be made late in 2009.