



## **Native American/American Indian Response to the State of Equity Report: Story Telling Project Request for Proposals**

### **Story Telling Project Proposal**

Capturing powerful stories from elders and community members has been suggested as a culturally appropriate way to respond to the findings of significant health disparities experienced by Native American and American Indian communities in Oregon. To help achieve this, the Office of Equity and Inclusion will provide grants of up to \$5,000.00 to each of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes and to urban Indian communities throughout the state. The grantees will be able to use capturing stories as a tool to understand and share best practices. The stories will also be used to inform the process by which the Oregon Health Authority and Department of Human Services can build trust, support existing community strengths and close the gaps in outcomes and satisfaction identified in the State of Equity Report. Groups may choose to collaborate if they feel it would be beneficial in engaging their communities.

### **Suggested Guiding Questions**

1. When was a time when your community was healthy and everything was right? What is currently working well for your community? What programs are currently successful in your community? What challenges exist?
2. How has your community adapted traditional practices when your community has been faced with oppressive interruptions to healthy cultural norms?
3. What should the OHA/DHS do to support existing community strengths and close the disparities outlined in the State of Equity Report?
4. How would you like to see OHA/DHS improve relationships with your community?

Each community will develop their own project plan and process for engaging their respective community. OEI and NA/AI SOE Steering Committee members will provide technical assistance in organizing and implementing the events if needed.

### **Requirements: Proposal Outline**

- ❖ Complete a proposal no longer than *two* single-spaced pages with the following information:
  - A. Outreach Plan** - A plan for encouraging community members to participate in listening sessions.
  - B. Event Structure** - Outline of the envisioned structure of the event, including potential guiding questions that will be used to facilitate the story telling process (suggested guiding questions are above.)
  - C. Recording Plan** - A plan for digitally recording the story telling sessions and/or for capturing what is covered at the event in another format. Please inform us of your proposed recording device.
  - D. Budget** - A budget for the proposal, not to exceed \$5,000. Administrative cap is at 10%.
  - E. Timeline** - A brief timeline for the implementation of this project.
  - F. Present** - Identify representative/s to present findings at a meeting with OHA/DHS leadership and other local American Indian tribal and urban Native leadership.
- ❖ **Deadline:** Submit proposal by Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

### **Resources**

- **StoryTelling Presentation with Tony LookingElk** - An informational proposer's conference will be held, featuring a presentation from Tony LookingElk who implemented a multicultural storytelling project in conjunction with the City of Minneapolis Health Department to support Native communities in influencing policies related to health equity.
- **Wisdom of the Elders** - Film producers are available to support tribes in filming story telling sessions and/or providing technical assistance to local individuals interested in doing the filming. In addition, communities will have the opportunity to utilize other artistic formats, such as visual note-taking.

### **Questions?**

For questions, concerns and proposal submissions, contact Rebecca Naga by email at: [Rebecca.A.Naga@state.or.us](mailto:Rebecca.A.Naga@state.or.us) or by phone at (971) 673-1283.



## Purpose of Funding

The purpose of the funding will be to support the convening of storytelling sessions with tribal and urban native community families, elders, advocates, service providers and service recipients to better understand how the Oregon Health Authority and Department of Human Services can build trust, support existing community strengths and close the gaps in outcomes and satisfaction identified in the State of Equity Report. Tribes and urban Native organizations may choose to facilitate a story telling process in any way that best meets their needs.

## Purpose of Story Telling Sessions/ Benefits of Participating

- Host storytelling listening session/s with local American Indian tribal and urban native community families, elders, advocates, service providers and service recipients to do the following:
  - Better understand how the Oregon Health Authority and Department of Human Services can build trust.
  - Support existing community strengths.
  - Close the gaps in outcomes and satisfaction identified in the State of Equity Report.
- To build and strengthen relationships among agency leadership, Coordinated Care Organizations, Tribal Leaders, Urban Native leaders and community members.
- Create accountability and inclusivity within OHA/DHS programs that currently report disparities for Native American communities by creating a process for seeking and implementing community feedback and identifying and supporting community-based best practices.
- Learn best practices for improving health outcomes used by other Native American and urban Indian communities across Oregon

## Purpose of Capturing Process/Listening Sessions

Each tribe and urban Indian organization will be strongly encouraged to capture their process through digital film that will be available to them individually and aggregated into a joint-production with the other projects. Some may choose to film the entire process/story telling event. Others may prefer to identify specific individuals who would like to have their story filmed. Each will have the opportunity to develop a plan that will best meet the specific needs of their local community. If desired, Wisdom of the Elders film producers are available to support tribes in filming story telling sessions and/or providing technical assistance to local individuals interested in doing the filming. Communities will have the opportunity to utilize other artistic formats, such as visual note-taking. Awardees will determine how they plan to capture their story telling and provide a plan for how they will ensure a quality product.

At the conclusion of the listening sessions, representative/s of funded projects will present the findings at a meeting with OHA/DHS leadership and other Native leaders. OHA/DHS leadership will commit to reconvening tribal and urban Indian leaders regularly to discuss the progress of implementing community recommendations.

## Summary of Findings in the State of Equity Report (2011)

The State of Equity Report found that Native American/American Indians have health disparities across almost all of the key performance measures used. A few findings are highlighted below:

- **33%** of Native Americans are employed after receiving AOD abuse treatment, compared to **57%** of Whites
- Native Americans had the highest rate of ambulatory care sensitive condition hospitalizations of Oregon Health Plan, with **3,463 of 100,000 patients**.
- **4.4%** of Native American females age 15-17 are pregnant, compared to **1.8%** of White females
- **38%** of Native American adults currently smoke cigarettes, compared to **20%** of White adults.

The entire report is available at <http://www.oregon.gov/OHA/oei/Pages/soe/index.aspx>.

## Tentative Timeline

Each tribe/urban community will identify a timeline that will best meet their specific needs

- **October 2013:** Proposals due to OEI (rolling deadline)
- **October 2013 – November/December 2013:** Community listening sessions held
- **January 2014:** Event with OHA/DHS leadership and Native leaders

## Questions?

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