



Behavioral Health Aide (BHA) Education Program

Now recruiting!

Your opportunity to pursue a holistic, culturally relevant, and relational higher education program.

Northwest Indian College (NWIC) offers a culturally-specific behavioral health pathway for Indigenous students.

- ★ NPAIHB funding will be prioritized to prospective students currently working in a tribal behavioral health clinic in OR, ID, and WA.
- ★ Prioritization also given to students who currently have a Clinical Supervisor and are interested in receiving National Certification as a BHA.

What is the Application Process?

- There is a 2-step application process.
 1. Complete the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) BHA Stipend Application. **Link to apply:**
 - <https://form.jotform.com/tchppbha/bha-education-program-application>
 2. Academic Institution Application & Enrollment
- Reference letter (*preferably from a Clinical Supervisor or Behavioral Health Department*)
- Current Resume & Cover Letter



Contact:
Katie Hunsberger
 BHA Program Manager
 khunsberger@npaihb.org
 971-347-7888

Application due date:
November 26, 2025
Cohort start date:
January 5, 2026



<https://www.tchpp.org/students>

MORE INFORMATION



WHAT IS A BHA?

A Behavioral Health Aide (BHA) is a counselor, health educator, and advocate. BHAs help address individual and community-based behavioral health needs, including those related to alcohol, drug, and tobacco misuse. They also provide trauma-informed approaches to mental and spiritual health care such as depression and anxiety resources, suicide prevention, grief support, and self-care tools. BHAs seek to achieve balance in the community by integrating their sensitivity to cultural needs with specialized training in behavioral health concerns and culturally appropriate approaches to treatment.



An earn while you learn opportunity through stipends of up to \$13,500



Students have the opportunity to be nationally certified BHAs through the Portland Area CHAP Certification Board (PACCB).



Be a part of a community of support and circle of care as we grow into a Tribally-specific workforce.

What Support does Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) Offer?

Stipend funding, school supply support, connection to Tribal Elders and knowledge holders, leadership development opportunities, opportunities to network with Indigenous clinicians who deliver culture-based services, and academic advising support through coordination with the institution partners.

NORTHWEST INDIAN COLLEGE



BHA PROGRAM ATA



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Gorman-Etl**

BUILDING NATIONS

NWIC grounds their Behavioral Health Aide Education Program within a Associate of Technical Arts degree.

Program Specifics:

- Two-year program
- Online courses
- Term based // 4 quarters

- B.A., NWIC Alum
- *Navajo - Diné*
- Behavioral Health Aide Coordinator and Professor
- Email: yngorman@nwic.edu



LOCATED IN BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

For more information: check out NWIC's website [here](#)