



2021 SMP/SHIP National Conference
Virtual Meeting • Part One—April 27-29, 2021

Connecting with Tribal Elders through SHIP/MIPPA/SMP Partnerships

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Welcome & House-Keeping

Agenda

- We'll tell you about us...
 - Indian Country
 - Tribal MIPPA grants
 - Partnership
 - Impact of COVID on Tribal elders
- Then, tell us about you!
 - Past experience working with tribes/tribal members
 - Hopes for what you'll learn today
- In-depth discussion based on audience input



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ACL's Work with Tribal Elders

Overview

- Federal Trust Responsibility: US has a long-established, special political relationship with AI/ANs due to their tribes' statuses as sovereign nations, as recognized in the U.S. Constitution.
- In exchange for land, and in compensation for the forced removal from their original homelands, the government promised, through laws, treaties, and pledges, to support and protect AI/AN people.

Overview

- AI/AN people are a diverse population, with 574 federally recognized tribes based in the rural and urban areas of 35 states.
- Most tribes are federally recognized
- Some tribes are state-recognized
- A number of tribes are unrecognized—meaning that they are not eligible for certain services, such as having access to Indian Health Services (IHS).

Overview: What is Indian Country?

- “Indian Country”: any of the self-governing American Indian communities throughout the United States; Alaska Natives typically reserve the term for use in describing the lower 48 states.
- All land within the limits of any Indian reservation, all Indian communities within the borders of the United States, and all Indian allotments.
- Acknowledges the many differences among the tribes
- Extent of diversity makes it difficult to create a one-size-fits-all approach to working with AI/ANs.

MIPPA Grant Requirements

- Grantees must educate and enroll elders in MIPPA benefits by:
 - Producing at least one community announcement; and
 - Holding at least one community outreach event.
- 12-month project period (NCEs available)

MIPPA Grant Requirements

- In FY21, \$285,000 in available funding
- Disbursed among population-based formula
- Only Title VI grantees who submit an annual application for MIPPA will receive the grant
- Grants range from \$1,780 (for tribe with 100 or fewer elders) to \$4,600 (for tribes with largest population (27,000 in FY20))



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Tribal-State Partnerships

Facilitators to Collaboration

- Consistent and open communication
- Shared vision and aligned goals
- A “champion” or liaison as a consistent point-of-contact
- Cultural respect and awareness
- Tribal grantees on advisory boards
- State-level support
- Previous good relationships

Barriers to Collaboration

- Staff turnover and limited staffing
- Misaligned visions
- Different reporting requirements
- Miscommunication or lack of communication
- Lack of information
- Rural geography
- Previous poor relationships

Cultural Competency and Tribal Sovereignty

- Having an equitable approach to collaboration;
- Utilizing tribal liaisons;
- Incorporating cultural competency practices into organizations;
- Accepting feedback from the tribal organizations and acknowledging their contributions;
- Visiting the tribal grantee in person.

Recommendations for Successful Collaboration

- Find local grantees for collaboration
- Understand the policies and requirements around collaboration.
- Practice cultural competency and recognize tribal sovereignty.
- Practice diverse hiring at your organization.
- Have a consistent point of contact to streamline communication.

Recommendations for Successful Collaboration

- Have standing check-in meetings.
- Include tribal representatives on policy and advisory boards.
- Regularly share organizational goals and plans with each other.
- Reach out for help.
- Don't give up!



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Challenges Facing Tribal Communities

Unique Challenges Facing Tribal Communities

- Being in a rural or frontier area:
 - This can create challenges with transportation.
 - Tribes also face difficulties getting food and other necessary items delivered.
 - People live a long way from the services they need.
 - Finally, the rural nature of tribes can create infrastructure challenges. For example, many tribes lack internet connection and some even lack utilities like running water.

Unique Challenges Facing Tribal Communities Cont.

➤ Limited funding:

- There is very limited funding for disabled people in tribal communities.
- There is a funding strain on the IHS as AI/AN populations represent the greatest number of individual who are eligible for but not covered under Medicaid.

Unique Challenges with COVID-19 in Tribal Communities

- Many tribal communities have been hit hard by COVID-19. In fact, the Navajo nation has the most cases per capita of any state in the nation.
- COVID has also exaggerated some of the challenges that persist in tribal communities, including social isolation and access to nutritious foods.

What we are doing and what you can do?

- Every Thursday (from 3-4 EST) we have a “Thursday chat.”
 - We invite all 282 Title VI grantees to gather.
 - We bring in guest speakers and answer any programmatic questions.
 - We welcome you to join this call. Please contact Jasmine if you would like the appointment.

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Conversation

How can we support you in
connecting with Tribal elders?

