Promoting Tribal Behavioral Health: SAMHSA Resources, Programs & Funding

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SAMHSA Priorities and Guiding Principles

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Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use
SAMHSA’s New Strategic Plan

**Mission**
- SAMHSA’s mission is to lead public health and service delivery efforts that promote mental health, prevent substance misuse, and provide treatments and supports to foster recovery while ensuring equitable access and better outcomes.

**Vision**
- SAMHSA envisions that people with, affected by, or at risk for mental health and substance use conditions receive care, thrive, and achieve well-being.
### Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy

- Serves as the primary point of contact within SAMHSA for Tribes, Tribal organizations, and other partners on Tribal behavioral health.
- Leads and supports SAMHSA-wide actions to improve behavioral health of Tribal communities.
- Leads SAMHSA Tribal consultation, outreach, education, and engagement efforts.
- Leads coordination of Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse (IASA) efforts in response to the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA).

### Tribal Technical Advisory Committee

- The Tribal Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) helps build and maintain SAMHSA’s government-to-government relationship with AI/AN Tribes.
- In 2008, SAMHSA formed the TTAC, meant to enhance the government-to-government relationship and to honor the Federal responsibilities and obligations to Tribes and AI/AN people.
- The SAMHSA TTAC membership is comprised of 14 elected Tribal leaders from Federally recognized Tribes.
  - There are currently vacancies and new nominations will be accepted again starting July 1, 2023. Visit samha.gov/tribal for more information.
- The SAMHSA TTAC also provides a venue wherein Tribal leadership and SAMHSA staff can exchange information about public health issues, identify urgent mental health and substance abuse needs, and discuss collaborative approaches to addressing these behavioral health issues and needs.
New Initiatives and Updates

SAMHSA OTAP Website

- OTAP has redesigned its webpage to be more user friendly. Notably, this webpage now has a "News and Events" tab, which gives updates about important happenings regarding Tribal affairs. Past events are listed as well.
- See the following for a link to the webpage: https://www.samhsa.gov/tribal-affairs
Elevating and Updating the National Tribal Behavioral Health Agenda

The TBHA provides foundational behavioral health elements, priorities, and strategies that charted the course for more meaningful collaborations and opportunities for strengthening policies, programs, and activities. The development of the document was a collaborative effort between many Tribes, leaders, organizations, and federal agencies.

Kickoff Meeting with original contributors: 08/18/22

Joint Listening Session with Tribal Leaders and Federal Partners: 03/23/23

02/22/23: Federal Partners Meeting

Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Resources for Native Americans

Authorized but not appropriated under the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023

Program Description

• Authorized $80 million funds for this new program to be used to provide services for the prevention, treatment, and recovery from mental health and substance use disorders among American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Eligible entities would have latitude to develop programs that fit their unique needs and tailored to their community.

Eligibility

• Any health program administered directly by the Indian Health Service (IHS), a Tribal health program, an Indian Tribe, a Tribal organization, an Urban Indian organization, and a Native Hawaiian health organization.

Mechanism

• Authority to contract or compact under, as applicable, under Title I or V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

Tribal Consultation to be scheduled late summer reference budget formula and program outcome measures.
Addressing Overdose through Harm Reduction

- **Finalizing Harm Reduction Framework**
  - Result of first-ever collaborative Harm Reduction Summit
  - Established to inform harm reduction activities, policies, programs, and practices
  - Draft posted for Public Comment: [SAMHSA Harm Reduction Framework | SAMHSA](https://www.samhsa.gov)

- **Innovative and community-based harm reduction strategies continue**
  - Lives are being saved
  - Social determinants of health being addressed
  - Cultural humility and traditions incorporated
  - Infectious diseases prevented
  - Community partnerships formed
  - Policies updated
  - Innovative practices implemented
  - Increasing access to care
  - Access to live-saving supplies increasing
  - Stigma and community education being addressed

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OTAP Harm Reduction Summit

- Occurred August 3rd through August 4th, 2022, this Summit focused on harm reduction principles, progress, and challenges within the AI/AN community.

- There were several sessions that focused on specific harm reduction strategies and how these are being carried out within AI/AN communities. Experts in the field shared how they started, expanded, and run various harm reduction programs.

- Participants had the opportunity to learn more about the efficacy of various harm reduction strategies and some of the causes contributing to the current overdose epidemic.

- Information related to federal resources and programs available to help start or expand harm reduction programs was provided.
Addressing Overdose through Improved Policy

- Policy changes are presenting new opportunities
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act</th>
<th>Medication Access and Training Expansion Act (MATE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Removes the DATA-2000 Waiver to prescribe buprenorphine</td>
<td>Requirement for a non-recurring, 8-hour training on substance use disorder for practitioners applying for registration from the DEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifts caps on number of patients who can be treated; removes counseling and reporting requirements</td>
<td>Met through addiction board certification, as part of or post-healthcare professional degree training</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
  
- In December 2022, President Biden signed into law H.R. 2617, the “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023”

- Also in December 2022, SAMHSA released a proposed rule related to OTPs

DOJ/DEA and HHS/SAMHSA are engaged in close collaboration and coordination related to the Implementation of MAT

Proposal to Federal Rules on Opioid Treatment Programs

- Last year SAMHSA proposed an update to Federal regulations that oversee opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment standards.

- Specifically, the proposed rule change would allow Americans to access treatment by allowing take home doses of methadone and the use of telehealth in initiating buprenorphine at opioid treatment programs (OTPs).

- In its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to update 42 CFR Part 8, SAMHSA seeks to improve Americans’ access to and experiences with OUD treatment, specifically through OTPs.
  - The proposed changes reflect a widespread desire by many stakeholders for SAMHSA to provide greater autonomy to OTP practitioners, positively support recovery, and continue flexibilities that were extended at the start of the nation’s COVID-19 public health emergency.

- To facilitate expansion of access to care, SAMHSA proposes to update OTP admission criteria in Part 8:
  - Includes removal of the one-year requirement for opioid addiction before admission to an OTP.
  - In conjunction with updated standards that include extended take-home doses of methadone and access to telehealth, changes will likely expand access while also improving retention in treatment.
CDC-SAMHSA Partnership

Goals:
- Expand capacity, increase effectiveness, and strengthen the performance and accountability of harm reduction approaches within a comprehensive prevention strategy at the state and community levels.
- Provide TA and consultation services to support implementation of effective, evidence-based harm reduction programs, practices, and policies in diverse settings.
- Decrease health disparities in substance use through application of culturally appropriate harm reduction strategies and approaches.
- Monitor the delivery and quality of the Center’s services so the impact of these services can be assessed in relation to states and communities achieving their goals.
- See the following for more: https://harmreductionhelp.cdc.gov

Enhancing Access to Suicide Prevention and Crisis Care

The 988 Lifeline data for December 2022 showed an increase in overall volume compared to December 2021. During the same period the 988 Lifeline answered 172,164 more contacts (calls, chats and texts).

Calls answered increased by 48%, Chats answered increased by 263%, and Texts answered increased by 1445%.

Average speed to answer across all contacts decreased from 172 seconds to 44 seconds.

988 Partner Toolkit
https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988/partner-toolkit

You Can Find: Social Media Shareables

Presented by: David A. Dickinson, MA
Washington State: 988 Native and Strong Lifeline

- The first program of its kind in the nation dedicated to serving AI/AN people.
  - Operated by Volunteers of America Western Washington (VOA-WW), one of Washington state’s three 988 crisis call centers, this line is available for people who call the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and is specifically for Washington’s American Indian and Alaska Native communities.
  - Calls are answered by Native crisis counselors who are Tribal members and descendants closely tied to their communities.
  - The Native and Strong Lifeline counselors are fully trained in crisis intervention and support, with special emphasis on cultural and traditional practices related to healing.

- The Native and Strong Lifeline is integrated into the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline system in Washington state.
  - When someone calls 988 Lifeline from a Washington state area code, they will hear an automated greeting that features different options, such as the Veterans Crisis Line and the Spanish Language Line.
  - Callers can now choose option 4 to be connected to the Native and Strong Lifeline.

Support for 988 Tribal Response Cooperative Agreements

- These cooperative agreements will provide resources to improve response to 988 contacts (including calls, chats, and texts) originating in Tribal communities and/or activated by AI/ANs.

- With this program, SAMHSA aims to:
  - (1) ensure AI/ANs have access to culturally competent, trained 988 crisis center support through existing and/or new 988 Lifeline centers;
  - (2) improve integration and support of 988 crisis centers, Tribal nations, and Tribal organizations to ensure there is navigation and follow-up care; and
  - (3) facilitate collaborations with Tribal, state and territory health providers, Urban Indian Organizations, law enforcement, and other first responders in a manner which respects Tribal sovereignty.

- Application Due Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2023
The Tribal Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Center offers technical assistance (TA) on mental and substance use disorders, suicide prevention, and mental health promotion using the Strategic Cultural Framework. Events include the following:

- Opioids Training and Technical Assistance
- Gathering of Native Americans (GONAs)
- Learning Communities
- Virtual TTA
- Intensive TTA
- Information Dissemination

The National AI/AN TTC helps develop and strengthen certain providers of substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health prevention, treatment, and recovery support services to American Indian and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs).

The AI/AN TTC functions will soon be transitioning to the new AI/AN Behavioral Health Center of Excellence.
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Opioid Response Network (ORN)

- The ORN has local consultants in all 50 states and nine territories.
- Designed to respond to local needs by providing free educational resources and training to states, communities and individuals in the prevention, treatment and recovery of opioid use disorders and stimulant use.
- ORN has disseminated information provided by SAMHSA, CDC, and other Technical Assistance Centers pertaining to COVID-19 and include the following:
  - The Opioid Epidemic and COVID-19: How Social Determinants of Health Create Differential Impacts
  - Compassionate Fatigue and Self Care: For Helping Professionals Working with Opioid Related Disorders
- See the following for more: https://opioidresponsenetwork.org/index.aspx

ORN Indigenous Communities Workgroup

- The Indigenous Communities Workgroup, a workgroup associated with the Opioid Response Network, ensures for the provision of culturally informed education and training developed in partnership with Native communities.
- It is comprised of Tribal behavioral health professionals with significant experience working with Native communities.
- This Workgroup also represents diverse experience across Indian Country, including with urban Indian communities, rural reservations, and Alaska Native villages.
MISSION: To develop and disseminate training and technical assistance for rural communities addressing opioid and stimulants issues affecting their communities.

The ROTA grantees facilitate the identification of model programs, develop and update materials related to the prevention, treatment, and recovery activities for opioid use disorder (OUD), and provides high-quality training.

Contact: Humberto.Carvalho@samhsa.hhs.gov
https://www.samhsa.gov/rural-opioid-technical-assistance-rota

SAMHSA Store

- The SAMHSA Store offers access to publications and resources covering a myriad of topics related to mental health and substance use.

- https://store.samhsa.gov/

- Examples include:
  - Alcohol Abuse
  - Trauma
  - Depression
  - Violence
  - Homelessness
### Tribal Opioid Response

**Tribal Opioid Response Program**

- The program aims to address the opioid crisis in Tribal communities by increasing access to culturally appropriate and evidence-based treatment, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT) using one of the three FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD).

- Awarded to Federally-recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations.
  - Award amounts vary based on Tribal population size.

- Addresses opioid crisis in Tribal communities by increasing access to culturally appropriate and evidence-based harm reduction, prevention, treatment, and recovery support services for opioid and stimulant use disorders.

- Emphasizes the use of medication-assisted treatment using one of the three FDA-approved medications for OUDs.

- Encourages the use of traditional practices.
Swinomish Tribal Community Opioid Treatment Program

[Image]

The purpose of this program is to prevent suicide and substance misuse, reduce the impact of trauma, and promote mental health among AI/AN youth through the age of 24 years.

Native Connections

Tribal Behavioral Health Grant (TBHG/Native Connections)

- The purpose of this program is to prevent suicide and substance misuse, reduce the impact of trauma, and promote mental health among AI/AN youth through the age of 24 years.

- Native Connections is intended to reduce the impact of mental and substance use disorders, foster culturally responsive models that reduce and respond to the impact of trauma in AI/AN communities.

In FY21, SAMHSA awarded 40 Tribes and Tribal organizations.

In FY 22 SAMHSA awarded 41 Tribes and Tribal organizations.

The Native Connections grant is funded up to $250k for up to 5 years.

2023 SAMHSA NOFO Forecast
A PROTECTIVE FACTORS APPROACH TO PREVENTION

- What are our community and cultural strengths?
- What are our historical strengths?
- What kinds of protective childhood experiences (PTEs) did our Elders have when they were growing up?
- How can we provide PTEs to our children and today?

Circles of Care

- Supports children with severe emotional disturbances and their families.
- Plan for the development of a community-based system of care model for children with mental health challenges and their families.
- Develop local capacity and infrastructure to assist Tribal communities in obtaining funding and resources to implement a system of care model to improve the mental health and wellness of their children, youth, and families.
Thank you for your commitment to health!

SAMHSA’s mission is to lead public health and service delivery efforts that promote mental health, prevent substance misuse, and provide treatments and supports to foster recovery while ensuring equitable access and better outcomes.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
www.samhsa.gov

To contact SAMHSA’s OTAP office, please see the following:

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National Tribal Opioid Summit

National Tribal Opioid Summit:
Coming soon.....
August 22-24, 2023
Details on the NPAIHB Website:
https://www.npaihb.org/national-tribal-opioid-summit/