

2015 CFP: Proposals Approved for Funding

American Indian Health

Blackfeet Tribal Health

Title: School and Community-Based Health Services for Blackfeet Youth

Project Term: 24 months

This project will support the Blackfeet Tribe to plan and implement tribally-run, school-based health services. Through this grant, the tribal health department will explore how to utilize tribal authority to provide sustainable, community-based mental and physical health services to youth in public schools and possibly the youth court system. The project will be led by the Tribal Health Department in partnership with the Blackfeet Tribal Council and the Browning and Heart Butte Public Schools, with the Indian Health Service and the juvenile justice system as partners.

CSKT Tribal Health Department

Title: Understanding and Utilizing Health Care Resources on the Flathead Indian Reservation

Project Term: 24 months

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) Tribal Health Department seeks to accomplish three objectives with this grant: (1) Pursuant to public law 638, assume the Indian Health Service budget for purchased and referred care (PRC), and tribally manage this program. This will vastly expand the available resources to cover services not available on the reservation; (2) enroll eligible members in Medicaid now that Montana's Medicaid expansion has been approved, and enroll those above the Medicaid income thresholds in private insurance on the exchange; and (3) educate providers that see CSKT members on this new coverage approach, and educate patients on how to effectively use coverage.

Fort Peck Tribal Health Department

Title: Fort Peck Needle Exchange Program

Project Term: 24 months

This project will revive a needle exchange program that operated on the Fort Peck Reservation from the summer of 2009 to January 2012. The main objective of this intervention will be to reduce transmission of blood-borne illnesses such as hepatitis C and HIV. Fort Peck developed and implemented a unique and successful needle exchange protocol which was one of the first operated in a rural reservation in the US. This program will be reinstated and expanded to provide injection drug users with clean needles, education, sharps containers for safe disposal of needles, and referrals to addictions counselling if needed.

Fort Peck Tribes Health Promotion Disease Prevention Program

Title: Fort Peck Tribes HPDP Staff Recruitment and Telemedicine Systems Project

Project Term: 24 months

This project will develop long-term, innovative solutions to the critical shortage of health providers on the Fort Peck reservation. The project will seek to develop formal agreements with larger healthcare systems, professional healthcare provider organizations, and universities who will agree to partner with

the Fort Peck HPDP program to regularly send licensed healthcare professionals to serve the tribes. The project will also explore developing the capacity to use telemedicine to deliver needed healthcare services.

Helena Indian Alliance

Title: Development of Best Practices for Excellence in Opiate Dependence Treatment

Project Term: 18 months

This project seeks to support effective, office-based treatment of opioid addiction by physicians (opioids include drugs such as heroin and oxycodone). Buprenorphine is an opioid that is used in medications that are approved for office-based treatment of opioid addiction, such as Suboxone. Providers must receive special approval from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to use buprenorphine-containing products for this purpose. This proposal will engage primary care providers in developing, piloting, and evaluating a practical, best-practices guide grounded in the challenges unique to Montana.

Messengers for Health

Title: Traditional Relationships Improve Contemporary Health

Project Term: 24 months

Messengers for Health, a Crow non-profit, will carry out two projects with this grant: (1) broadening a cancer screening outreach program to include colon cancer screening for men; and (2) implementing and evaluating a culturally-based chronic disease self-management program for illnesses such as diabetes. Messengers for Health has been working in the area of cancer screening since 1996, in partnership with Professor Suzanne Christopher at Montana State University (MSU), using a community-based participatory research framework. The program uses a volunteer-driven, culturally-based model to encourage women to seek screening for breast and cervical cancer. To contribute to the chronic disease self-management program, this grant will support development of a training manual for volunteers, and pilot test the elements of the model with patients of Bighorn Valley Community Health Center.

Northern Cheyenne Tribal Board of Health

Title: Northern Cheyenne Injury Prevention Project

Project Term: 24 months

The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Board of Health will establish an injury prevention program. Montana has one of the nation's highest rates of motor vehicle injury among American Indians. The project will establish a comprehensive, public health approach to injury prevention on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. Key elements include (1) revising the current Tribal Safety Belt Ordinance; (2) conducting community-based activities to increase the use of seat belts and child restraints, such as community education campaigns and partnering with Head Start to distribute and encourage the use of child seats; and (3) collaborating with law enforcement to strengthen traffic safety. The grant will fund a fulltime injury prevention coordinator to lead the activities. The Indian Health Service and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offer longer-term funding for tribal injury prevention programs: this grant will also help the tribe establish the foundation needed to successfully apply for these longer-term grants.

Rocky Boy Health Board

Title: Rocky Boy Health Board Centralized Coding, Billing, and Revenue Maximization Project

Project Term: 24 months

This project will strengthen the Rocky Boy health system by improving administration, coding, and billing through developing and implementing a centralized billing system. The project will begin by identifying current challenges in billing and collections, and then develop a plan to address these issues and train staff in billing and coding. The project will also focus on enrolling uninsured tribal members in Medicaid or Affordable Care Act (ACA) exchange insurance plans. In addition, the project will begin a consideration of how to better serve the health needs of the community through, for example, providing reimbursable school-based services, and providing on-site services for tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families recipients. The overall goal for this project is to develop a sound administration and stable revenue base, which will allow the tribe to design and run effective, tribally-led health programs.

Behavioral Health

Beaverhead County Public Health

Title: Integrating Behavioral and Physical Health in Rural Southwest Montana

Project Term: 18 months

The National Council for Behavioral Health will facilitate a two-day summit for health care professionals, education professionals, community resource agencies, and others to educate them about the elements and implementation process for an integrated behavioral health model. Following the summit, a coalition formed by the grantee will lead development of a work plan and the implementation of integrated behavioral health in Beaverhead County.

Bighorn Valley Health Center, Inc.

Title: Bighorn Valley Health Center at St. Labre School: A School-Based Health Center to Improve Screening and Treatment of Depression

Project Term: 24 months

Bighorn Valley Health Center (BVHC) will partner with the St. Labre School system in Rosebud and Big Horn counties to develop a school-based health center for students, their families, and staff members. First, in collaboration with St. Labre and various community partners, they will provide a comprehensive array of primary care medical and mental health services in an effort to reduce barriers to care, and to screen for and mitigate upstream events that can result in toxic stress to children, with the goal of reducing the impact of behavioral health issues in this community. Second, the health center and school system will collaborate to create a more trauma-informed environment of healing on campus, which has been shown to not only improve behavioral health outcomes, but also school performance and behavior. The funds will be used for design and startup, but the services are entirely sustainable through billing and content-related policy change.

Billings Clinic

Title: Train and Retain: Establishing a Montana Psychiatric Residency Training Track

Project Term: 24 months

This planning grant will help lay the foundation for establishing a psychiatric residency in Montana. The entire state of Montana, outside Yellowstone County, is designated as a mental health professional shortage area. The project will create a comprehensive blueprint that results in the establishment of a Psychiatric Residency Training Track in Montana beginning in 2017. The program will place University of Washington (UW) residents in Montana for the final two years of their psychiatric residency. This model has already been applied in Boise and Spokane: UW residents are based in Seattle for the first two years and then complete training in Boise and Spokane in years three and four. The residency will include a strong emphasis on rural rotations, such that recruitment and retention of psychiatrists to rural areas would be more likely. Partners include the Billings Clinic, University of Washington, and the Veteran's Administration.

Browning Alternative School

Title: Using Blackfeet Cultural Values to Create a Trauma-Informed School Setting

Project Term: 18 months

This project will create a trauma-informed school using Blackfeet cultural values, and implement an adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) survey for students. The project will begin in the alternative school program (one of the largest and most respected in the state), and then extend to the entire school district. The project will focus on training staff in trauma-informed approaches to school discipline, and then stepwise implementation of this approach.

Center for Mental Health

Title: Planning Grant for Integration of Primary Care Services into Mental Health Facilities in Lewis and Clark County

Project Term: 24 months

This is a planning grant to collaboratively approach the issue of integrating physical and mental health services (integrated behavioral health, or IBH) in Lewis and Clark County's crisis center and community health center. The applicant and partners will hire the National Council on Behavioral Healthcare to assist the partners with planning, data collection, identification of the steps, screening tools, referral process, billing for procedures, and procedures for sharing information data.

Holy Rosary Healthcare Foundation

Title: Eastern Montana Integrated Behavioral Health Collaborative

Project Term: 12 months

This project will provide integrated primary care and behavioral health care to patients in eastern Montana through developing and piloting an innovative, collaborative care model. The primary care team at Holy Rosary Healthcare and behavioral health experts from Eastern Montana Community Mental Health Center will collaborate to provide more seamless, integrated care for a full spectrum of mental health issues, addiction, and primary care medical conditions. Desired outcomes include increased patient access to behavioral health and primary care services, earlier diagnosis and treatment implementation, and lower occurrences of crisis situations due to earlier intervention. Through improving health outcomes, successful integrated care models have also shown promise as a way to control rising health care costs.

Intermountain

Title: Onsite and On-Call Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services for At-Risk Helena Youth in Alternative High Schools

Project Term: 18 months

Intermountain, in partnership with three Helena alternative school programs (Project for Alternative Learning, Access to Success, and the Career Training Institute), will plan and implement a new project to provide onsite and on-call behavioral health services for alternative school students in the Helena area struggling with mental health and substance abuse issues.

Lewis and Clark County

Title: Lewis and Clark County Mental Health Strategic Plan

Project Term: 24 months

This grant will support development of a county-wide Mental Health Strategic Plan, using a sequential mapping approach that looks at where people with mental illness interact with corrections, medical care, emergency response, and behavioral health services, and taking a step-by-step approach to helping the county develop a plan that improves outcomes and utilizes existing resources most effectively. The plan will be carried out by the Local Advisory Council, which includes broad representation of city and county leadership, hospitals, providers of mental health services, substance abuse services, criminal justice legal staff and law enforcement.

Montana Medical Association Foundation

Title: Prescription Drug Abuse Reduction Initiative

Project Term: 24 months

The Montana Medical Association (MMA) is proposing to work with Family Practice residency programs to incorporate training modules on Prescription Drug Abuse into the residency curriculum to educate new physicians on best practices in prescribing opioids (drugs such as oxycodone and hydrocodone). MMA also hopes that these residents will, in turn, share best practices with practicing physicians while on rotations around Montana.

North Valley Hospital Foundation

Title: Virtual Access for Behavioral Healthcare Services (VABHS)

Project Term: 24 months

This project will plan and implement tele-behavioral health services in three schools, a clinic, and a skilled nursing facility in the Whitefish geographic area. Services will include both mental health and behavioral health treatment. The project will take a stepwise approach to expanding services to each site, beginning with the Columbia Falls high school. In this first phase, the project will design a tool for screening and referring students, coordinating care between the tele-health provider and the school, and using the tele-medicine equipment. In the next phase, the project will expand to Whitefish, and operate as part of a school-based clinic that is opening there this year. In both cases, the aim is to begin services in the high school, and then build to offer services in middle and elementary students. In the third phase, the project will expand to the rural Eureka school system and a skilled nursing facility in that community.

Open Aid Alliance

Title: Overdose Prevention and Naloxone Access Project of Missoula County

Project Term: 18 months

Naloxone is an injectable drug used to reverse the effects of opioids, and is life-saving in the treatment of overdoses. This proposal will make naloxone available to opioid-addicted patients through Missoula's needle exchange, and provide training for these individuals and family members on proper use. There is mounting evidence that this approach effectively prevents overdose deaths. Funding will be used to plan the program.

Sidney Health Center

Title: Bakken Behavioral Health Project

Project Term: 18 months

Sidney Health Center, in collaboration with the Richland Health Network and the Local Advisory Council for Mental Health (LAC), will establish behavioral health services in the Rural Health Clinic. The grant will support staff training related to administration, billing, and behavioral health services.

St. Luke Community Healthcare

Title: The Hope Project of Lake County & Flathead Reservation: Improving Health Outcomes for Mom and Baby Impacted By Substance Abuse during Pregnancy

Project Term: 24 months

The Hope Project of Lake County and the Flathead Reservation is a collaboration between St. Luke Community Healthcare and St. Joseph Hospital, with strong support from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribal government, to implement a multi-disciplinary approach to drug use during pregnancy through both clinical and home-based services. Both hospitals will implement a collaborative, team-based approach that provides holistic, respectful, family-centered care. They will hire licensed clinical social workers (LCSWs) with expertise in addictions, and implement a comprehensive, coordinated approach to providing prenatal care and coordinated supportive services for pregnant women struggling with addiction. Beyond the direct impacts of drug use during pregnancy, an accompanying problem is that women struggling with addiction often have poor or no prenatal care, often because of fears of criminal prosecution and social service involvement. A second component of the program will focus on community outreach to encourage people to seek care early in pregnancy or prior, and inform them of the availability of supportive services. The Best Beginnings program (focused on early childhood) and the County Health Department's Parents as Teachers program will also serve Hope Project families.

St. Vincent Healthcare Foundation

Title: Comprehensive Prenatal Care with Integrated Substance Abuse Treatment for American Indian Women

Project Term: 12 months

St. Vincent Healthcare and tribal health partners seek to improve maternal-child health outcomes from American Indian women and their newborns by validating current barriers encountered in accessing prenatal and substance abuse treatment. This one-year grant will support a partnership between St. Vincent Healthcare in Billings and the Northern Cheyenne tribe to develop a tribally-led pilot program to address drug use during pregnancy. The program seeks to increase early entry into prenatal care by refining a trusted model of care for prenatal care and integrate supportive services and substance abuse treatment. Explorative conversations will also be held to extend this program to the Crow tribe.

University of Montana: Effective Integrated Behavioral Health Partnerships for Rural Montana – A Collaborative Training Proposal

Project Term: 12 months

The University of Montana will develop and implement an integrated behavioral health curriculum for its psychology, social work, and counseling students, as well as the Western Montana Family Medicine Residency. This curriculum will ultimately be used to train and certify integrated behavioral health providers across the state.

Western Montana Mental Health

Title: Integrated Behavioral Health for Western and South Central Montana

Project Term: 12 months

With this grant, Western Montana Mental Health Center will contract with the National Council for Behavioral Health to provide training in integrated behavioral health (IBH) to 11 Western Montana Mental Health Center directors, and then begin strategic planning in each of the 14 counties in which they work toward the goal of implementing an IBH model in each county. The project will also result in a pilot IBH implementation project in Livingston.

Partnerships for Better Health

Barrett Hospital Foundation

Title: Southwestern Montana Rural Accountable Care

Project Term: 24 months

This grant will support the participation of Barrett Hospital in Montana's first Rural Accountable Care Organization (RACO). Barrett Hospital and HealthCare will join a consortium of regional Critical Access Hospitals being formed to create a RACO among 12 hospitals in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming that will collectively serve a group of more than 9,000 Medicare patients. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will track healthcare spending and measure the quality of care that is provided to these patients. Participating hospitals will have improved access to data to help measure costs, assess quality and safety.

Community Health Partners

Title: Promotoras de Salud: Bridging Latino Health Disparities in West Yellowstone and Belgrade

Project Term: 24 months

Community Health Partners (CHP) will develop a program in the communities of Belgrade and West Yellowstone to reach the growing, isolated communities of Latino immigrants there. Promotoras, or promoters of health, are laypersons who are trained to deliver basic health education and outreach to members of their community. An established partnership between CHP and the Montana State University INBRE Program (IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence) will be leveraged to create a community-based health partnership with Latinos. The project seeks to help reduce health disparities through effective health care education and basic prevention while also empowering the community to become agents of their well-being.

Glacier County Emergency Medical Services

Title: Glacier County, Montana Integrated Mobile Health

Project Term: 24 months

Glacier County Emergency Medical Services (GCEMS) will implement a novel program in which they will provide home-based medical care in partnership with regional healthcare providers located in North Central Montana. The project seeks to improve health outcomes among medically vulnerable individuals identified by the hospital and medical providers, reduce unnecessary emergency department (ED) use and hospital readmission, and, ultimately, to save healthcare dollars by preventing unnecessary ambulance transports, emergency department visits, and hospital readmissions. The project builds on ideas from “community paramedicine” programs that are emerging in other parts of the US, and adapts them to serve the specific needs of Glacier County. The grant will fund a pilot in two communities, East Glacier Park and Babb, which include a high percentage of American Indians, elderly, at-risk children, and veterans. Services to be provided by EMS personnel include (1) home observation for ED patients judged to be at risk but too stable for admission; (2) home health services during off hours; (3) support for hospice patients to remain at home rather than going to the ED for crises; (4) home visits and calls to patients discharged from the ED or hospital and at high risk for readmission; and (5) 911 triage—establishing a call center for non-emergent, low-acuity callers to avoid unnecessary emergency transports. The proposal includes several strategies for sustainability, including intra-agency savings (reduced EMS calls), shared savings with hospitals (funding services using savings on readmission and uncompensated care), and changes that would make these services reimbursable by public and private insurance programs.

Kalispell Regional Healthcare

Title: Post-Delivery Support for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Infants and Their Parents in Rural Montana

Project Term: 24 months

Through this grant, Kalispell Regional Healthcare’s (KRH) neonatal intensive care unit staff will work with Montana hospitals to develop and implement a standardized protocol to screen for and manage drug withdrawal in newborns. Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) is a drug withdrawal syndrome that sometimes occurs when infants exposed to opioids and other potentially harmful drugs in utero are delivered. This project will help to establish a strong, consistent approach to NAS among the hospitals that deliver babies in Montana. To accomplish this, KRH will work with other tertiary care hospitals to develop a standardized screening protocol, and then train staff in rural hospitals and work with them to develop and implement consistent policies and procedures for NAS. Second, KRH will develop and pilot a collaborative, multidisciplinary program to provide parents of infants with NAS with support and drug and alcohol counselling while their newborns are hospitalized.

Montana Budget and Policy Center

Title: Researching and Implementing Effective Strategies to Help Enroll Low-Income Montanans in Health Care Coverage

Project Term: 12 months

This project will develop and disseminate (via accompanying proposal from Montana Women Vote) two reports that will guide efforts to enroll newly eligible people in Medicaid and help them use healthcare effectively.

Montana Legal Services Association

Title: Montana Health Justice Partnership

Project Term: 24 months

The Montana Health Justice Partnership, a collaboration between the Montana Legal Services Corporation and the Montana Primary Care Association, will provide legal assistance to patients in several rural community health centers. Such “Medical-Legal Partnerships for health” (MLP) are active in nearly 40 states. In this model, an attorney works as part of a clinical team to address issues such as housing in disrepair, medical debt, family violence, denial of senior benefits, employment problems, health care access, and other issues that can have direct and indirect impacts on health. Through this grant, an attorney will provide services for patients in community health centers in Havre, Libby, Great Falls, Billings, Dillon, Fairview, and Lolo. The Montana Primary Care Association will provide the networks, relationships, trust, and project management needed to make this project successful.

Montana State University - Office of Rural Health

Title: Montana GME Council Rural Residency Sustainability Initiative

Project Term: 12 months

The project will address the need to provide rural training opportunities for medical residents in Montana. The project will develop a toolkit to help rural practices become effective training sites for medical residents, nurse practitioners, and physician assistant students, and develop a sustainable financial model for rural graduate medical education in Montana.

Montana Women Vote

Title: Researching and Implementing Effective Strategies to Enroll Low-Income Montanans in Health Care Coverage

Project Term: 12 months

Together with Montana Budget and Policy Center, Montana Women Vote will conduct a campaign to enroll newly eligible people in Medicaid. As a grassroots organization (with partner the Montana Human Rights Network), the grant will support 25,000 contacts with newly eligible people, via a huge network on local volunteers.

NeighborWorks Montana

Title: Manufactured Housing Rehabilitation and Replacement Collaboration

Project Term: 18 months

Substandard housing creates risks for health problems such as asthma and hip fractures, among others. This project seeks to identify new partners and collaborative, scalable solutions to repair and replace old and poorly maintained manufactured homes in western Montana, with an initial focus on Pablo and Missoula. Manufactured housing is an important form of affordable housing in Montana, but upwards of 30,000 homes are in need of repair or replacement. This project will explore shared interests with the healthcare and energy sectors, and create a task force in western Montana to identify collaborative solutions to make manufactured home repair and replacement accessible and affordable – leading to improved health outcomes for low-income people.

Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc.'s RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)

Title: Tri-County RSVP Keeping You Home Project

Project Term: 12 months

This project focuses on reducing the risk of readmission for seniors and disabled individuals judged to be at high risk at the time of discharge from the hospital. The grantee will extend Helena's RSVP program to rural towns in three counties. Volunteers in the RSVP program provide resource coordination, peer support, and assistance with issues such as taking medications correctly. The RSVP program has been credited with helping to reduce readmissions in St. Peter Hospital in Helena.

University of Montana

Title: Montana Public Radio

Project Term: 12 months

Montana Public Radio (MPR) would collaborate with Yellowstone Public Radio (YPR) to research, produce, and broadcast statewide 16 in-depth stories on current health and healthcare issues in Montana. This funding would allow reporters to travel to remote parts of the state to research and cover issues relevant to rural Montanans and tribes.