



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS: FACT SHEET

One of NCUIH's primary objectives is to address and help ameliorate the morbidity and mortality profiles and disproportionate rate of behavioral health issues AI/ANs living in urban areas face through representation, training, and resource development.

IHS has already limited its behavioral health grants to organizations like NCUIH and NCUIH currently only receives one grant from IHS (NUIBHA). Any further strain on NCUIH's opportunities to have as large of an impact as it has in the past will reduce the ability for NCUIH to make important strides.

These behavioral health grants enable NCUIH to take on critical initiatives related to behavioral health to support UIHPs.

- NCUIH provides education, technical support, and training to UIHPs to address ongoing behavioral health disparities and achieve Healthy People 2020 goals, as well as supporting organizational capacity through grant writing trainings.
- NCUIH's work is vital because of the significant behavioral health disparities AI/ANs residing in urban areas face.
 - For example, suicide is the second leading cause of death of urban Indian youth between the ages of 10 and 24.
- NCUIH is currently making strong efforts to help reduce the incidents of suicide among urban Indian youth adhering to the belief that suicide can be preventable through greater access to information and resources. NCUIH gathered and presented information for the approved NCAI resolution for the AIAN Hope for Life Day/National Suicide Awareness Day and helped develop the related resource toolkit for tribes and urban.
- These behavioral health grants enable NCUIH to provide technical assistance and resources that are culturally relevant, culturally competent, and tailored to the situational and contextual needs of public health within the urban Indian community.

Without a national Technical Assistance program in place:

- UIHPs would likely see decreased efficiency in behavioral health grant acquisition and service delivery.
- Innovative models – including novel reimbursement methods for traditional medicine practice – would not be discussed or implemented, resulting in increasing health care costs for a high risk population.
- Mainstream public health systems would be burdened by the over-reliance on emergency rooms to provide these services

NCUIH is the only national organization tackling these issues in this way – with an aim to reduce behavioral health disparities faced by AI/ANs living in urban settings.

