

NATIVE CONNECTIONS

Native Connections is a five-year grant program that helps American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities identify and address the behavioral health needs of Native youth.

The Native Connections grant program supports grantees in:

- ▶ Reducing suicidal behavior and substance use among Native youth up to age 24
- ▶ Easing the impacts of substance use, mental illness, and trauma in tribal communities
- ▶ Supporting youth as they transition into adulthood



The grant program is listed as 93.243 - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Projects of Regional and National Significance on USAspending.gov. The authorizing statute for the program is Sections 520A (42 U.S.C. 290bb-32) and 516 (42 U.S.C. 290bb-22) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended.

What is Happening

Urban Indian organizations (UIOs) have reported that despite being in the middle of their five-year grant, they have not received the “Notice of Award” for the next year project continuation.

- ▶ UIOs have not been able to utilize these obligated funds to pay employees and continue providing suicide prevention programming.
- ▶ This has led to one UIO having to lay off personnel.

Additionally, some UIOs were informed that SAMHSA would post a NOFO for a new grant cycle. Unfortunately, a NOFO has not been published and the UIOs have been unable to get any additional information whether a NOFO will be published.

Urban Indian Organization Recipients

Currently there are 12 UIOs who are active recipients. The active recipients are:

- ▶ Nevada Urban Indians, Inc.
- ▶ Texas Native Health
- ▶ Denver Indian Family and Health Services
- ▶ San Diego American Indian Health Center
- ▶ Oklahoma City Indian Clinic
- ▶ Indian Health Center of Santa Clara
- ▶ Native American Health Center, Inc
- ▶ Seattle Indian Health Board
- ▶ Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest, Inc.
- ▶ American Indian Health and Family Services of Michigan
- ▶ Friendship House Assn/American Indians
- ▶ Sacramento Native American Health Center, Inc.

Appropriations Status

The Tribal Behavioral Health Grants line item in the LHHS Appropriations bill funds the Native Connections program. Congress has maintained funding for this program in the proposed appropriations bills in each chamber.

- ▶ The Senate has proposed maintaining funding at the current level of \$23.67 million.
- ▶ The House has proposed increasing funding to \$30 million.



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