



Our Commitment

The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc., (GLITC) has faced the challenges of this year while continuing to bring beneficial services to our Tribal communities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Our programs have done amazing work during this challenging time. Their accomplishments, adjustments and collaborations are testimony to their commitment to ensuring Tribal communities continue to have access to vital services, supplies and information during the pandemic,” said Bryan Bainbridge, CEO of GLITC.

We acknowledge the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin (AHW) Endowment for their financial support, which we received through the COVID-19 Urgent Response Grant. Through this grant, we were able to expand our communication efforts with the Tribal Nations we serve and assist our program staff with their communication needs to deliver the following services. We also greatly appreciate the technical and administrative support from the MCW-AHW staff.

Service During Challenging Times

GLITC's programs have worked cooperatively, and it should be noted that many programs collaborated to bring services to our Tribal communities.

Aging and Disability Services (ADS) provides technical support for Tribal aging units in Wisconsin Tribes and employs staff to support Tribal Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) services.

ADS assisted with updating the *Healthy Living with Diabetes* curriculum, and prioritized virtual workshops on this important health issue. The Tribal Technical Assistance Center worked in tandem with the Tribal Nutrition programs to craft interpretations of guidelines for the new COVID-19 *Essential Services* nutrition programs, assisted with orientation of the new director and the new nutrition program manager, and performed the annual Aging Plan Assessments for 11 Wisconsin Tribes.



ADS collaborated with Tribal Elder Benefits Specialists, the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), and the Wisconsin Judicare Indian Law Office's Native American Elder Outreach Program to host a virtual outreach event in September using Zoom and broadcasting live on Facebook.



The event reached more than 1,200 people and shared valuable information that continues to be available on the GLITC ADS Facebook page and YouTube channel.



ADS continues to create satellite offices in Tribal communities to expand the reach of services. Staff has maintained services, adapting with virtual meetings, phone calls and email. Recruitment for staff has continued, resulting in four positions being filled.

The **Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion (FGP/SCP)** programs recruit Tribal Elders to volunteer as a Foster Grandparent to mentor Tribal youth or as a Senior Companion for Tribal Elders. Eligibility for the program is 55 years or older, and the program currently has 50 volunteers serving the Bad River, Ho-Chunk, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Lac Vieux Desert, Menominee, Mole Lake, Oneida, Red Cliff and St. Croix Tribes.

The FGP/SCP programs offer an hourly stipend, mileage reimbursement, in-service activities, and program support. Social benefits for participants include increased activity, the sharing and preservation of Tribal Elders' knowledge and cultural traditions, and support for Tribal Youth.



The FGP/SCP programs collaborated with the Hunger Task Force Federation and Wisconsin Tribal communities to expand food resources of more than nine million pounds of food from two farm box vendors - Gourmet Gorilla and Gordon Food Services. This connection resulted in 10 Wisconsin Tribes participating, which was an increase of 90% over past distributions.

The FGP/SCP programs also leveraged their networks and connected the Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center in Milwaukee with the Hunger Task Force to provide food boxes and dairy products for urban Native American families.

The Wisconsin Dairy Recovery Program paid dairy farmers to supply milk to farmer-owned dairy cooperative Kemps, who processed thousands of gallons of milk. The Hunger Task Force then distributed free dairy products to food banks and food pantries throughout the Hunger Relief Federation. Wisconsin Tribal communities received more than 729,000 pounds of dairy items through this program.

The FGP/SCP programs collaborated with the GLITC programs VRNA, WIC, Food SNAP, ADS, and NARCH and 12 tribes to distribute more than 4,200 Elder care bags in May and October. These essential programs encompassed all Wisconsin Tribes and the Lac Vieux Desert Tribe in Michigan, and provided vital information on COVID-19 and GLITC's programs and services. Items in the care bags included hand sanitizer, key chains, shopping bags, Elder seasonal food recipe magazines and healthy snacks.



Since March, FGP/SCP program staff made more than 2,000 phone calls to Tribal Volunteer Elders. GLITC FGP/SCP staff provided Volunteer Elders referrals for health, food, aging and social services.

In September, FGP/SCP program staff took the lead and collaborated with ADS in developing a plan, cost benefit analysis and recommendation for using \$92,000 from the CARES Act to distribute 100 GrandPads (tablets) to Elders.



The GrandPads decreased isolation, provided connections for Telehealth and video calling and participation in FGP/SCP in-service activities.



The FGP/SCP programs provided in-service activities with Elder volunteers including a Pen Pal program for volunteers to keep in touch with each other and a book club discussion on *7th Generation Earth Ethics* by Patty Loew, PhD, and Bad River Tribal Member.



The FGP/SCP program staff submitted a nomination for the 2020 Wisconsin Governor's Volunteer Service Award recommending William Roundwind, a Bad River Foster Grandparent who has provided cultural mentoring services to Tribal youth at Lincoln Hills School, which is part of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) program assists Tribes in planning and implementing economic development strategies derived from their comprehensive development planning.

EDA has been collecting information from the Tribes on the status of their economic development efforts and current projects, as well as ascertaining future projects, and this information will be included in the 2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) document. A CEDs Strategy Committee has been formed and EDA is working to include representatives from each GLITC Member Tribe.

EDA is assisting Tribes with their planning processes to identify economic development project priorities and match the priorities with available resources.

EDA is currently collecting information from the Tribes to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This program collaborated with a local university to create an assessment tool to identify employment losses, business interruptions and closures, and damaged or lost property including environmental assets and natural resources.

As part of EDA's objectives to provide technical support and training opportunities, EDA is creating strategic partnerships with the Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA), the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin (AICCW) and the Native Nations Institute (NNI) to offer Tribal Economic Prosperity workshops that focus on economic development for Tribal communities.

EDA is meeting with the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) to explore collaborative opportunities.

Family Foundations Home Visiting (FFHV) program's mission is to protect children through parent education and to enhance the quality of life for all Native American families in our service area.



Beginning in March, all FFHV programs began serving families remotely by using the phone and virtual platforms.

In addition to collaborating with several GLITC programs, FFHV collaborated with Bad River Health and Wellness to host a drive-thru Health Fair that welcomed more than 500 participants. In Burnett County, a drive-thru Baby Shower was hosted to engage families.

In Lac du Flambeau and the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, Diaper Drives were hosted to distribute diapers, create community among families and increase awareness of the FFHV program.

FFHV distributed personal protective equipment, including face masks and sanitizing supplies. This program has also assisted with internet service and distributing technology, including tablets and cell phones.

FFHV is recruiting Tribal Elders and coordinating virtual Storytelling events to support literacy and enhance parent and child interactions. Other upcoming events include virtual Safe Sleep programs and virtual Bingo.

Great Lakes Native American Research Center for Health (NARCH) provides a cooperative structure for the development and implementation of high quality, culturally sensitive and community supported research linked to health disparity issues.



As part of the program's continuing efforts to assist Tribal communities and colleges in building their research capacity and direction, NARCH purchased gas chromatograph machines, water quality monitoring equipment, a UV spectrophotometer and other important lab supplies.

NARCH has been working with Tribal community members to provide their history and documentation for the *Family Circles* program. Hundreds of hours of footage have been realized and will become part of the public and historical archives for future generations.

In July, NARCH collaborated with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to virtually hold the Summer Camp program for 20 Native American high school students. The camp provided virtual tours, online coursework, cultural activities and consortium building among students and staff. Chromebooks and camp swag, along with all supplies, were provided to participants.

NARCH adapted the paid intern program and welcomed seven Native college students who completed their 400-hour internship with the guidance of a Native academic advisor. Interns presented their work to the GLNARCH Advisory Committee and staff and GLITC staff.

Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) for Teen Pregnancy Prevention program supports projects that educate Native youth on abstinence and contraception. PREP offered support to Native youth and their families, providing hygiene supplies, food items and backpacks, and educational opportunities and resources for youth, families and educators.



PREP provided personal protective equipment for students and staff in the three districts in their service area including Bowler, Gresham and the Lac Courte Oreilles schools. PREP provided the *Seven Essential Ingredients for Trauma Sensitive Schools* training to Bowler and Gresham staff. The program stays in communication with youth, providing resources to explore post-high school educational opportunities, including virtual college tours.



PREP continues to assist Discovery Dating with converting the curriculum to a digital platform to reach students virtually. This program further assists educators by joining classrooms virtually to provide support as needed and assist students with tutoring and completing their assignments.

PREP is working with the Shawano Boys and Girls Club to create an audio book of *Our Smallest Warrior: Our Strongest Medicine – COVID-19 Edition*.

Small Business Technical Assistance Program (SBTAP) provides entrepreneurial planning and readiness, small business training and financial literacy as well as individualized client technical assistance to Native entrepreneurs in Tribal communities.

SBTAP provided technical assistance to 41 aspiring entrepreneurs and emerging businesses, assisting with developing business plans and responding to business start-up and operations inquiries. SBTAP disseminated funding assistance for small businesses, participated in numerous virtual meetings and webinars, and continues to accumulate resources for Native business owners and potential entrepreneurs.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Nutrition Education (SNAP-Ed) supports nutrition education for persons eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Emphasis on obesity prevention, in addition to nutrition education, seeks to improve SNAP-Ed and its ability to address the critical problem of obesity, especially its effects on low-income Americans.



In addition to collaborating with several GLITC programs, SNAP-Ed created a Facebook page to distribute weekly nutrition, including traditional food recipes, and physical activity information. Elder Care bags were distributed to 2,117 Tribal Elders offering educational nutrition materials and incentives, and plans are underway for virtual exercise sessions.

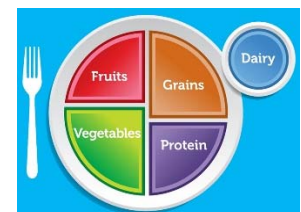
SNAP-Ed staff cleaned and prepared six garden beds, secured garden tools and supplies, and planted and harvested plants for infused water tastings in collaboration with the *Family Circles* program. Work is underway for the 2021 gardening season, and a partnership was developed with the Lac du Flambeau Master Gardeners for enhanced training, education and consultation.

Indirect nutrition educational materials and incentives were distributed to more than 300 Lac du Flambeau youth on Halloween.

SNAP-Ed developed a portable kitchen and cooking demonstration kit to accompany virtual educational sessions and future community events.

A partnership was established with Lac du Flambeau's The Nest/Ode'inaan Wigamig in collaboration with NARCH to produce virtual cooking demonstrations and nutrition lessons.

SNAP-Ed developed a partnership with Tribal Commodities programs to offer virtual *My Plate* lessons and *Fresh Conversations*, and is providing updates to Tribal newsletters.





A partnership was established with the LDF Country Market to develop *Honor Your Health*, a public service effort and healthy retail program that provides monthly wellness features including traditional food recipes and store shelf signs.

Future activities include virtual store tours, in-store cooking demonstrations and other monthly events.



A partnership was developed with the Lac du Flambeau Wellness Court, and a virtual education session was held for program participants. Future plans include monthly virtual nutrition education sessions and distribution of recipe ingredient boxes.

Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program's mission is to help pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and younger children achieve better health and nutrition.

In addition to collaborating with several GLITC programs, WIC provided uninterrupted services by holding virtual appointments and promotions throughout the year.

WIC showcased nutrition and breastfeeding information throughout Tribal communities using social media and Tribal newsletters.

WIC celebrated Native Breastfeeding Week by collaborating with the Native Breastfeeding Coalition of Wisconsin and offering a virtual Latch event and Tribal community promotions that included highlighting the work of Indigenous Breastfeeding Counselors. Yard signs promoting these efforts were dispersed throughout Member communities.



Vocational Rehabilitation for Native Americans (VRNA) develops and delivers vocational support to eligible Native Americans and Alaskan Natives with disabilities that are sensitive to their individual cultural beliefs, strengths, resources, priorities, concerns and abilities so each may engage in gainful employment.

In addition to collaborating with several GLITC programs, VRNA assisted college students with the transition to virtual learning, providing materials including laptops to ensure students are able to successfully continue their education.

VRNA provided financial incentives to employers who hired VRNA clients and provided personal protective equipment to employed clients so that they may safely maintain their employment.

VRNA assisted with the development of the community gardens in St. Croix, focusing on wheelchair accessibility by offering raised garden beds and ADA accessible picnic tables.



To continue access to the community gardens, VRNA assisted with the purchase of year-round greenhouses, which will be constructed by a former VRNA client who now has a construction business.



This project is a continuation of the work started last year in the Red Cliff and Bad River communities and is inclusive of Tribal youth with special needs. Educational materials that focus on mental wellness and culturally appropriate activities were purchased for the healing centers.

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center (GLITEC) serves the 34 federally recognized Tribes, four urban Indian communities, and three Indian Health Service (IHS) service units within the Bemidji IHS Area (Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Chicago, Illinois) to support Tribal communities in their efforts to improve health by assisting with data needs through partnership development, community-based research, education and technical assistance.



This year's programs include: IHS Epidemiology Program Cooperative (ECA), Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC), Tribal Epidemiology Center Public Health Infrastructure (TECPHI), Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF-PFS), and Tribal Public Health Capacity Building (UMB).

GLITEC has continued to work with communities to develop and support existing activities, and implement new activities aimed at pandemic response. GLITEC received a Coronavirus Prevention and Response (CPAR) grant from the CDC to focus on emergency communications, and is identifying and contracting with a communications solution provider and implementing work on the online (govAccess) and direct messaging (govDelivery) components.

The Bemidji Area Childhood Immunization Project (BACIP) produced and disseminated seven factsheets, six sets of reminder-recall postcards, three poster and flyer designs, and four social media banner designs. Printed materials were mailed to clinics at no cost.



Quarterly calls were held to provide education and opportunities for immunization coordinators to network. A report on the use of evidence-based and promising practice use in childhood immunization utilization was produced, and a report on childhood immunization surveillance was written. A comprehensive report on the health of Elders in the Bemidji Area was finalized and disseminated.

GLITEC supports Tribes with direct assistance with projects including the review and co-creation of a comprehensive community and business mitigation; infection control plans; analysis, tracking and reporting COVID-19 cases; testing strategizing and advice; employee symptom monitoring; and case and contact monitoring.

To address the need for COVID-19 employee case and contact monitoring, GLITEC offered use of the Sara Alert system. This COVID-19 monitoring system allows Tribal health clinics to enroll individuals at risk of developing a coronavirus infection. Individuals enrolled in the system enter their symptoms daily, providing Tribal health clinics with real-time insights. This system has multiple access methods including web, text, email and phone calls. It provides increased efficiency in tracking potential cases and can lead to earlier containment of the virus.





IHS Epidemiology Program Cooperative (ECA) produced a comprehensive evaluation report for an urban Indian project. Extensive work on a comprehensive report on the health of American Indian-Alaska Natives in the three-state area was completed. The first-ever oversample of American Indian women was initiated through Wisconsin Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), and the questionnaire included questions to assess the impact of the pandemic.

Progress was made on the Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) project plan. Nine factsheets were added to the Native Health in the Bemidji Area factsheet series. Numerous materials relating to influenza were produced, including ones relating to influenza and COVID-19. These included three factsheets, a webinar, four social media images, two postcard designs, and three posters and flyers.



A variety of technical assistance and data requests were completed. Four videos related to childhood immunization were produced and broadcast, and a watch party event was held. Weekly updates about COVID-19 surveillance were created and disseminated. Work continued on preparing the First Food Policy and Law Scan for dissemination. A new policy and law scan related to adverse childhood experiences was initiated, and an assessment related to Tribal public health accreditation was accomplished.

The Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS) program staff worked to maintain consistent contact with subrecipient communities to stay informed on how communities were responding to the pandemic, what challenges they were facing, and how staff could provide support.



Staff worked to develop factsheets and an ongoing resource guide to provide communities with resources and communication tools related to COVID-19, mental health, substance use, as well as information and ideas on ways to adapt prevention activities.

Staff regularly updated community prevention coordinators on upcoming virtual trainings and events on prevention topics and COVID-19. The SPF-PFS program held virtual grant meetings with communities and partners, and staff incorporated a peer sharing element into these meetings, so communities and partners could dialogue about how the pandemic impacted their work. The group discussed changes in communication methods and shared ideas for continuing efforts using innovative approaches.

The Saving Lives Project (Umbrella Cooperative Agreement) Epidemiology Center staff applied for COVID-19 response supplemental funding, resulting in an award of \$88,400 for the 34 Tribes in the Bemidji area. These funds were received and distributed in less than a month.

Staff have been following up with Tribes to support their response efforts and continue to support communities working on projects addressing substance use disorder. Staff transitioned the Opioid Summit to a virtual format to continue progress on developing a regional strategic plan addressing substance misuse.





2020 Overall Impacts

Here is a look at our overall impacts:



Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.

Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin

Our Commitment Remains Strong

As GLITC staff continue their robust efforts, Mr. Bainbridge acknowledged the efforts of dedicated employees, noting, “GLITC avoided staff layoffs, and our employees adjusted their work plans to continue to serve our 11 Member Tribes and Tribal communities in Wisconsin.”

“The efforts outlined here do not fully demonstrate our staff’s commitment to our Tribal communities. I commend everyone on their ability to adapt and continue to provide our important services.”

