



GLITC Resiliency

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. Newsletter



“ Over the past year, we have all mourned and suffered tremendously as the pandemic ravaged our families, our community, and our Nations in one way or another. It has impacted our economy, our mental and physical health, and things that are yet not revealed or discovered.

“We are confident through demonstration of our resiliency that together we will turn the page on this sad chapter and the lessons we have learned will only further strengthen our resolve and our ability to preserve as we move forward. While we take a moment to remember those we have lost, let us also commit to standing together in solidarity to ensure a brighter future for us all as we begin the arduous process of recovery, healing, and rebuilding. ”

Shannon Holsey, President
Stockbridge-Munsee Community

From the CEO

June 2021

Since the start of the pandemic, we have all been adapting to the changes and challenges around us. Often, we were forced into a virtual space, leaning heavily on creativity to fulfill the same goals, just in a different way.

I give a lot of credit to our staff at the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC) for persevering in our mission “to enhance the quality of life for all Native people.” Staying true to that mission, our goal was and still is to minimize disruptions to the many services we provide. Therefore, a top priority was to keep services flowing and not shut down operations. We implemented policies with strict protocols and guidelines to mitigate the risk of employees and consumers contracting or being exposed to COVID-19. To date, I believe we were successful in doing just that.

I also need to recognize the Tribal leadership for their quick action at the start of the pandemic, followed by the state of Wisconsin. If not for this, I believe we would be in a darker place, suffering even more loss.

We are now more than a year into the pandemic. I think we all had a feeling life in 2021 was going to be different and change was inevitable. We have been challenged – some in more ways than we can count. But throughout history, we have always been resilient, preserving what is important, trying our best to help the most vulnerable, and looking forward for the next seven generations. I believe we have held true to our vision, with the understanding of it only getting clearer and stronger.

Miigwech,

Bryan J. Bainbridge, Chief Executive Officer

Inside

- Elders.....2
- Epidemiology3
- Programs and Grants.....4

Our Mission

To enhance the quality of life for all Native people



Foster Grandparents (FGP) and Senior Companions (SCP)

Elders Highlight

Tribal elders play a significant role in communities. They hold knowledge of culture, traditions, medicine, and history. Their stories are rich with humor and practicality on how to live a good life.

The GLITC Elders programs focus on using elder's knowledge to strengthen Tribal communities through collaboration.

“Tribal elders are a valuable resource to communities. Our focus is to preserve this resource for future generations.”

Patricia Takamine, Director Elder Programs



▲ A Sokaogon Mole Lake elder holds an elder care bag. Each bag contains puzzles, snacks, coloring books, colored pencils, and more fun items for elders and youth to enjoy together.

Love Your Elder Day

One key FGP/SCP initiative for 2021 was Love Your Elder Day. Through collaboration with 12 Tribal aging and youth programs, elder care bags were distributed to promote elder and youth connection. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the need to strengthen these connections.

To purchase materials, prepare the bags, and distribute them to youth and elders, FGP/SCP worked together with several GLITC programs:

- Vocational Rehabilitation for Native Americans (VRNA)
- Aging and Disability Services (ADS)
- Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed)
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

More than 4,000 elder care bags were distributed by June 2021.

▼ Elder care bags were distributed in February, April, and May of 2021 to a total of 12 Tribes.



Coronavirus Preparedness and Response (CPAR)

Epidemiology Highlight

Communication is a powerful tool and an art. When done well, it opens people's minds to new knowledge and empowers them to take the proper action. This is especially important during emergencies, such as COVID-19.

We at GLITEC know we need to connect with Tribal professionals and community members to fulfill our mission. That is a key part of why we are developing a digital communication platform that includes an:

- emergency response website
- information delivery system.

This communication project is called Supporting Tribal Public Health Capacity in Coronavirus Preparedness and Response (CPAR). Funding is from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

“We are the definition of public servants. We are here to serve our communities. I cannot emphasize that more.

“I am nobody without my team. And my team and I are nothing without our Tribes.”

German Gonzalez

MD, MPH, FACE, GLITEC Director/
Medical Epidemiologist



▲ This website design mock-up was approved in January.

Information Delivery System

This system will allow outreach through emails and enhance GLITEC's current capabilities. The system will allow us to share information from GLITEC and state, federal, and other partners, helping decision-makers and community members access the information they need to respond to emergencies.

Emergency Response Website

GLITEC is working with a vendor to develop and launch this website in 2021. The website will:

- function as a single information hub for community members, as well as health professionals and community leaders who serve a Tribe or urban Indian community
- provide visitors with information related to COVID-19 and other emergencies in the Bemidji Area (Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Chicago)
- contain publications that reflect Indigenous culture.



Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council

Programs and Grants

Aging and Disability

Aging and Disability Resource Specialist (ADRS)
 Dementia Care Specialist (DCS)
 Disability Benefit Specialist (DBS)
 Elder Benefit Specialist (EBS)
 Healthy Living With Diabetes
 Medicaid Improvements for Patients and Providers
 Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)
 State Health Insurance Information Program
 State Pharmaceutical Assistance (SPA)
 Together Strong Dementia
 Tribal Technical Assistance Center (TTAC)
 Vaccine Community Outreach (VCO)

Economic Development

Small Business Technical Assistance Program
 (American Indian Economic Development Grant)
 CARES Act Tourism Recovery
 Economic Development
 Native American Tourism of Wisconsin (NATOW)

Education, Health, and Research

Great Lakes Native American Research Center for Health
 (Great Lakes NARCH)
 Wisconsin Native American Tobacco Network (WNATN)

Elders

Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)
 Senior Companion Program (SCP)
 VISTA AmeriCorps Initiative
 Youth and Elder Community Empowerment

Epidemiology

Coronavirus Preparedness and Response (CPAR)
 Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC)
 IHS Epidemiology Program Cooperative
 Increasing Vaccine Coverage in AI/AN Adults (iVAC)
 Tribal EPI Center Public Health Infrastructure (TECPHI)
 Tribal Public Health Capacity Building (UMB)

Family Health

Cooperative American Indian Health
 Family Foundations Home Visiting (FFHV)
 Lincoln Hills Program
 Maternal Telehealth Access Project
 Native Breastfeeding Coalition of Wisconsin
 Rural Infant Health
 Sexual Risk Avoidance Education
 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed)
 Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)
 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Vocational Rehabilitation

American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation
 American Indians With Disabilities

Our Heartfelt Gratitude

GLITC extends a special note of thanks to acknowledge all the federal, state, and private funders, donors, and foundations that support our programs and mission.