

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2021



Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.

Presented January 2022

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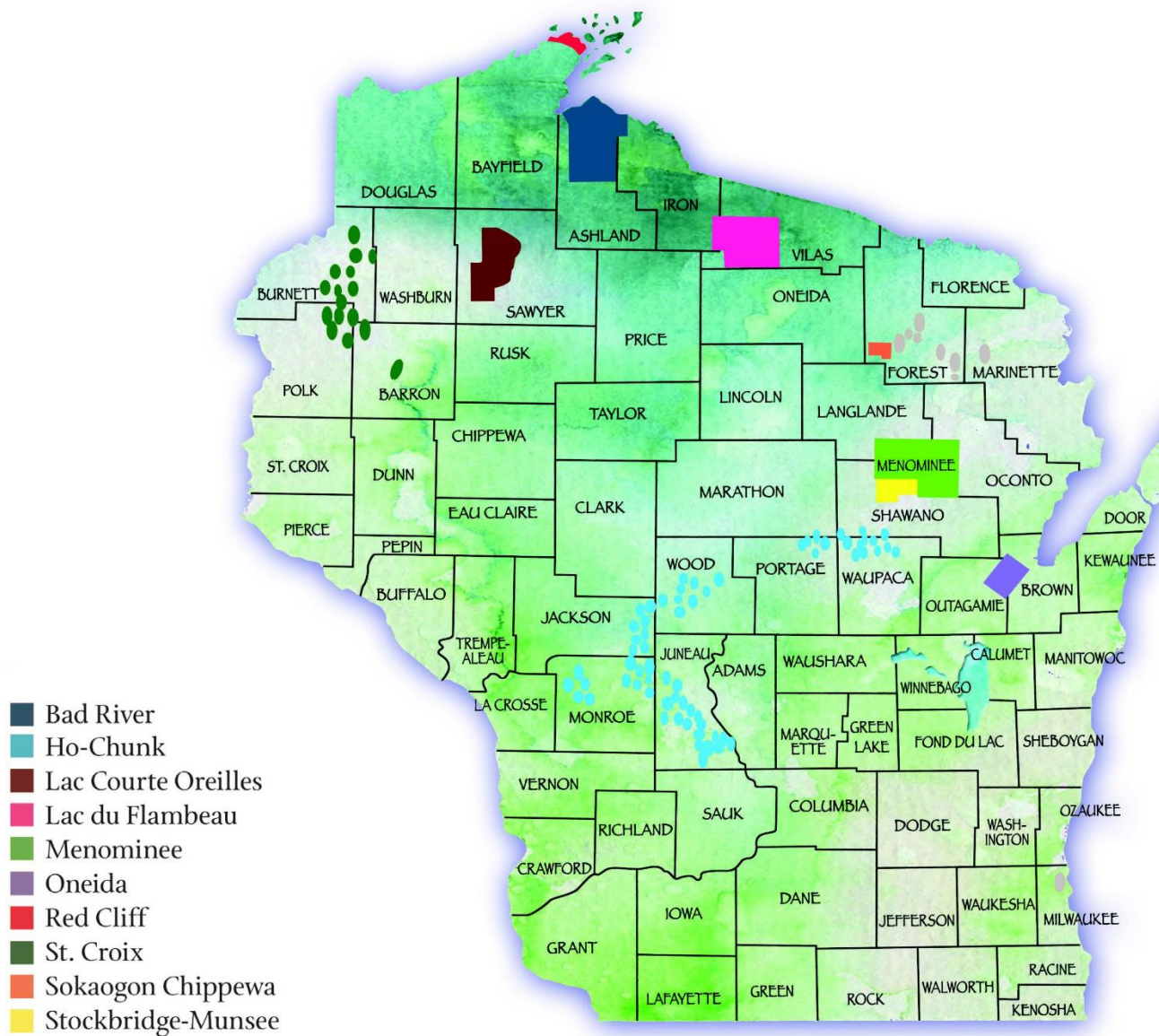
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Adapted from Map by HVS Advertising-Marketing

The following federally recognized tribes are the members of GLITC:

- **Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians**
- **Ho-Chunk Nation**
- **Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin**
- **Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians**
- **Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (Michigan)**
- **Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin**
- **Oneida Nation**
- **Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians**
- **St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin**
- **Sokaogon Chippewa Community**
- **Stockbridge-Munsee Community**

History and Background

The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. (GLITC) is a consortium of federally recognized Indian tribes in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The organization was chartered in 1965 as a non-profit, non-stock corporation under Wisconsin law, and is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Originally founded in 1963 as the Wisconsin Tribal Chairman's Association, GLITC's purpose was to provide a means by which member tribes could unite against the threat of termination and act as a mechanism for tribes to work through the challenges of governance and services for their communities.

Today, GLITC is recognized as a tribal organization under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Act. Its mission has evolved to support member tribes in expanding self-determination efforts by providing services and assistance. GLITC uses a broad range of knowledge and experience to advocate for the improvement and unity of tribal governments, communities, and individuals. The first four decades of GLITC's existence have demonstrated that there is strength in unity. Presenting a united face on issues of critical importance to all Indian communities has enabled tribes to deal more effectively with state and local governments, academic institutions, and other agencies.

GLITC member tribes include: Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Ho-Chunk Nation, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Oneida Nation, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Sokaogon Chippewa Community, and Stockbridge-Munsee Community. Organizational goals and objectives are established by our Board of Directors, which is composed of the tribal chairperson or president (or his/her delegate) of each member tribe. Each board member speaks for the interests of his or her tribe. The member tribes represent communities of five Indian Nations on 11 reservations, a combined American Indian population of 40,026 (US Census 2010), and a land base of about 500,000 acres spanning 31 counties.

Our Board of Directors meets every other month on a rotating basis at one of the 11 tribal governments' headquarters in Wisconsin or Michigan. The day-to-day business, including service coordination, program and financial administration, is conducted from our central office on the Lac du Flambeau reservation. GLITC was recently reorganized to include a Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, replacing the former structure of Executive Director and three Deputy Directors. The CEO, CFO and staff members manage approximately 45 programs in the areas of education, epidemiology, family health, nutrition education, aging, disability services, Elder services, vocational rehabilitation, and economic development. Staff members are located at the central office and tribal sites.

Service Area: The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council provides services to Native Americans in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota



Mission Statement

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council's mission is to enhance the quality of life for all Native people.

Our Vision

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council shall be a diligent advocate for the advancement and promotion of tribal nations and communities by honoring the seven-generation perspective

Our Values

Culture
Respect
Diversity
Collaboration
Teamwork
Stewardship

Letter from the Chief Executive Officer

The last year has brought both challenge and opportunity to GLITC. Following our mission, every aspect of our planning, development and delivery of our services is centered around the people. The efforts our staff have taken to conform and adapt to a way of connecting with individuals and communities in providing the many different services has been challenging, but successful.

We still move forward working on the needs of the six priority areas the Board of Directors have identified: Housing, Drug Crisis, Mental/Behavioral Health, Economic Development, Healthcare and Emergency Management Planning Support. By completing a Comprehensive plan that focuses on these six areas and other needs of the tribes, leadership will give the organization direction, specifically focused beyond the services we provide to date.

Delivering technical assistance and creating partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies has afforded us opportunities for equity as we fill in the gaps and educate these partners about the tribes. The pandemic has shined a new light on the tribes and GLITC. The spotlight is on explaining our uniqueness and the many contributions we provide for Healthcare, Employment, Community Organization and Economic Development, along with the importance of our culture and traditions. Being a conduit between local, state, and federal entities and making the connections while furthering understanding and promoting something that can truly be equitable is just another way that GLITC supports the member tribes

Assisting in the development of the Adolescent Wellness Treatment Center is another example of the efforts we have put forth with the guidance of tribal leadership. This center aligns with our priorities of Drug Crisis, Mental/Behavioral Health, and Healthcare. The completion of this project will help meet an urgent need for our member tribes, Native American youth, and the non-Native youth of Wisconsin.

Being able to adapt to change is important and is what we do best. Native Americans are resilient. While concentrating on the importance of our mission, we will continue to navigate our way through the global pandemic under the guidance of tribal leadership. We will expand our services across our member communities to further support our mission, "To enhance the quality of life for all Native people."



Bryan J. Bainbridge
Chief Executive Officer



Adolescent Wellness Treatment Center Update December 2021

Earlier this year, the Stockbridge-Munsee Community completed the architectural and engineering design plans for the Native American Adolescent Wellness Treatment Center (AWTC), in coordination with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council's (GLITC) Member Tribes. The plans build upon the previously funded GLITC project. They are intended to facilitate and complete business planning details, program design, operational elements, staffing needs, and licensing requirements to operationalize the AWTC. The youth facility will specialize in the treatment of opioid use disorder and provide culturally relevant and responsive residential substance abuse treatment services for Native Americans. The facility will prioritize meeting the substance abuse treatment needs of Native American youth, ages 13-17, and be available to non-Native adolescents as well.

The AWTC is to be a 36 bed in-treatment facility tentatively to be located at 0 Landowski Lane in Bevent, Wisconsin, in Marathon County, within the Wausau metro area. It will be centrally located from each tribe in Wisconsin, and provide care for Native youth, who are shown to be negatively impacted by the pandemic throughout the State. Currently, access to residential treatment for youth in Wisconsin is extremely limited, yet youth increasingly need this level of care for recovery from substance use, disproportionately true for youth of Wisconsin Native communities. The AWTC will focus on treatment of youth who misuse opioids or have opioid use disorder in a specialized residential setting. It will address a critical need among a seriously underserved population with a spectrum of specialized substance abuse treatment services for Native adolescents. The AWTC will provide the tools, life skills and services for addicted youth enabling them to lead a constructive life. Native Americans have experienced a statistically significant increase in drug overdose death rates. The pandemic has only exasperated this situation, emphasizing the urgent need for the AWTC. Without immediate intervention, the number of youths affected by the opioid epidemic will only continue to grow.

As stated in the attached GLITC resolution, all Member Tribes have pledged support for the AWTC (see commitment letter from Oneida Nation as an example). Upon completion of the construction phase for the AWTC, GLITC Member Tribes intend to move forward with identifying an operational contractor and the hiring of critical staff positions. Once operational, the AWTC will meet regulatory requirements to enable it to accept funding from IHS and Medicaid as well as from private insurance and federal money under Title IV-E for adjudicated minors. Project related activity includes the Inter-Tribal Treatment Facility Workgroup, which was formed in 2009, as a direct outcome of the Tribal/State consultation process with Wisconsin DHS. In 2010 the Workgroup met with GLITC who supported construction of the AWTC. In 2012, GLITC began exploring construction to address effects of prescription drug abuse on Native American youth from a cultural and traditional perspective. In 2014, GLITC submitted a proposal to the State of Wisconsin for funding a feasibility study for the AWTC and began championing the project. In 2020, the State of Wisconsin funded a feasibility study and business plan. In 2021, the State of Wisconsin funded the completion of architectural and engineering plans.

The Stockbridge-Munsee Community applied for a State of Wisconsin DOA Neighborhood Investment Grant on behalf of all the GLITC member tribes in November of this year. If awarded, the grant would be used to assist with funding the next phase of the AWTC. A proposal has been received from Brian Pierson of Godfrey & Kahn to assist with the development of the governing board, operational plan, and management structure for the AWTC (see attached proposal). Our work continues as we move closer to making the AWTC a reality.

Financial Reports

Financial Performance report for the period of October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021

Program Title	Dept	Program Director	Contract Start	Contract End	Authorized Funding in FY2021
Aging Disability Resource Specialist	AD	M. Wolf	10/1/2020	9/30/2021	80,000
Agriculture Tourism and Food	ED	S. Brewer	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	50,000
American Indian Economic Develop. Tech. Asst.	ED	C. LaVake	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	79,500
American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation	VR	K. Labelle-Milek	7/1/2021	6/30/2022	314,900
American Indians with Disabilities *	VR	K. Labelle-Milek	10/1/2019	9/30/2024	1,709,501
Bemidji Area Thriving (TEC-PHI) **	EPI	S. Lucas-Pipkorn	9/30/2017	9/29/2022	766,000
Capacity Building Entrepreneurship Support	ED	C. LaVake	7/1/2021	6/30/2022	63,300
Cooperative American Indian	FH	C. Nemec	10/1/2020	9/30/2021	8,908
Coronavirus Preparedness & Response	EPI	M. Porter	5/18/2020	6/9/2022	209,000
Disability Benefit Specialist	AD	M. Wolf	10/1/2020	9/30/2021	260,212
Tribal Dementia Care Specialist	AD	M. Wolf	10/1/2020	9/30/2021	80,000
Elder Benefit Specialist	AD	M. Wolf	1/1/2021	9/30/2021	63,300
EDA's Cares Act Recovery	ED	D. House	7/1/2020	6/30/2022	150,000
Economic Development Assistance	ED	D. House	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	153,000
Emergency Management Assistance	EPI	S. Reilly	4/1/2020	10/31/2021	500,000
Epidemiology Program *	EPI	M. Porter	9/30/2016	9/29/2021	1,993,824
Family Foundation Home Visit	FH	S. Mayotte	10/1/2016	9/30/2026	1,499,708
Foster Grandparent Program - State	E	P. Takamine	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	62,823
Foster Grandparent Program - Federal	E	P. Takamine	7/1/2020	6/30/2023	373,749
Food Stamp Nutrition	FH	H. Pichler	10/1/2020	9/30/2021	346,510
Good Health & Wellness in Indian Country **	EPI	W. Funmaker	9/30/2019	9/29/2024	1,240,625
Lincoln Hills Program	FH	N. Oknewski	7/1/2021	6/30/2022	117,300
EPA's Lead Testing	EPI	S. Lucas-Pipkorn	3/1/2021	2/28/2023	494,000
Medicaid Improvements for Patients & Providers	AD	M. Wolf	9/1/2021	8/31/2021	10,500
Maternal Telehealth Access Project	FH	C. Nemec	10/1/2020	4/30/2021	84,854
Native American Research Center for Health	EPI	A. Poupart	9/6/2018	7/31/2022	918,105
Native American Tourism of Wisconsin	ED	S. Brewer	7/1/2021	6/30/2022	200,000
Notah Begay Foundation	E	P. Takamine	5/1/2021	2/23/2023	200,000
Native American Research Center for Health-#11	EPI	A. Poupart	8/1/2021	7/31/2025	322,073
Rural Infant Health	FH	L. Ebbert	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	186,328
Senior Companion Program - State	E	P. Takamine	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	10,000
Senior Companion Program - Brown & Brown	E	P. Takamine	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	20,256
Senior Companion Program - Federal	E	P. Takamine	7/1/2020	6/30/2023	315,249
State Health Insurance Information	AD	M. Wolf	4/1/2021	3/31/2022	3,000
Senior Medicare Patrol	AD	K. Heard	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	25,000
State Pharmaceutical Assistance	AD	M. Wolf	7/1/2021	6/30/2022	6,000
Strategic Prevention Framework	EPI	C. Denslinger	9/30/2015	1/31/2021	859,543
Sexual Risk Avoidance	FH	L. Hunter	10/1/2020	9/30/2021	45,295
Tobacco Network	FH	M. Doud	7/1/2021	6/30/2022	250,000
Tribal Epi Center Public Health Infra. (TEC-PHI) **	EPI	S. Lucas-Pipkorn	9/30/2017	9/29/2022	762,158
Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program	FH	L. Hunter	9/30/2016	9/29/2021	386,748
Together Strong Dementia	AD	A. Hoon	8/1/2020	7/31/2023	250,000
Tribal Tech. Assistance Center Administration	AD	K. Heard	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	148,867
Umbrella Cooperative Agreement **	EPI	C. Denslinger	8/31/2018	8/30/2023	5,027,629
VCO - Tribal ADRS Covid19 Vax	AD	M. Wolf	4/1/2021	8/31/2021	15,000
Vaccination Hesitancy Older Adult Outreach	AD	M. Wolf	4/1/2021	10/31/2021	10,000
EPA's Vaccine Community Outreach	EPI	M. Porter	1/14/2021	8/31/2021	99,990
WIC - Breastfeeding Ed Campaign	FH	C. Nemec	10/1/2020	9/30/2021	17,500
WIC - Breastfeeding Peer Counseling	FH	C. Nemec	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	12,500
WIC - Farmer's Market	FH	C. Nemec	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	1,925
Women, Infant, Children	FH	C. Nemec	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	253,725

TOTALS

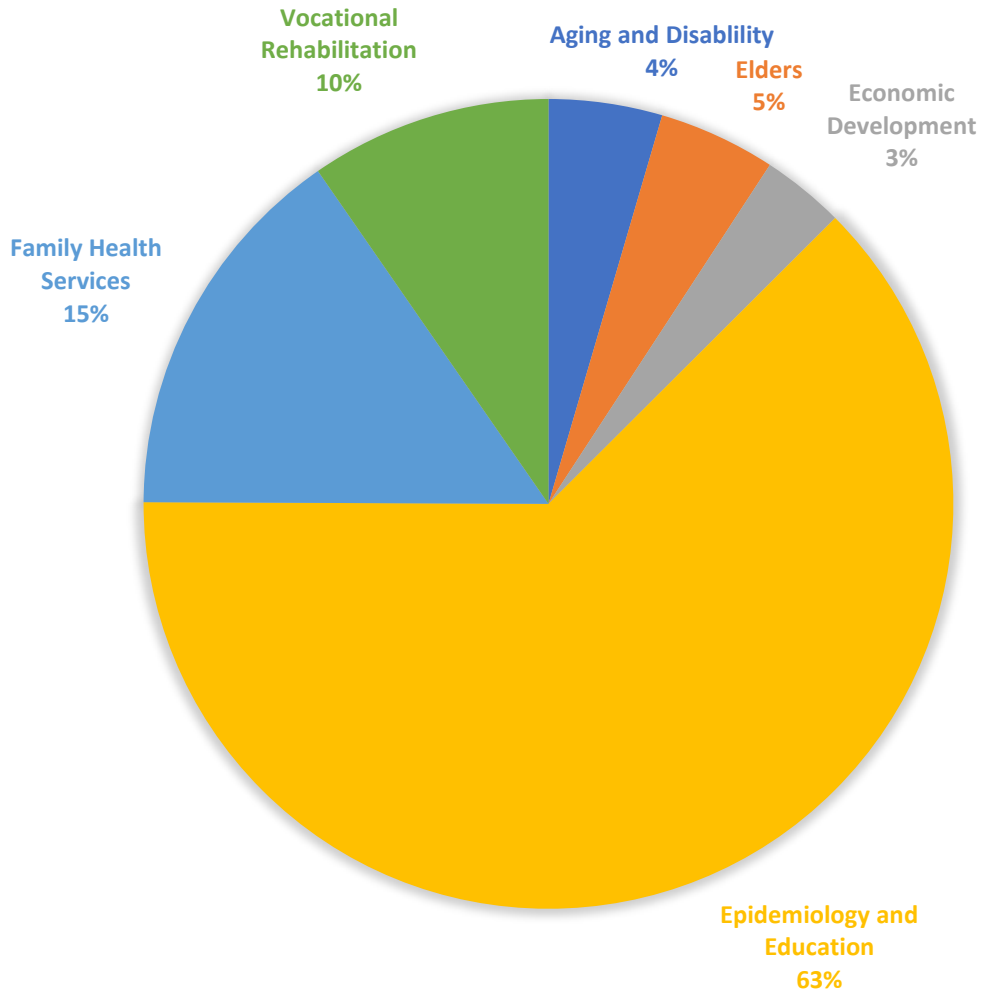
20,998,405

* Carryover - Prior year funds available in current year

** Expanded Authority - Funds available in future periods

For Management Purposes Only. No Assurances Provided.

FY2021 BUDGET BY DEPARTMENT



Programs (listed in alphabetical order by department)

Aging and Disability Services

Together Strong – Dementia Capable Communities

Amber Hoon, Program Director
Robin Kimball, Fiscal Assistant
Funding \$ 250,000

Purpose of the program

Develop a comprehensive and sustainable network of education, referral, and person-centered services to support tribal members suspected or living with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias (ADRD) and their family caregivers to enable them to remain independent, safe and at home in their communities.

Program goals and objectives

Three main project objectives.

- The first objective is to improve the quality of life and health for both people with dementia and their caregivers by introducing the evidence-based Savvy Care Giver for Indian Country (SCIC) program to Wisconsin. Part of the focus of the program is to prepare families and friends for the role of caregiver and increase their knowledge about the course and stages of Alzheimer's and dementia.
- The second objective is to build dementia capable tribal communities by developing a culturally relevant adaptation of the Wisconsin State Department of Health Service's Dementia Care Specialist program. This serves a two-fold purpose in that a culturally relevant adaptation of the current state program will make dementia awareness and community capability training resources more accessible to tribes. Dementia capable communities in turn, provide an improved quality of life and care for people with dementia and their caregivers by ensuring easier access to appropriate care and support.
- The final major objective is to develop a sustainable model for dementia awareness that include a Dementia Capable Scorecard. To accomplish this objective the project team will develop a weighted scorecard to assess dementia capability across the tribal community. The resulting score can be utilized by the tribe to determine areas for increased training and improvement strategies.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

Will initially partner with the tribes that have Tribal Dementia Care Specialists, with room in the grant to add remaining tribes in Wisconsin if time allows.

- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
- Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
- St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
- Oneida Nation
- Sokaogon Chippewa Community

Also Participated in discussions/meetings with fellow tribal ADPI grantees from various states. Participated in an Elder Meet and Greet in Sokaogon.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 and variants, long term/future in person delivery of training/ workshops/support is difficult. A lot of the content being delivered through this program is best delivered in person, not over Zoom or other virtual platforms. Each of the six communities this program serves will have different needs and levels of understanding related to Alzheimer's or dementia, different resource, educational and support needs. For me, getting to know community and individual needs is better understood by getting out and interacting within the communities, talking with various community members, and getting to know one another. This type of important interaction has been severely impacted by COVID-19.

Tribal Aging & Disability Resource Specialist (ADRS)

Mary Wolf, Program Director

Amanda Thompson, ADRS – Lac du Flambeau Aging Office

Funding \$144,109

\$80,000 State GPR

\$64,109 Federal Medicaid Match

Purpose of the program

To provide objective, accurate and unbiased information and assistance, referral services, person-centered options counseling, short-term service coordination and access to Long Term Care to tribal members, elderly, or adults with physical or intellectual/developmental disabilities ages 17 ½ years and over.

Program goals and objectives

To provide Tribal ADRS services to Indian Health Service (IHS) eligible individuals, regardless of financial means, who are within the target populations of adults with disabilities, Elders and youth with disabilities, aged 17 years and 6 months. ADRS will perform outreach to inform IHS eligible individuals about services available through the Tribal ADRS and local ADRC.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

Lac du Flambeau Band – 79 clients

Sokaogon Chippewa Community – 5 clients

15 were enrollments into Long Term Care programs.



COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

The ADRS works closely in coordination with the ADRCs serving the Lac du Flambeau and Sokaogon Tribes. Although Mole Lake is still closed to the public and no office space has been assigned there, the ADRS is available via telephone and online. Home visits, if requested, are allowed with all GLITC and local tribal/public health COVID-19 guidelines followed. The ADRS participated in the GLITC Elder Bags distribution for both tribes and the Health Fair in Mole Lake.

Tribal Disability Benefit Specialist (DBS) Program

Mary Wolf, Program Director

Ann Cleereman – DBS – Lac du Flambeau Office

Rachel Coughtry – DBS – Ashland Office

Margaret King – DBS – Oneida Office

Funding \$651,030

State Grant \$260,412

Federal Medicaid Match \$390,611

Purpose of the program

Tribal Disability Benefits Specialists (DBS) determine which benefits tribal members (aged 18 - 59) may be entitled to, identify a process to apply for the benefits, provide assistance in the application process, and provide assistance in the appeal process. Typical programs that DBS review are:

- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medical Assistance (Medicaid)
- Medicare
- Food Share
- Veterans Benefits

Program goals and objectives

This program provides the following services:

- Accurate information and access to public and private benefits and programs
- Information on consumer rights
- Grievance and appeals processes
- Advocacy, including direct representation related to public benefits eligibility
- Client referral to program attorneys for consideration of representation in administrative and judicial proceedings

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

Services are provided to 11 Wisconsin tribes for tribal members aged 18 to 59 with target groups that have **physical, mental or developmental disabilities** living on or near the reservations or Tribal Service Area(s).

Tribe	Client Count CY2020
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians	18
Forest County Potawatomi Community	0
Ho-Chunk Nation	4
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	36
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	46
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin	48
Oneida Nation	84
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	24
Sokaogon Chippewa Community	8
St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin	18
Stockbridge-Munsee Community	6
Other Tribe	6
Unknown Tribe	9

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the tribes and many programs were closed as the “Safer at Home” order directed, so the DBS program received permission from DHS to expand service categories to assist tribal members in all areas of need, such as applying for stimulus payments, which was dependent on filing taxes, which some clients normally don’t file. DBS also assisted with housing, food security, utilities for Elders since some tribes shut down Elder Benefit Services.

DBS continued working via telephone and US Mail services to get paperwork to and from clients. Travel was limited and the DBS staff remained diligent in providing uninterrupted services using alternative methods for meeting clients.

Tribal Dementia Care Specialist

Mary Wolf, Program Director

Carol Hamblin-Anderson, Dementia Care Specialist, Lac du Flambeau Office

Funding \$116,797

State GPR \$48,897

Federal Grant \$67,900

Purpose of the program

To provide information and assistance to people living with dementia and their unpaid caregivers regarding information and education about dementia, communication strategies, and safety considerations.

Program goals and objectives

To support tribal members and their caregivers with their needs in order to remain in their homes. Also, to partner with community organizations to create a dementia-friendly tribal community, including enhancing relationships with health and long-term care systems, health care professionals, emergency responders, mental health systems, crisis teams, schools and other community organizations and businesses.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

Lac du Flambeau Band – Nine Cases

Sokaogon Chippewa Community – Six Cases

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

Provided evidence-based health promotion workshops for Power Tools for Caregivers, Dementia Friends Champion Training, Pain Management, Falls Prevention and Diabetes Self-Management using an online platform. Devices were loaned to Elder participants and/or their caregivers if they didn't have access. (GrandPad Loaners were provided by GLITC Tribal Technical Assistance Center.) Also participated in distributing Elder Bags to partner tribes.

Sokaogon remains closed to the public and no office space has been provided. All correspondence has been through the Aging Unit and Elder Bags distributions, the Health Fair in April. Brochures and information were also distributed to the Mole Lake Police Department.

Lac Du Flambeau Aging Unit opened in May but limited to vaccinated Elders. DCS attended a "Meet & Greet" event at the meal site to inform participants of the DCS program services.



Tribal Elder Benefit Specialist (EBS)

Mary Wolf, Program Director
Grace Livingston, EBS – Bayfield Office

Funding \$103,000

Elder Benefit Specialist (EBS) \$84,000;

State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) \$3,000;

State Pharmaceutical Assistance (SPA) \$6,000;

Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) \$10,000

Purpose of the program

To provide assistance and advocacy for tribal elders (aged 55 and older) in Wisconsin with their private and public benefits, such as:

- Medicare
- Social Security
- Medicaid
- Consumer issues
- Housing issues
- Accessing supportive home services
- Veterans benefits

Program goals and objectives

To provide assistance in accessing public and private benefits, programs and information, advocacy, and support to tribal Elders.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

This program serves tribal Elders in the following tribal communities:

Bad River

Forest County Potawatomi

Lac Courte Oreilles

Lac du Flambeau

Red Cliff

St. Croix Community

Sokaogon Chippewa Community

Services are provided through telephone, US Postal Service, home visits (when requested), online platforms, Aging Unit site visits, outreach events, and community and Elder gatherings.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

During the COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions, the EBS programs provided and assisted in disseminating information to tribal communities through the coordinated efforts of GLITC Elder bag distributions and a “Drive-by” event at Bad River. GLITC and local tribal/public health guidance on COVID-19 protocols are followed when in any tribal community.



Tribal Technical Assistance Center Program (TTAC)

Kassy Heard, Tribal Technical Assistance Center Program Director

Funding \$ 198,489

Purpose of the program

The purpose of this program is to provide culturally sensitive Older American Act technical assistance to the eleven Tribal Aging Unit Programs of Wisconsin. Also, to act as a liaison for the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR), and Wisconsin DHS in sharing information, communicating ideas and concerns of the Tribal Aging Unit Directors.

Program goals and objectives

- Hire a new TTAC Program Director (started January 4, 2021)
- Directly provided technical assistance and support to the 11 Tribal Aging Unit Directors as they worked on their 2022-2024 Aging Plan. Including conducting a survey of tribal Elders regarding their food preferences.
- Coordinated and facilitated (virtually) the bi-monthly Tribal Aging Unit Association (TAUA) meetings.
- Assisted in gathering resources and information to support the Tribal Aging Unit Directors in coordination of Title III and Title VI funding and programming requirements and deadlines.
- Coordinated a virtual Evidence-based Health Promotion Workshop series to assist in combatting social isolation but also to assist the TAUs in having that OAA requirement to provide III-D Evidence-based Health Promotion during the pandemic.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

The Tribal Technical Assistance Center Program Director serves 11 tribes: Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe Chippewa Indians, Forest County Potawatomi Community, Ho-Chunk Nation, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Oneida Nation, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Sokaogon Chippewa Community, and Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

Most of the services provided is to the Tribal Aging Unit Director (11), their Elder Nutrition Program Managers (5), and other support staff.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

COVID-19 is still impacting our Tribal Aging Units. As of October 2020, none of the 11 Tribal Aging Unit Programs/ Elder Nutrition sites are open for on-site congregate meals for tribal Elders. As of September 2021, six were reopened. This impacted how the Tribal Aging Units served the Elders their meals and programming. As a result, technical assistance was key to ensuring they had all the information and resources needed to remain in compliance of their funding while completely adapting their program offerings to meet the needs of tribal Elders.

In addition, TTAC also supported the Tribal Aging Units by offering virtual Evidence-based Health Promotion Workshops during COVID-19.

Tribal Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)

Kassy Heard, Tribal Technical Assistance Center Program Director
Grace Livingston, Tribal Elder Benefit Specialist
Funding \$ 25,000

Purpose of the program

The purpose of the program is to provide information and educational resources to Elders, their family members, and caretakers about how to prevent healthcare fraud.

Program goals and objectives

- To train the program facilitators at Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council on the correct information that is needed to provide information during presentations and booths at outreach events
- To attend outreach events that are available in the tribal communities and set up informational booths and give presentations
- Mail out information to tribal communities when face-to-face outreach was not available
- Answer questions from Elders about how to protect, detect and report healthcare fraud.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program serves 11 tribes: Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe Chippewa Indians, Forest County Potawatomi Community, Ho-Chunk Nation, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Oneida Nation, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Sokaogon Chippewa Community, and Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

This year we couldn't do as much face-to-face outreach and education, so we found other ways to serve the tribal Elders including:

- Participating in Elder bags sending out SMP SCOOP newsletters and other informational pieces as well as goodies in the bags distributed to 1,650 tribal elders from Menominee, Bad River, Stockbridge-Munsee, and Red Cliff.
- Shared SMP information virtually with Elders who took part in the GLITC GrandPad project.
- August 2021, we took part in the Menominee Aging drive through event where 136 Elders were reached.
- September 2021, over 1,200 SCOOP newsletters were mailed to all eleven Tribal Aging Units for distribution to home delivered meal and carry out meal participants.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

COVID-19 is still impacting our outreach efforts for Senior Medicare Patrol, but we have found inventive ways to get the information and educational resources to Elders, their family members, and caretakers about how to prevent and protect themselves against healthcare fraud.

Some advertisements from the program.

DEPARTMENT OF AGING SUMMER EVENT
LIVE WELL - AGE WELL - BE WELL
FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2021 11:00 A.M. TILL 2:00 P.M.
KESHENA FAIRGROUNDS DRIVE THRU BOOTHS
THIS EVENT IS STILL HAPPENING with COVID Precautions
Healthy Aging Drive –thru event for the elders

- A fun afternoon with Supportive Resources, Music, Healthy Samples, & Supplies(are limited)
- No reservation needed-Open to Tribal elders age 55 and older
- Social Distancing is required, Covid precautions encouraged
- Call Menominee Transit for a ride 715-799-3222



**eat healthy
live healthy
be healthy**

Medicare Info for Part D, LIS and Open enrollment will be available
For information, call 715-799-5240 Department of Aging



Elder Services MEET & GREET



Please join us for a meet and greet with those who provide services to Mole Lake Elders.

Thursday July 8, 2021 12pm-3pm
Conference Center - 3084 Hwy 55, Crandon, WI 54520

Meet the new Aging Director, Tribal Elder Benefits Specialist, Tribal Dementia Specialist as well as others...
Three year aging plan input/ suggestion surveys. GIVEAWAYS and DO OR PRIZE RAFFLES.

CALL 715-478-1229 for more information



Sokaogon Chippewa Elder Services
3051 Sand Lake Road - Crandon, WI 54520 - 715-478-1229

Economic Development

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

Diane House, Program Director

Fawn Cottrell, Tourism Recovery Coordinator

Funding: EDA Planning \$153,000

EDA CARES Act Tourism Recovery \$75,000

Purpose of the program

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) program assists member tribes in planning and implementing economic development strategies derived from the member tribes' own comprehensive development planning. The EDA CARES Act tourism recovery program assists member tribes in the development and implementation of strategies aimed to boost tribal tourism recovery within the state.

Program goals and objectives

The EDA program's main goal is to update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the GLITC member tribes. To accomplish this: 1) data is being gathered on the status of current or future projects planned; and 2) other activities are being undertaken such as research, planning, networking, and advisory functions as it relates toward progression toward identification and implementation of tribal vision, goals, and objectives.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

The EDA Outreach activities continue at three levels of tribal economic development: tribal councils, internal development departments, and the tribal development boards. Assistance with tribal priority projects has commenced and will continue through this next fiscal year.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

Because of current travel restrictions, there has been no travel to any of the Wisconsin reservations. Outreach is conducted by email and virtual meetings. This includes promotion and strategic planning services for the tribal entities and providing technical support to the tribes when requested.

American Indian Economic Development Technical Assistance (AIEDTA)

Carolyn LaVake, Program Director

Funding \$79,500

Purpose of the program

To provide small business technical assistance to aspiring Native American entrepreneurs in the business start-up process including the creation, revisions, and completion of business plans and to assist existing Native-owned businesses in streamlining their operations.

Program goals and objectives

- Assist in the development of economic independence and financial security in Native communities throughout the state of Wisconsin.
- Encourage and empower entrepreneurs to create, save, and maintain jobs to become more economically independent and financially secure
- Support the need for financial literacy and entrepreneurship education to help Native Americans lift themselves out of poverty and provide higher standards of living for their families.
- Assist Native American entrepreneurs in leveraging a rural network of tribal, county, state and small business partners, mentors, and resources to start and grow their small business.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

The number of tribal members interested in starting a new business and learning more of the business process has increased. The Small Business Program has assisted 68 aspiring entrepreneurs within the 11 federally recognized tribes in Wisconsin in 2021. Several potential entrepreneurs signed up for ONABEN'S Indianpreneurship: Journey to Business Planning two-day sessions presented by the RedWind Group and ONABEN for in-person and virtual training. The Indianpreneurship in-person trainings were held at the GLITC office and at Menominee College in Keshena.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

Many aspiring entrepreneurs have expressed disappointment of not being able to start their business in 2021. They have taken the time to educate themselves to be better prepared for this year.

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Capacity Building Economic Support Grant (CBES)

Carolyn LaVake, Program Director

Funding \$63,300

Purpose of the program

To support local and regional economic development efforts in the state of Wisconsin we pursued additional funding to supplement the AIEDTA program and bring the Program Director position back up to 40 hours per week.

Program goals and objectives

- Assist in the development of economic independence and financial security in Native communities throughout the state of Wisconsin.
- Provide economic development programming that addresses issues or challenges in Native American communities.
- Provide planning assessments of the economic competitiveness of workforce, infrastructure, sustainability, and export capacity.
- Provide technical assistance and resources to Native entrepreneurs and Native-owned businesses.
- Promote entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial education, mentorship, and training programs to facilitate business development or financial services.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

The number of tribal members interested in starting a new business and learning more of the business process has increased. The Small Business Program has assisted sixty-eight aspiring entrepreneurs within the 11 federally recognized tribes in Wisconsin in 2021. Potential aspiring entrepreneurs signed up for ONABEN'S Indianpreneurship: Journey to Business Planning two-day sessions presented by the RedWind Group and ONABEN for in-person and virtual training. The Indianpreneurship in-person trainings were held at the GLITC office and Menominee College in Keshena.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

Many aspiring entrepreneurs have expressed disappointment of not being able to start their business in 2021. They have taken the time to educate themselves to be better prepared for this year.

Education, Health, and Research

Great Lakes Native American Research Center for Health (GLNARCH)

Amy E. Poupart, Program Director

Azael Meza, Program Coordinator

Tara Senter, Program Coordinator

NARCH 10 \$918,105.00

NARCH 11 \$322,073.00

Purpose of the program

- Encourage cooperative research linked to reducing Native American health disparities.
- Increase the number of Native American students, scientists, health professionals and organizations engaged in biomedical, clinical and behavioral research.
- Build the capacity of both the academic institutions and GLITC to work in partnership to reduce distrust by Native American communities and people toward research.



Program Mission Statement - Provide a cooperative structure for the development and implementation of high quality, culturally sensitive, and community-supported research linked to health disparity issues. The structure would facilitate the participation of Native Americans/Native Alaskans in the research process through training and mentoring opportunities within both academic and community settings.

Program goals and objectives

Aim 1: Continue to provide support, opportunities, and resources for Native American/Native Alaskan researchers and students.

Goals: Continue best practices, expand important initiatives, and foster new partnerships with another NARCH.

Aim 2: Create an environment to increase dialogue between academic partners and tribal communities.

Goals: Continue Community and Scientific Advisory Committee (CSAC) advisement, plan events to increase bi-directional communication with tribal/urban Native American/Native Alaskan communities, and coordinate synergy between community engagement efforts of GLNARCH components.

Aim 3: Update data capture and methods for evaluation, explore inclusion of social media and traditional forms of knowledge building (storytelling) in promotion and evaluation.

Goals: Update evaluation surveys to allow for remote data capture, share innovations in assessment across components, employ storytelling model for integrated dissemination of evaluation results across components.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

All tribes in the GLNARCH service area, Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin, have had contact with program staff. We have made it a priority to reconnect with tribes, post tribal shutdowns, and find alternative ways to continue our work. GLNARCH staff have attended multiple tribal community fairs including Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Gerald Ignace Health Center; planned fairs that subsequently had to be cancelled and have had face-to-face contact hundreds of tribal attendees. We also continue to plan for future events with our partners at each of the tribal colleges in our service area and provide for increasing our tribal communities' capacities to do research. For specific GLNARCH programs, for the Indigenous Health & Wellness Days, 30 tribal students participated, for our American Indian Science Scholars program, we had 14 tribal high school students, and six college summer interns.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

As a program, we are still limited in relation to travel as we respect and maintain the protocols set forth by individual tribal communities. Many people, including students', appear to be experiencing pandemic fatigue and look forward to returning to the types of in-person gatherings that are so important to our communities.

Wisconsin Native American Tobacco Network (WNATN)

Melissa Doud, Program Director

Funding \$250,000.00

Purpose of the program

The purpose of the Wisconsin Native American Tobacco Network (WNATN) program is to identify and describe tobacco-related disparities in Native reservations and communities since Native Americans have the highest smoking rates in the State of Wisconsin. It is important to help our people by sharing consistent best practices regarding the areas of commercial tobacco, second-hand smoke exposure, and vaping. Outreach is crucial with our youth, so efforts include providing them information on how and why big tobacco companies target them with revolving predatory efforts. In addition, WNATN is developing a FACT group that must fit tribal needs. Other initiatives include providing the new American Indian Quit Line 1-888-7AI-QUIT (724-7848) to our people who use commercial tobacco.

Program goals and objectives

Goals include addressing important commercial tobacco issues through coalition development and policy development/change to lessen the smoking/vaping/chewing rates in Indian Country in Wisconsin. WNATN trains and teaches non-Natives within the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program (TPCP) about the differences between Traditional and Commercial tobacco. Lac du Flambeau Public School is teaching youth the planting, nurturing, and harvesting of traditional tobacco to incorporate culture around prevention. WNATN is initiating the process for the state to recognize Traditional tobacco by requesting the TPCP to change its name to the Commercial TPCP, acknowledging Native traditional tobacco. WNATN is using the casinos going smoke-free due to COVID-19 as a foundation to start efforts in creating smoke-free housing policies.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

There are partnerships with six of the eleven tribes in Wisconsin: Lac du Flambeau, St. Croix, Menominee, Red Cliff, Lac Courte Oreilles, and Stockbridge Munsee. There are WNATN Memorandums of Understanding with each of these tribes and they are issued a sub-award. Each of the reservations have a WNATN representative. The group meets monthly to discuss various ways to deliver messages, share knowledge, provide resources needed for prevention and cessation. One creative approach was having the AI Quit Line printed on matchbooks and the local grocery store shares them with its Native patrons when they purchase commercial tobacco.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

There have been restrictions with travel so meeting in person has been difficult. WNATN is respectful of other reservation's guidelines and policies, so we continue to meet via Zoom. Efforts have shifted to more social media outreach with the AI Quit Line. Flyers are shared with local newspapers, Facebook pages, local radio stations, television stations. A new media campaign has been launched to promote the AI Quit line on billboards that will be placed on or near each reservation/community.

Elders Services

CARES Act Funding – Grandpads

Pat Takamine, Program Director

Don Lincoln, Program Fiscal Administrative Assistant

Wendy Rozhon, Program Coordinator

Kassy Heard, Tribal Technical Assistance Center Program Director

Mary Wolf, Aging and Disability Services Program Director

Funding \$92,000

Purpose of the program

Evaluate, develop a plan of action, and implement/distribute 100 Grandpads to Elders from each of the 12 tribes to promote social interaction and participation in Aging Evidence Based Programs.

Program goals and objectives

Identify 50 FGP/SCP Elder volunteers and 50 Aging tribal Elders to distribute, train and evaluate technology adaptation for future aging-based programs

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

Red Cliff, Bad River, Lac du Flambeau, Mole Lake Sokaogon, Oneida, Menominee, Lac Vieux Desert, St Croix, Lac Courte Oreilles, Ho Chunk - 100 tribal elders. All FGP/SCP elders participated in three to six weeks evidenced based programs, putting in a total of 270 training hours.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

COVID-19 has limited program ability to engage community members and actively recruit volunteers to meet program goals. This was one time funding, and no other funding was available to continue program activities.



Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)

Pat Takamine, Program Director
Don Lincoln, Fiscal Administrative Assistant
Wendy Rozhon, Program Coordinator
Funding \$ 482,626

Purpose of the program

Recruit tribal Elders as volunteers to act as cultural mentors to tribal youth in organized settings such as schools, after school programs, community programs or Head Start Agencies

Program goals and objectives

Recruit 60 Elder volunteers to volunteer a minimum of five hours a week to decrease social isolation and preserve/recover traditional knowledge. Provide economic support to Elders via a volunteer stipend.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

Red Cliff, Bad River, Lac du Flambeau, Mole Lake Sokaogon, Oneida, Menominee, Lac Vieux Desert - seven Active volunteers, two in queue.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities.

COVID-19 has limited program ability to engage community members and actively recruit volunteers to meet program goals.



Notah Begay Foundation Community Empowerment Grant

Pate Takamine, Program Director
Tony Schultz, VISTA Americorps
Funding \$ 200,000

Purpose of the program

Preserve and recover tribal cultures by utilizing Elder knowledge to empower tribal youth.

Program goals and objectives

Collaborate with tribes, Americorps and GLITC VRNA programs. Invest in youth via cultural programming or physical activity programs

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

Stockbridge Munsee Cultural Historical Program, La Courte Oreilles Boys and Girls Club, St Croix tribal programs for youth and Elders. Total population touched 200 Elders/youth all three tribes.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities.

COVID-19 has limited program ability to engage community and begin community engagement activities. As a result, program planning has been completed with progress reports, project identification and budgets.



Senior Companion Program (SCP)

Pat Takamine, Program Director

Don Lincoln, Fiscal Administrative Assistant

Wendy Rozhon, Program Coordinator

Funding \$ 421,301 (Federal, State, Brown and Brown Foundation)

Purpose of the program

Recruit tribal Elders as volunteers to act as social companions to other frail tribal Elders in tribal communities.

Program goals and objectives:

Recruit 50 Elder volunteers to volunteer a minimum of five hours week to decrease social isolation and increase in-home independence. Provide economic support to Elders via a volunteer stipend. Enhance tribal Elder identity to preserve honor and respect the value of who they are and what they add to their communities.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program:

Red Cliff, Bad River, Lac du Flambeau, Sokaogon, St Croix, Oneida, Menominee, Lac Vieux Desert - 42 volunteers.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities.

COVID-19 has limited program ability to engage community members and actively recruit volunteers to meet program goals. Elders are concerned about being exposed to COVID-19. 98% of elders are fully vaccinated.



Epidemiology

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center (GLITEC) IHS Epidemiology Program Cooperative Agreement

German Gonzalez MD, MPH, GLITEC Director/Medical Epidemiologist

**Meghan Porter, Program Manager/Senior Maternal and Child Health
Epidemiologist**

Samantha Lucas-Pipkorn MPH, Senior Epidemiologist

Traci Buechner, Program/Fiscal Assistant

Amanda Christensen, Administrative Assistant

Chalyse Schellinger, Research Assistant

Gifty Crabbe MPH, Epidemiologist

Marissa Hogan MPH, Epidemiologist

Sophia Kiselova MPH, Epidemiologist

Valerie Poole MPH, Epidemiologist

Brenda Ruiz MPH, Epidemiologist

Funding \$933,824 (FY21 award – Does not include carryover)

Purpose of the program

The IHS Epidemiology Program Cooperative Agreement is a program of GLITEC, whose mission is 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.

Program goals and objectives

Like other Tribal Epidemiology Centers nationwide, GLITEC works to fulfill seven core functions which can be summarized as:

- Collect data and monitor progress towards meeting health objectives,
- Evaluate systems that impact health improvement,
- Assist communities in identifying health objectives and what's needed to obtain the objectives,
- Make recommendations for targeting services and for improving healthcare delivery systems,
- Provide technical assistance, and
- Conduct disease surveillance and assist communities in promoting public health.

GLITEC is available to support tribes' health data needs. Data reports at the community, state, and Area levels are available (community-level reports are not publicly available); Tribes can make requests for special data analyses to support grant application, planning, or program needs; evaluation services are available; and technical assistance regarding evaluation and public health data usage are provided upon request.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

American Indian/Alaska Native communities in the Bemidji Indian Health Service Area (Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Chicago) are served by this program. This includes 34 federally recognized tribes, three IHS Service Units, and four urban Indian communities.

COVID-19 is still affecting our tribal communities and program activities

Through this program, GLITEC conducted various activities related to the pandemic, as well as activities not related to the pandemic. GLITEC produced a variety of products related to COVID-19 promotion and provided them at no cost to I/T/U clinics across the Bemidji Area. These materials included: enamel pins reading “Vaccinated Native;” stickers (for community members) and pins (for staff) reading “Vaccinated Against COVID;” COVID-19 vaccine social media frame and Zoom backgrounds; three designs of high-quality vinyl stickers; and yard signs for clinics to advertise COVID-19 vaccine availability. Weekly data updates were produced and disseminated. In addition, this program contained dedicated funding related to COVID-19 mitigation and response.



COVID-19: Prevention of Suicide, Intimate Partner Violence, and Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs) in Indian Country(S//A)

Meghan Porter, Program Manager/Senior Maternal and Child Health Epidemiologist

Valerie Poole, Epidemiologist

Sophia Kiselova, Epidemiologist

Traci Buechner, Program/Fiscal Assistant

Funding \$1,000,000

Purpose of the program

S//A is a program of GLITEC whose mission is 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.

Program goals and objectives

This program is intended to build public health capacity in the COVID-19 response and aftermath and prevent injuries and violence focusing on suicide, intimate partner violence, and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

The S//A activities are designed to support the 34 federally recognized tribes and four urban Indian communities in the Bemidji Indian Health Service Area (Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Chicago).

COVID-19 is still affecting our tribal communities and program activities

The focus of this program is to address potential effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on specific types of violence; all project activities relate to preventing and responding to suicide, intimate partner violence and adverse childhood events (ACEs). In addition to other activities, this program includes a non-competitive mini-grant component; 13 communities across the region received funding to support efforts related to prevention and response to intimate partner violence.

COVID-19 Vaccination Community Outreach (VCO)

**Meghan Porter, Program Manager/Senior Maternal and Child Health
Epidemiologist**

Valerie Poole, Epidemiologist

Jordyn Fink, Public Health Specialist

Funding \$99,990

Purpose of the program

VCO was a program of GLITEC, whose mission was 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.

Program goals and objectives

The purpose of the program was to help remove barriers to and promote acceptance of COVID-19 vaccination.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

This project served the federally recognized tribes in Wisconsin and the urban Indian community of Milwaukee.

COVID-19 is still affecting our tribal communities and program activities

The focus of this program was to address effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities included fully funding customized billboards for all communities and disseminating promotional t-shirts and fuel-only gift cards for communities to use as vaccine incentives.



Division of Epidemiology and Disease Prevention; Epidemiology Program for American Indian/Alaska Native Tribes and Urban Indian Communities Ending the HIV Epidemic in Indian Country

German Gonzalez, MD, MPH, FACE, GLITEC Director/Medical Epidemiologist

Samantha Lucas-Pipkorn, MPH, Program Manager/Senior Epidemiologist

Funding \$ \$ 250,000.00

Purpose of the program

The purpose of this program is to support communities in reducing new HIV infections and relevant co-morbidities, such as STI and HCV infections and improve HIV-, STI- and HCV-related health outcomes, and to reduce HIV, STI, and HCV-related health disparities

Program goals and objectives

The goals of this program are to support communities in their efforts to:

- Diagnose all people with HIV as early as possible after infection
- Treat HIV and HCV rapidly and effectively
- Respond to growing HIV clusters (if applicable)
- Prevent new HIV infections
- Expand local capacity to implement policy, system, and environmental changes for long-term sustainability of HIV and HCV prevention and treatment

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

All trainings, past and future, are open to all 34 tribes and four urban Indian programs to attend. All resources and technical assistance are available to tribes.

COVID-19 is still affecting our tribal communities and program activities

Trainings are now held online.



Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC)

German Gonzalez, MD, MPH, FACE, GLITEC Director/Medical Epidemiologist

Will Funmaker MBA, MLT (ASCP)^{cm}, Program Director

Jeannie Le, MPH, Epidemiologist

Traci Buechner, Fiscal/Administrative Assistant

Chalyse Schellinger, Research Assistant I

Mandy Christensen, Administrative Assistant

Funding \$1,240,625

Purpose of the program

The Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC) program is a five-year \$98 million program that is working to improve health and wellness in American Indian/Alaska Natives. The awardees of this program will use evidence-based strategies for long-term goals such as availability of healthy foods, increased breastfeeding, increase physical activity, reduce type 2 diabetes, reduction of high blood pressure, reducing high cholesterol, and reduction of commercial tobacco use.

Program goals and objectives

The objectives of the GHWIC grant are to:

- Increase availability of health foods
- Increase physical activity
- Increase breastfeeding
- Reduce prevalence of commercial tobacco use
- Reduce incidence of type 2 diabetes
- Reduce prevalence of high blood pressure
- Reduce prevalence of high blood cholesterol

Our sub-awardees are working towards these objectives by creating and implementing sustainable policy, systems, and environmental change (PSE) strategies in each of their individual communities. Through these strategies, we are looking to foster a long-term and sustainable resource that community members can utilize for their ongoing health needs. By providing these long-term goals there will be a corresponding positive impact that will be felt for years.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program:

Sub-Awards

Bay Mills Indian Community	\$100,000
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	\$100,000
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians	\$100,000
Lower Sioux Indian Community	\$100,000
Menominee Nation	\$100,000
Native American Community Clinic	\$100,000
White Earth Nation	\$100,000

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has had an immense impact across all communities in Indian Country. These communities found that their resources were diverted to take care of immediate needs such as care of patients with COVID-19, testing, vaccinations, working remotely or persons were being laid off entirely.

As a result, many of the activities and plans that had been anticipated were reduced or entirely scrapped as mitigation efforts took place to more pressing needs. Other programs had anticipated hiring personnel to work on their grant but were unable to move forward with those plans as communities worked on mitigation efforts. Programs have also been unable to spend their allocated funding as a result of the closures and cancellations of activities and are still struggling to be able to provide many of the needed improvements for their communities.

Partnering with National Organizations to Increasing Vaccine Coverage in American Indian/Alaska Native Adults (iVAC)

Meghan Porter, Program Manager/Senior Maternal and Child Health Epidemiologist

Funding \$84,364 (This project year goes Feb 1, 2021-Jan 30, 2022. We are still waiting on the contract for year 1)

Purpose of the program

iVAC is a program of GLITEC, whose mission is 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.

Program goals and objectives

This five-year project focuses on promoting and increasing the uptake of adult vaccinations, particularly influenza and COVID-19 vaccines.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

American Indian/Alaska Native communities in the Bemidji Indian Health Service Area (Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Chicago) are served by this program. This includes 34 federally recognized tribes, three IHS Service Units, and four urban Indian communities. In the first year, the project is focusing on communities in Michigan, Minnesota, and Chicago.

COVID-19 is still affecting our tribal communities and program activities

In the first year of this program, the focus is to address effects of the COVID-19 pandemic by promoting vaccination; all project activities are related to this topic.

Supporting Tribal Public Health Capacity in Coronavirus Preparedness and Response (CPAR)

Meghan Porter, Program Manager/Senior Maternal and Child Health Epidemiologist

Julie Nystrom, Communication and Design Specialist

Funding \$159,000 (base award); \$50,000 (additional funding)

Purpose of the program

CPAR is a program of GLITEC, whose mission is 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.

Program goals and objectives

This project is working to address the public health problem of COVID-19 specifically, as well as other emergency-related topics. It is doing this by conducting public health activities related to communications that will support tribal health departments and other components of the tribal public health system in their response to emergencies such as COVID-19. CPAR activities focus on building a robust digital communication platform that includes an information delivery system and emergency response website.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

The CPAR activities are designed to support the 34 federally recognized tribes and four urban Indian communities in the Bemidji Indian Health Service Area (Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Chicago).

COVID-19 is still affecting our tribal communities and program activities

The focus of this project is to address effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; all project activities relate to this topic.

Tribal Epidemiology Center Infrastructure (TECPHI)

German Gonzalez, MD, MPH, FACE, GLITEC Director/Medical Epidemiologist

Samantha Lucas-Pipkorn, MPH, Program Manager/Senior Epidemiologist

Meghan Porter, MPH, Senior Epidemiologist

Gifty Crabbe, MPH, Epidemiologist

Marissa Hogan, MPH, Epidemiologist

Traci Buechner, Fiscal/Administrative Assistant

Chalyse Schellinger, Research Assistant I

Jordyn Fink, BS, Administrative Assistant

Funding \$587,872

Purpose of the program

To build public health capacity and infrastructure of the EpiCenter for disease surveillance, epidemiology, prevention and control of disease, injury, or disability, and program monitoring and evaluation.

Program goals and objectives

- Increased collaboration and training on surveillance, epidemiology and data collection among tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations
- Increased collaboration and training on the development or strengthening of culturally relevant, evidence-based chronic disease prevention and other priority health programs among tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations
- Increased communication and partnerships among health and non-health sector partners on chronic disease prevention and other priority areas at the Area and/or tribal levels
- Increased understanding by tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations of the needs and resources in the Area related to chronic disease prevention and other priority health issues
- Increased collaboration among tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations on planning, implementing and evaluating public health programs and activities
- Increased collaboration and training among tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations on identifying and securing funding and managing grants
- Increased numbers of grant writing trainings for tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations
- Improved monitoring of health status (e.g., improved surveillance, surveys, access to and use of public health data)
- Coordinated communication with public health, health care and other sectors of the community to address chronic diseases and other health priorities (e.g., publication of reports, data summaries, issue briefs, program evaluation findings and other communication products)
- Increased implementation of sustainable programs identified from local and Area-wide assessments
- Increased capacity among tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations to incorporate evaluation results into program plans
- Increased numbers of grants applied for and received
- Increased financial support of tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations for chronic disease prevention and health promotion activities
- Data routinely collected, analyzed, interpreted, and disseminated by Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs) to routinely inform public health programs in Indian Country
- Increased access, supported by TECs, of tribes' and urban Indian organizations' chronic disease prevention and health promotion activities

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

- All trainings, past and future, are open to all 34 tribes and four urban Indian program staff to attend
- The Request for Proposal (RFP) was open to all 34 tribes and four urban Indian programs

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

Every year this program hosts several in-person trainings to build the capacity of I/T/U personnel. Due to COVID19, these trainings were moved online.

Tribal Epidemiology Center Infrastructure (TECPHI) Opioid Supplement

German Gonzalez, MD, MPH, FACE, GLITEC Director/Medical Epidemiologist
Samantha Lucas-Pipkorn, MPH, Program Manager/Senior Epidemiologist
Marissa Hogan, MPH, Epidemiologist
Traci Buechner, Fiscal/Administrative Assistant
Chalyse Schellinger, Research Assistant I
Jordyn Fink, BS, Administrative Assistant
Funding \$174,286

Purpose of the program

Assessing infrastructure, capacity, gaps, and needs for opioid-related American Indian/Alaskan Native data in the Bemidji Area; developing capacity and technical assistance resources for conducting opioid overdose surveillance in the Bemidji Area.

Program goals and objectives

- Partnering with tribes and key stakeholders to improve surveillance
- Addressing and improving data issues related to racial classification across data systems
- Improving non-fatal overdose data collection
- Improving fatal overdose data collection

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

All trainings, past and future are open to all 34 tribes and four urban Indian programs to attend.

COVID-19 is still affecting our tribal communities and program activities

Every year this program hosts several in-person trainings to build the capacity of I/T/U personnel. Due to COVID-19, these trainings were rescheduled for fall 2021 or moved online.

The Tribal Public Health Capacity Building and Quality Improvement – Umbrella Cooperative Agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (UMB)

German Gonzalez, MD, MPH, FACE, GLITEC Director/Medical Epidemiologist
Christina Denslinger, PHD, Program Manager
Jake Reimer, BS, Public Health Specialist
Traci Buechner, Fiscal Assistant
Amanda Christensen, Administrative Program Assistant
Chalyse Schellinger, Research Assistant I
Funding \$ \$1,055,333.00

Purpose of the program

The main purpose of the Umbrella Project is to reduce opioid use through partnerships, data quality improvement projects, and capacity building.

Program goals and objectives

1. Develop a comprehensive regional and tribal Opioid response to assess and address enhanced opioid surveillance, and to aid in the adoption and deployment of evidence-based interventions to improve public health outcomes.
2. Strengthen epidemiological surveillance and public health infrastructure to address issues of data quality and timeliness.
3. Increase the use of evidence-based and culturally appropriate opioid overdose prevention and interventions within tribal and urban clinics.
4. Implement innovative community-based strategies.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

- Ten tribes and one urban Indian center were awarded up to \$75,000 each to implement data quality improvement projects. Project activities included, but were not limited to:
 - Quality improvement and evaluation of traditional healing approaches for substance use and recovery
 - Trainings to enhance recovery and support services across programs
 - Policies around safe prescribing and controlled substances, including
 - enhancing data and information systems to improve prescribing processes
- Various trainings were held and attended by tribes and urban Indian centers across the region:
 - Digital storytelling workshops, in which individuals had the opportunity to create their own story to share the importance and impact of their work and support and inspire others
 - An indigenous evaluation training, conducted in partnership with the Urban Indian Health Institute, covered topics such as Indigenous evaluation frameworks, evaluation as an Indigenous value, data collection tools, and using visual logic models, with twenty-four participants representing at least seven tribes and two urban Indian centers
 - Naloxone Train-the-Trainer events were held in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, with almost 30 people trained across the three-state area.

COVID-19 is still affecting our tribal communities and program activities

Meetings and trainings are now held online.

Family Health

Family Foundations Comprehensive Home Visiting (FFCHV)

Suzette Mayotte, Program Director
Ann-Marie Landin, HFA Program Coordinator
Tina Handeland, HFA Program Manager
Victoria Soulier, HFA Family Support Specialist
Allie LeSieur, HFA Family Support Specialist
Funding \$1,478,527.64

Purpose of the program

The mission of the Home Visiting Program is to protect children through parent education and to enhance the quality of life for all Native families in the tribal communities in Wisconsin through evidenced-based home visiting

Program goals and objectives

1. Reduce Poor Birth Outcomes
2. Reduce Child Abuse and Neglect
3. Promote Child Safety, Health and Development
4. Improve Maternal Health
5. Improve School Readiness and Achievement
6. Reduce Domestic Violence
7. Improve Family Economic Self-Sufficiency
8. Coordinate Referrals for Community Resources and Supports through Evidenced-Based Home Visiting Services.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

Bad River	17
Burnett County	17
Lac du Flambeau	12
Sokaogon	09
St. Croix	15

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

Due to COVID-19, a majority of home visits, training, and events have become drive-through events or virtual. Programs are doing drive-through diaper give aways, baby showers, and incentive events to increase participation.

Lincoln Hills – Indian Tribes of Wisconsin (ITW)

Nicole Oknewski, Program Director

Funding \$117,300

Purpose of the program

To provide programming and curriculum to Lincoln Hills School/Copper Lake School (LHS/CLS) that pertains to involving the Native American Youth in traditional Native American Cultural events and activities. To teach all youth and staff at LHS/CLS who want to learn about the Native American History of all the tribes in Wisconsin.

Program goals and objectives

Create a new curriculum; keep Native youth involved with their tribal cultures; provide spiritual, cultural, and historical education about all 11 tribes in the State of Wisconsin, will also include Brothertown Indian Nation; train staff on Native American issues, cultural sensitivity, and awareness.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

Currently serving Lac du Flambeau, Oneida, Stockbridge, Red Cliff and Menominee. Seven youth are in the program. We have the ability to work with all tribes in Wisconsin and even tribal members from other states. There is roughly 50 youth on campus and I have work with all of them.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

One-on-one counseling is hard because youth are not allowed to leave the unit if they are on COVID-19 restrictions. Completing one-on-one sessions on the unit is difficult because there are only two scheduled hours for activities in which I complete group lesson and activities. This is further complicated as I am not able to see youth during school hours since many don't have study hall, or I am not in at their study hall time. One-on-ones become near impossible because if I have one youth with me, there always seems to be another that wants to be in on the conversation and partake in the session even if they are not invited. Large groups are not possible either because the units can't intermingle due to COVID-19 rules.

Actions taken to mitigate the impact of COVID-19

Lots of deep breathing and self-talk, plus a lot of prayers.

Maternal Telehealth Access Program

Cheri Nemec, RDN, CD, CLS, IBC, Program Director:
Funding \$84,854

Purpose of the program

This project seeks to provide technology and supporting materials to families working with maternal child health programs. The goal is to provide consistent breastfeeding education and support to increase breastfeeding duration rates.

Program goals and objectives

1. Provide technology for telehealth access to at least 200 families participating in maternal child health programming in tribal communities.
2. Offer at least 12 education sessions on topics related to prenatal and postpartum health and wellness and breastfeeding

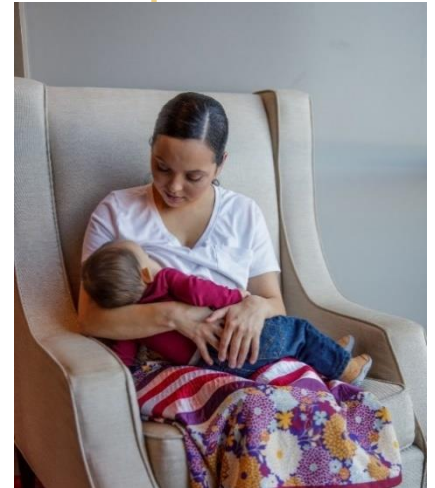
Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

Bad River: 20
Ho-Chunk Nation: 30
Lac du Flambeau: 15
Lac Courte Oreilles: 20
Menominee: 30
Oneida: 40
Red Cliff: 15
Stockbridge-Munsee: 20
St. Croix: 10

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

The Maternal Telehealth Access Program, in collaboration with the Native Breastfeeding Coalition of Wisconsin, provided 14 virtual education sessions that were free and open to all tribal communities. Topics included:

- Nutrition for Breastfeeding/Postpartum Women
- Breastfeeding Q & A
- Feeding the Older Infant
- Breastfeeding and COVID-19
- Postpartum Depression
- Understanding your Child's Growth
- Calming Techniques for Mom and Infant
- Healthy Holiday Eating



**BREASTFEEDING
CAN REDUCE THE RISK OF
SUDDEN INFANT DEATH
SYNDROME BY 36%.**

#MOMSTRONG

Some highlights, events, and advertisements from the program

**Let's Connect!
Virtual Event**
Wednesday, December 15th, 11:00-12:00 PM
The holidays are here! Join this discussion to learn about tips for healthy holiday eating and learn to make healthy snacks.
Nutrition staff from Lac du Flambeau, Stockbridge-Munsee and Red Cliff will demonstrate their favorite snacks.
INTER-TRIBAL EDUCATION AND SUPPORT
DECEMBER 15TH
REGISTER TO RECEIVE ZOOM LINK AND RECIPES:
[HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/0868BY](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/0868BY)

STATE of WISCONSIN
OFFICE of the GOVERNOR
Proclamation
WHEREAS the state of Wisconsin acknowledges the many physical and mental health benefits of breastfeeding for babies and their parents, and promotes inclusive support for all milk-feeding families regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, education level, socioeconomic status, or any other factor that makes every family and community unique; and
WHEREAS while there is limited research on the prevalence of breastfeeding among Native families—a reflection of the unique barriers and systemic racism faced by Native people in healthcare, employment, and community settings—it is well-documented that racial disparities in breastfeeding rates persist due to these barriers; and
WHEREAS we recognize the importance of reducing racial disparities in healthcare and birth outcomes and of promoting diversity in the lactation field, and we applaud the community-based breastfeeding organizations across our state, including the Native Breastfeeding Coalition of Wisconsin, that are championing this important work; and
WHEREAS while August is National Breastfeeding Month, it is essential to have a week that is dedicated to prioritizing and celebrating the experiences of Native families and that is centered on encouraging breastfeeding as a way to combat the systemic injustices that prevent all Wisconsin families from achieving their full breastfeeding potential; and
WHEREAS this week, the state of Wisconsin applauds the community-based organizations across our state that are committed to the important work of promoting diversity in the lactation field and joins them, along with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, in working towards racial equity in breastfeeding and in maternal and child health more broadly, now and in the future;
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim August 8 – 14, 2021, as
NATIVE BREASTFEEDING WEEK
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all our state's residents.
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 9th day of July 2021.
Tony Evers
TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR
By the Governor:
Doreen C. DeGens
DEGENS
Secretary of State

Project WISE (*Wisconsin Initiative for Student Empowerment*)

Program Director, Lori Hunter

Program Coordinator, Tara Senter (through June 2021)

Funding \$80,000 reduced to \$45,295

Purpose of the program

Project WISE is a Sexual Risk Avoidance Education program educating middle school youth about personal responsibility, self-regulation, goal setting, healthy decision-making, a focus on the future, and the prevention of youth risk behaviors such as drug and alcohol use without normalizing teen sexual activity.

Program goals and objectives

Using a Positive Youth Development framework, the long-term goals include:

Reduce teen pregnancy rates and sexually transmitted infections, increase healthy behaviors among youth as demonstrated by lowered rates of alcohol and other drug use, lowered rates of sexual risk behavior, and increased healthy relationships, and increase high school graduation rate in funded communities.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

Project WISE began implementing virtual curriculum with Menominee Nation youth at the Menominee Indian Middle School in February 2021. Due to the constraints placed upon the program by the pandemic, fidelity to program goals became unattainable. In August, to align the cost-effectiveness of activities with limited funds and to achieve program goals, the program shifted focus to serve Lac du Flambeau youth.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

Travel restrictions and high case activity led to the inability to establish trusted relationships with youth and both school and Tribal staff to bring about an effective program in the Menominee Nation. This led to the de-obligation of state funding and moving program focus to Lac du Flambeau youth.

Rural Infant Health Title V Maternal Child Health Block Grant

Linda Ebbert, Program Director

Funding \$186,328

Purpose of the program

Tribal agencies are encouraged to work with community and state partners to achieve common program goals. Maternal Child Health (MCH) priorities and performance measures address the following:

1. Safety and Injury prevention
2. Healthy Behaviors
3. Mental Health and Healthy Relationships
4. Preventive Screenings and Follow-ups
5. Health Care Access and Quality

Program goals and objectives

Our Rural Infant Health Program is a system-building program. Tribal agencies self-select one or more MCH objective; breastfeeding, safe sleep developmental screening, adolescent suicide, and injury transportation-related injury. Each objective identifies specific strategies that the tribal agencies must implement. Strategies are evidence-based and evidence-informed. Resources and tools are available from statewide projects and partners.

Tribes served

Tribes' objectives with strategies:

- Bad River: Perinatal Depression
- Lac Courte Oreilles: Developmental Screening
- Lac du Flambeau: COVID-19 activities
- Menominee: COVID-19 activities
- Oneida: Breastfeeding
- Red Cliff: COVID-19 activities
- Sokaogon: Child Developmental
- Stockbridge-Munsee: Perinatal Depression
- St. Croix: Developmental Screening and COVID-19 activities

Grant is a continuation from year to year, January 1 to December 31. Tribal sites will either stay with same objective or pick a new one for 2022.

Other notable activities

Collaborate with Wisconsin Breastfeeding Coalition and utilize available resources, attend the yearly Maternal Child Health Summit, provide on-site assessment and technical assistance to childcare providers and/or workplaces, conduct trainings and education for the communities, collaborate with the Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin, and promote available resources and a system of coordinated referrals and follow-up services.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

DHS was aware that COVID-19 was a priority for our MCH nurses for 2021. The tribes were allowed to be reimbursed for COVID-19 related duties. When staff were able, they worked on their objectives.

Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Cheri Nemec, RDN, CD, CLS, IBC. Program Director

Tribal Site Staff: Bad River: Sue Houle, Gena Jensen

Ho-Chunk Nation: Betty Blackdeer, Kathy Braaten, Kyla Ripp, Heather Jerzak

Lac du Flambeau: Jodi Chapman, Brenda Husing, Michaela Daubon

Lac Courte Oreilles: Barb Baker-LaRush

Red Cliff: Amaris Andrews

St. Croix: Sandy Johnson, Karli Schroeder

Stockbridge-Munsee: Anita Mihtukwsun, Casey Rosenberg

Sokaogon Chippewa: Cheri Nemec

Funding: \$249,502

WIC Outreach Funding: \$4,222

WIC Farmers' Market: \$1,927

WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling: \$12,500

Purpose of the program

The purpose of the WIC Program is to promote and maintain the health and well-being of nutritionally at-risk pregnant, breastfeeding, and post-partum women, infants, and children up to age five. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support, supplemental nutritious foods, and referrals to other health and nutrition services.

WIC nutrition education emphasizes the relationship between nutrition, physical activity, and health. WIC staff assist the individual who is at nutritional risk in achieving a positive change in dietary and physical activity habits, resulting in improved nutritional status and prevention of nutrition-related problems through optimal use of the WIC supplemental foods and other nutritious foods. WIC uses breastfeeding education and support for women and their families to encourage mothers to breastfeed their infants.

Program goals and objectives

- A. Maintain monthly participation of 97% of contracted caseload
- B. Attend all state sponsored meetings and trainings
- C. Address corrective actions from most recent Management Evaluation report by the timeline indicated
- D. Assure accurate documentation and provide nutrition education contacts per policy



Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program:

Ho-Chunk Nation at Black River Falls, Baraboo, and Nekoosa -124 participants

Lac Courte Oreilles - 83 participants

Lac du Flambeau - 229 participants

Bad River - 40 participants

Sokaogon Chippewa - 26 participants

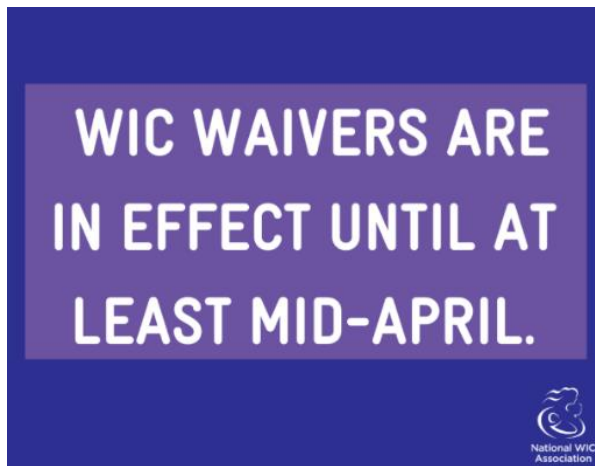
Red Cliff - 76 participants

St. Croix - 46 participants

Stockbridge-Munsee - 80 participants

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

- Services provided via telehealth to limit in-person appointments
- Increased fruit and vegetable benefit for participants as part of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
- Providing services to Forest County Potawatomi and Forest County due to staffing shortages and need for tribal communities to have adequate access to services.



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention (SNAP-Ed)

Heidi Omet, Program Director

Kassy Garcia, Nutrition Educator

Tribal Site Staff: Bad River, Mary Jo Wolf

Lac du Flambeau, serviced by Kassy Garcia

Red Cliff, Larkin Smith

St. Croix, vacant

Sokaogon, serviced by Kassy Garcia

Stockbridge-Munsee, Cami Miler

Funding \$346,510

Purpose of the program

To improve the likelihood that persons eligible for SNAP (Food Share) will make healthy food and lifestyle choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles consistent with the current DGA and USDA food guidance. This is accomplished through direct and indirect nutrition education and Policy, Systems and Environment Change (PSE) projects.

Activities are evidence-based and are delivered through individual and group-based strategies, comprehensive multi-level interventions, and/or public health approaches.

Program goals and objectives

Goal 1: By the end of FY2021, project staff will have provided direct educational programming to more than 4,000 SNAP-Ed eligible children, youth, and adults in six participating tribal communities in Wisconsin.

Goal 2: By the end of FY2021, project staff have worked collaboratively with more than 30 local agency partners and community coalitions to support policy, systems, and environmental changes where direct education is provided.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

Bad River: 135

Lac du Flambeau: 654

Red Cliff: 272

St. Croix: 0 (due to staff vacancy)

Sokaogon: 0 (due to COVID-19 restrictions)

Stockbridge-Munsee: 730

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

Nutrition educators continue to have a reduced number of direct nutrition education participants due to periodic closures and COVID-19 restrictions, which also affects staffing and partnerships/collaborations with other programs.

Tribal PREP (*Personal Responsibility Education Program*) for Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Lori Hunter, Program Director

Tara Senter, Program Coordinator

Funding \$386,748

Purpose of the program

The purpose of this program is to support projects that educate youth between the ages of 10 and 19, and pregnant and parenting youth under age 21, on both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Funds support the design, implementation, and sustainability of culturally and linguistically appropriate youth pregnancy prevention programs within Tribal communities.

Program goals and objectives

Tribal PREP promotes changes in behaviors associated with pregnancy or STIs through methods such as delaying sexual activity, increasing condom or contraceptive use, and reducing the number of partners. This is accomplished through medically accurate reproductive health education, and the promotion of behavioral health, and the social and emotional well-being of young people through a strengths-based, positive youth development approach.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

Tribal PREP serves the Lac Courte Oreilles and Stockbridge-Munsee Communities. Eighty-eight youth were served in the 2020-2021 school year while 70 youth began curriculum for the 2021-2022 school year. Tribal PREP co-hosted a Chem-Free Graduation Event in June with Bowler School graduates and a career education event was held at GLITC Central office for youth enrolled in the Ogiimaakaw program through Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

A No-Cost Extension was received to complete programming and activities that were unable to be held due to increased case activity and travel restrictions.

Vocational Rehabilitation

American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation (AIVR)

Also known as Vocational Rehabilitation for Native Americans (VRNA)

Kim Milek, Program Director

**Diane Hofstedt, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Central & South
(Ho-Chunk north & south)**

**Karen Johnson, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Western Region
(St. Croix area)**

**Olivia Kelty, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Northeast Region
(Lac du Flambeau, Sokaogon, Forest County Potawatomi, Lac
Vieux Desert)**

**Linda Lemieux, Administrative Assistant
(Red Cliff / Bad River)**

**Maria Nevala, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Northern Region
(Red Cliff / Bad River)**

**Shane Wilmer, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Northern Region
(Red Cliff / Bad River)**

Julie Murray, Fiscal Administrative Assistant

Funding \$314,900

Purpose of the program

Is to provide monetary support for the Vocational Rehabilitation for Native American (VRNA) Program and three other tribal vocational rehabilitation programs in Wisconsin to meet the objectives as described below:

Program goals and objectives

- A. To foster a strong partnership and service collaboration between Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and the Wisconsin tribes.
- B. To further the knowledge of cultural needs, wants and differences for the Wisconsin DVR program.
- C. Reduce the number of Native Americans with disabilities being declined for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services.
- D. Increase the number of Native Americans successfully completing Individualized Plans for Employment (IPE)s.
- E. Create a higher incidence of employment outcomes and lower unemployment among Native American consumers over time.
- F. Provide training and technical assistance to support qualified vocational rehabilitation staff.
- G. Create access to basic VR services, as well as including natural medicine and health services.
- H. Increase the level of trust and understanding leading to improved collaboration and coordination of services among AIVR and DVR staff members.

The grant is issued in one-year increments, per state fiscal year, July to June. This grant helps VRNA with providing office supplies, VRNA vehicles for outreach travel, and promotional items to promote the VR program. Much of this grant is used for in-kind to supplement the federal AIW grant award.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

VRNA serves Red Cliff, Bad River, St. Croix, Lac du Flambeau, Ho-Chunk, Sokaogon, Forest County Potawatomi, and Lac View Desert in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. With this grant, VRNA offers sub-award support to three other Tribal VR programs, Lac Courte Oreilles, Menominee, and Oneida VR programs. This grant has also helped to support our community garden projects, along with funds for staff training and education and providing cultural trainings to state DVR partners. By fostering a strong partnership with DVR, we ensure that our tribal member participants have access to more resources and funds to become successfully employed.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

It has been difficult to coordinate with State partners as they have been teleworking and there have been no in-person trainings. VRNA has done some Zoom collaborations with DVR along with still being able to hold the summer youth work program with 53 youth participants, although only the Bad River Tribe participated this year again due to COVID-19. VRNA staff members continue to follow COVID-19 protocols, with limited in-person meetings. Zoom meetings and DocuSign continue to be utilized for much of the communication with consumers and other agencies. VRNA counselors adhere to each service area's tribal precautions.

American Indians with Disabilities (AIWD)

Kim Milek, Program Director

**Diane Hofstedt, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Central & South
(Ho-Chunk north & south)**

**Karen Johnson, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Western Region
(St. Croix area)**

**Olivia Kelty, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Northeast Region
(Lac du Flambeau, Sokaogon, Forest County Potawatomi, Lac
Vieux Desert)**

**Linda Lemieux, Administrative Assistant
(Red Cliff / Bad River)**

**Maria Nevala, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Northern Region
(Red Cliff / Bad River)**

**Shane Wilmer, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Northern Region
(Red Cliff / Bad River)**

**Julie Murray, Fiscal Administrative Assistant
*Funding \$1,703,501.00***

Purpose of the program

The program provides vocational rehabilitation services to gainful employment for eligible Native Americans. The individuals must have a documentable disability that makes it difficult to obtain, maintain, or advance in gainful employment, be an enrolled tribal member of a federally recognized tribe, and live on or near the reservation in the service areas.

Program goals and objectives

The goals and objectives of the VRNA Program are as follows:

- Goal 1: Each year VRNA will provide culturally appropriate VR services to 280 Native Americans who reside in the VRNA service area.
- Objective 1.1: VRNA will work with consumers to develop at least 150 IPEs annually. Objective 1.2: The program will have an overall goal of 85 successful closures annually. Objective 1.3: VRNA will have ten shared cases with the State DVR. This will increase by two annually. Objective 1.4: VRNA will incorporate traditional native services into 25 cases annually, increasing by two annually.
- GOAL 2: VRNA will increase capacity to provide service throughout the VRNA service area by increasing staff, ensuring quality trainings for staff, and adding two new offices. Objective 2.1: VRNA will actively recruit well-qualified VR counselors to fill vacant counselor positions, with preference given to applicants that are Native American, and have disabilities, for a total of ten VR counselors. Objective 2.2: VRNA will add four new support staff. Three part-time and one full-time to increase capacity to provide services. Objective 2.3: VRNA will add two new offices, one in Milwaukee County, and one in Dane County. This will ensure ease of access for tribal members living in these areas. Objective 2.4: VRNA will provide training and networking opportunities for staff, including: once yearly HIPPA training, the opportunity to attend CANAR at least once per fiscal year, classes that are specific/related to VR, other VR related trainings and conferences to increase knowledge and skills to provide high quality services.
- Goal 3: VRNA will increase the number of transition students receiving VRNA services. Objective 3.1: Each year, VRNA will contact all schools with a native student population within our service area at least yearly. Objective 3.2: VRNA will continue to partner with DVR to provide the tribal summer youth work program. VRNA will work with DVR to expand the program to three additional Tribes, for a total of 5. Objective 3.3: VRNA will utilize DVR transition specialists, local County Communities on transition (CCots), Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), and other resources to stay updated on transition related issues and best practices. VRNA staff will attend at least one training related to transition per year. Objective 3.4: VRNA will continue to partner with Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) to provide culture camps and other cultural and subsistence trainings to youth, and especially youth with disabilities. VRNA will continue to provide the equipment loan closet to GLIFWC.
- Goal 4: Provide education and outreach on VR, disabilities, and tribal cultures to build local capacity in tribal and nearby communities, among employers, and throughout the state. Objective 4.1: VRNA will provide at least yearly cultural training to our State DVR partners, management, and tribal liaisons. VRNA will help to arrange and facilitate two regional meeting with DVR annually. Objective 4.2: VRNA will attend local powwows and health fairs, etc. to educate community members on VR, VRNA, and disabilities. Objective 4.3: VRNA staff and contracted job developers will educate employers on the benefits of employing people with disabilities and provide information and resources regarding VR and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Objective 4.4: VRNA staff will travel and provide outreach, education, and VR services to member tribes where there is no permanent VRNA office.

Tribes served and approximate number of participants in program

VRNA serves Red Cliff, Bad River, St. Croix, Lac du Flambeau, Ho-Chunk, Sokaogon, Forest County Potawatomi in Wisconsin, and Lac View Desert in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. VRNA currently has 126 consumers participating in the program with 19 current referrals and 81 consumers with a contracted Individualized Plan for Employment. This is the second year of the five-year grant awarded to GLITC VRNA on October 1, 2019.

VRNA has been working with St. Croix tribe, providing garden beds, ADA picnic tables, greenhouses, and other garden supplies for the Maple Plane Community Center, St. Croix Tribal Youth Center, and Round Lake Community Center, to make gardening more accessible for Native Americans with disabilities. VRNA has also continued building inventory for seasonal camps for all tribes to utilize with an MOU in place for group cultural activities.

VRNA has also been working with Bad River and Red Cliff tribes providing Maple Syrup processing equipment.

**VRNA is working on providing these projects for all VRNA services areas in FY22.

COVID-19 is still impacting our tribal communities and program activities

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to slow services throughout the 2021 fiscal year. VRNA's plans to add Milwaukee County to the current service areas was put on hold, along with hiring new counselors for both the Milwaukee and Madison areas and a part time assistant for the southern region service area due to travel restrictions. State DVR was also shut down for most of the fiscal year, so VRNA saw fewer referrals.

Unemployment benefits and government tax credits have made it easier for consumers to **not** return to work, especially with the unemployment benefit many consumers earned more than they would if they returned to the work force. With fewer referrals and not being fully staffed, all due to the pandemic, VRNA has been unable to meet some goals. This has resulted in a large carry-over amount. VRNA has submitted special projects for consideration to utilize these funds. Zoom meetings and DocuSign continue to be utilized for much of the communication with consumers and other agencies. VRNA counselors adhere to each service area's tribal COVID-19 precautions

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council Staff

Azure Dan, Sara	Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
Bainbridge, Bryan	Chief Executive Officer
Brown, Gina	Chief Financial Officer
Buechner, Traci	Fiscal and Administrative Assistant, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center
Christensen, Amanda	Fiscal and Administrative Assistant, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center
Cleereman, Ann	Disability Benefit Specialist
Coughtry, Rachel	Disability Benefit Specialist
Crabbe, Gifty	Epidemiologist, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center
Crowe, Nona	Program Manager/Supervisor, Family Foundations Home Visiting Program, Bad River
Denslinger, Christina	Program Director, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center
Doud, Melissa	Program Director, Wisconsin Native American Tobacco Network
Ebbert, Linda	Program Director, Rural Infant Health Title V Maternal Child Health Block Grant
Eustace, Shyanne	Program Coordinator, Project WISE (Wisconsin Initiative for Student Empowerment) and Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program
Fink, Jordyn	Public Health Specialist, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center
Funmaker, Will	Program Director, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center and Executive Director for the Great Lakes Area Tribal Health Board
Garcia, Cassandra	Nutrition Educator, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention (SNAP-Ed)
Gonzalez, German	Director/Medical Epidemiologist, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center
Hamblin, Carol	Tribal Dementia Care Specialist
Handeland, Tina	Program Manager/Supervisor, Family Foundations Home Visiting Program, Lac du Flambeau
Heard, Kassy	Program Director, Tribal Technical Assistance Program, Aging and Disability Services
Hofstedt, Diane	Counselor, Vocational Rehabilitation, Central & South Region
Hogan, Marissa	Epidemiologist, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center
Hoon, Amber	Program Director, Tribal Dementia Care Program
Hunter, Lori	Program Director, Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program and Project WISE (Wisconsin Initiative for Student Empowerment)
Jacoby, Shirley	Lead Accountant
Johnson, Karen	Counselor, Vocational Rehabilitation, Western Region
Kelty, Olivia	Counselor, Vocational Rehabilitation, Northeast Region
Kimball, Robin	Fiscal and Administrative Assistant, Aging and Disability Services
King, Margaret	Disability Benefit Specialist, Oneida
Krajewski, Dan	Information Technology Manager
LaVake, Carolyn	Program Director, American Indian Economic Development Technical Assistance
Landin, Ann-Marie	Program Coordinator, Family Foundations Home Visiting Program

Le, Jeannie	Epidemiologist, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center
Lemieux, Linda	Administrative Assistant, Vocational Rehabilitation (Bad River)
LeSieur, Allie	Family Support Specialist, Family Foundations Home Visiting Program, Lac du Flambeau
Lincoln, Don	Staff Accountant
Livingston, Grace	Elder Benefits Specialist
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