

South Dakota

Working Together for Greater Success

Women from the Cheyenne River Program at Eagle Butte are provided screening through the tribal program and access to Medicaid medical coverage through the state program; women not eligible for one screening program are referred to and enrolled in the other. Thus, access to screening and follow-up care is increased by breaking down barriers between programs.

In South Dakota, two National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) -funded programs are working together to better serve the women in their area. Collaboration between the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Project and the state's All Women Count! Program continues to grow through recognition and appreciation of the distinct contributions from which both programs can benefit. Staff from both programs identified opportunities to assist, collaborate, and create economies of scale in screening women for breast and cervical cancer. They hold joint meetings, provide technical assistance between programs, participate on coalitions together, communicate regularly, and are beginning to share resources for projects that benefit all the women they serve. The state program serves as the portal for access to Medicaid for women in both programs, while the tribal program helps the state program resolve issues that affect the Native American women served by the state program. They are also moving forward on efforts to develop health messages for American Indian women, with resulting materials to be used by both programs. Women throughout the state have benefited from this collaboration.