

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**CIO ACTIONS  
White House Initiatives on  
Tribal Colleges and Universities  
Executive Order 13270  
Fiscal Year 2009-2011**

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**CDC/ATSDR Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs)  
Plan for the White House  
Executive Orders on Minority Initiatives Fiscal Years 2006-2008**

Executive Summary

This report presents the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (CDC\*) FY 2009 - 2011 Annual Plan for the White House Executive Orders on Minority Initiatives on Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs). The CDC FY 2009-2011 Annual Plan for the TCU Initiative is based on the overarching goals identified by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). CDC's mission contributes to accomplishing all four of the overarching goals provided by HHS. Measurable objectives to accomplish the goals were developed in collaboration with the Office of the Director/Office of the Chief of Public Health Practice/Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (OMHD), 2 National Centers and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

The OD/OMHD, the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP), the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH), and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) proposed activities and a funding amount of \$506,900 to accomplish these measurable objectives. Activities proposed for FYs 2009-2011 by CIOs are as follows.

NCCDPHP will continue to support nine tribal colleges and universities to strengthen their capacity to maintain present activities. In April, 2008, CDC Native Diabetes Wellness Program (NDWP) released a new funding opportunity announcement entitled, "Using Traditional Foods and Sustainable Ecological Approaches for Health Promotion and Diabetes Prevention in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Communities." Sixty applications were received. All tribal organizations were eligible and encouraged to apply. NDWP made 11 awards to tribes and tribal organizations through a five-year cooperative agreement (2009-2013), including an award to Salish Kootenai Community College. The 2009 awards to each of the 11 grantees was \$91,100. CDC hopes to increase this award to \$100,000 per grantee in years 2010 - 2012.

The Diabetes Education in Tribal Schools (DETS), led by the National Institutes of Health, in collaboration with CDC and Indian Health Service debuted "Health is Life in Balance" Kindergarten (K) through 12<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum on November 12, 2008 at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). The "Health is Life in Balance" DETS curriculum, developed by 8 TCUS, will be used to support the integration of AI/AN culture and community knowledge with diabetes-related science. The "Eagle Books," produced by CDC, are featured in the K-4 DETS curriculum. Funding for the eight TCUs will continue through FY 2009. In FY 2009, NCCDPHP estimates \$406,900 will be distributed to TCUs. In FY 2010-2011, this amount will be decrease to \$91,900.

Note: References to CDC refer also to ATSDR throughout this plan.

NCEH plans to continue funding and supporting its highly successful cooperative agreement with the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs (AEHAP). AEHAP works to increase diversity in the workforce by increasing diversity in environmental health degree programs through minority student recruitment grants, minority serving institution conference, and mentoring minority serving institutions seeking accreditation.

NCEH/EEHS funded and continues to provide technical support to AEHAP for follow-up to “Building the Diverse Environmental Health Workforce: A Workshop for Minority Serving Institutions”. This second national conference, held April 16–18, 2008, brought together 35 participants, including faculty and administrators from 13 MSIs, government agency representatives, students, and environmental health organizations.

The workshop and follow-up activities are helping Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) that have environmental health-related curricula acquire the information necessary to meet National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council accreditation guidelines. Workshop participants were matched with an accreditation mentor and the majority are currently working toward accreditation. Programs at five MSIs are well positioned for accreditation in 2009 and 2010.

In FY 2009, NCEH plans to support environmental public health practice by continuing to fund and support the cooperative agreement with the AEHAP. AEHAP will continue working with Haskell Indian Nations University and providing mentoring support in Haskell’s efforts toward creating an environmental health degree program. In FY 2010, NCEH plans to build on its success working with AEHAP and will continue partnering to enhance environmental health education to assure the optimal health of people and the environment. In FY 2011, NCEH plans to build on its work with AEHAP in FY 2009 and 2010.

During FY 2009, ATSDR continues to fund Turtle Mountain Community College (TMCC) and Dine for the fifth and final year of cooperative agreement funding. ATSDR has allocated this funding for the development and enhancement of environmental/public health programs with TMCC in Belcourt, North Dakota, and Diné College in Shiprock, New Mexico. These cooperative agreement support HHS Goal One and Two. ATSDR will continue to support the tribal colleges to develop curriculum to address human health issues related to exposure to hazardous substances in the environment that may adversely impact the public health of American Indians. TMCC and Dine are also conducting various activities under these cooperative agreements focused on increasing recruitment and retention and distance learning.

ATSDR’s continued partnership with these two schools has resulted in significant progress in the development of the “health” in Environmental Health rather than an emphasis on environmental science. Dine offered a Principles of Environmental Public Health course through interactive TV for the first time this year. A student at Turtle Mountain conducted a research project involving the health effects of Radon. The projects were highly successful are generating a great-deal of interest in Environmental Health.

Both TCU's are developing EPH courses that can be shared between them and other Tribal Colleges and Universities. Using the technology and resources to "share" courses will help them overcome several barriers that have been present throughout the cooperative agreement. Due to insufficient funding to hire professors with an environmental health background, Turtle Mountain has been exploring a visiting professor program to augment their coursework, and Dine College is providing stipends or internships for working students, who comprise the majority of the student enrollment.

Projected activities for the ATSDR for FY 2010 and FY 2011 will include seeking funding resources to increase and stabilize the program for Tribal Colleges and Universities. ATSDR Office of Tribal Affairs will work to solicit funding that will rejuvenate the TCU program and increase the amount of funding as well as increase the number of TCU participants.

ATSDR recognizes the value and necessity of supporting EO 13270 and will work aggressively to ensure that program support is available to meet the needs of aspiring AI/AN professionals in the environmental/public health fields. ATSDR will not only seek funding, but will also collaborate with ATSDR and NCEH divisions for internship placements and research opportunities. Other possibilities could include collaborations with TCUs for temporary detail opportunities and/or details to tribal communities for hands-on learning and experience.

CDC strives to manage its fiscal and personnel resources in a manner that maximizes impact on the health and safety of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people, accurately monitor CDC resources allocated to benefit AI/AN communities, and make this information readily available to tribal leaders. CDC is using a portfolio management approach to its resources devoted to AI/AN health issues. This approach improves how CDC tracks and displays its AI/AN resource commitments and enables CDC to more closely monitor funds distributed to state health departments via CDC grants and cooperative agreements to help ensure that AI/AN communities receive appropriate benefit from these funds.

In FY 2008, total funds allocated through competitively awarded grants and cooperative agreements to tribal partners (tribal governments, tribal health boards, tribal epidemiology centers, tribal health organizations, Alaska Native health corporations, urban Indian health centers, and tribal colleges) approached \$23.0 million (\$22,768,411). Compared to FY 2007, total funding in this category increased by about \$820,237 or 3.7 percent. In addition to grants and cooperative agreements awarded to tribal partners, CDC also allocated more than \$10.1 million through grants/cooperative agreements awarded to state health departments and academic institutions for programs focusing on AI/AN public health issues. The remainder of CDC's AI/AN portfolio falls into three categories: (1) intramural resources (about \$6.8 million), (2) federal intra-agency agreements (about \$2.0 million), and (3) indirect allocations (about \$65.6 million). The indirect category primarily represents resources devoted to immunizing AI/AN children through the Vaccines for

Children (VFC) program. CDC estimates its total FY 2008 resource allocation for AI/AN programs to be approximately \$107 million.

The CDC Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (OMHD) cooperative agreement with National Indian Health Board (NIHB) continues to demonstrate progress towards achieving the long-term goals of supporting collaboration between the CDC and tribes nation wide, strengthening public health connectivity, identifying and developing culturally appropriate approaches to reduce disease burden, and strengthening AI/AN public health systems capacity.

OMHD through the cooperative agreement with NIHB, will support six AI/AN interns to participated in an 8 week Public Health Summer Internship Program through Morehouse School of Medicine and CDC.

**Goal, Objectives, and Activities in Support of  
the White House Executive Orders on Minority Initiatives**

**Goal #1      Increase access to and the participation of minority-serving institutions of higher education and/or minority organizations in HHS programs such as biomedical research and services.**

ATSDR

Activities:

Where possible, ATSDR will assist with curriculum development to support the public health programs of the TMCC and Dine.

ATSDR will continue to consistently search for additional funding opportunities to continue supporting this valuable TCU program.

Performance Measures:

Increase the number of students to the public health programs at these two colleges through recruitment and retention activities.

Increase the number of graduate from the two colleges.

**Goal #2      Strengthen the capacity TCUs and minority institutions of higher education and/or minority organizations that address racial/ethnic minority populations to provide high quality education and other services.**

NCCDPHP

Objective:

Increase the number of TCUs that receive funding and/or support to address health disparities among AI/AN populations by 15%.

Activities:

Disseminate and utilize Diabetes Wellness Talking Circles” methods and resources for communities interested in providing this intervention.

Fund and support infrastructure development to facilitate instruction and research at TCUs. Support TCU faculty development and research training initiative focusing on health disparities.

Performance Measures:

Support use of “Diabetes Wellness Talking Circles” to reach participants and representatives of Special Diabetes Program for Indian Grantees. Increase the number of training sessions and the number participants who conduct talking circles in their own communities, including *Eagle Books* Community Outreach talking circles.

Develop and implement a school-based diabetes curriculum that supports the integration of AI/AN culture and community knowledge with diabetes-related science for DETS program led by the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Disorders (NIDDK), NIH through funding for eight TCUs through FY 2009.

Map techniques to identify and display traditional foods resource locations is planned as part of the activities of the recently funded 11 tribal grantees of the NDWP “Using Traditional Foods and Sustainable Ecological Approaches for Health Promotion and Diabetes Prevention in AI/AN Communities.”

Support the nine funded TCU programs with an emphasis on building sustainable infrastructure and capacity to maintain present activities.

NCEH

Objective:

Support environmental public health practice.

Activities:

Continue to fund and support the cooperative agreement with the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs (AEHAP) to:

- identify accredited environmental health degree programs located near TCUs for potential partnerships in recruiting AI/AN students
- promote and build relationships between 2-year TCUs and 4-year environmental health degree programs (e.g., continue work with Turtle Mountain Community College and Dickinson State University) to create pathways for AI/AN students to enter accredited 4-year environmental health degree programs
- continue outreach to TCUs with regard to accreditation.

AEHAP will continue working with Haskell Indian Nations University and providing mentoring support in Haskell’s efforts toward creating an environmental health degree program.

Performance Measures:

Increase the number of minority students graduating from accredited undergraduate and graduate environmental health academic programs.

Improve state and local environmental health infrastructure by strengthening and diversifying accredited undergraduate and graduate environmental health academic programs.

ATSDR:

Activities:

ATSDR will continue to communicate regularly by phone and in person with TMCC and Dine College to ensure that the performance measures are being met.

ATSDR will continue to assist with curriculum development to support the public health programs of the TMCC and Dine. ATSDR will continue to search for additional funding opportunities to continue offering this valuable TCU program.

Performance Measures:

Increase the number of distance learning activities at TMCC

Utilize the knowledge and expertise of visiting professors at TMCC

Expand the curriculum at Dine College to ensure the students are receiving an adequate offering of courses in public health

**Goal #3      Increase access to and the participation of racial and ethnic minority populations in HHS programs such as biomedical research and services (education-related activities and HHS workforce); and/or**

OMHD: Objective – Increase the number of AI/AN students participating in CDC sponsored training programs.

Activities: Inform and educate CDC Division Directors and Senior Staff regarding the importance of supporting AI/AN undergraduate and graduate students and TCU activities.

Monitor and track participation of Native students in any of CDC training programs.

Use OMHD formal relationship with the CDC Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee to solicit and disseminate information about CDC training programs.

Identify 6 CDC programs willing to mentor and support six AI/AN summer interns.

Performance Measure:

Increase AI/AN participation in careers that affect the health, well-being, and quality of life for AI/ANs by supporting a minimum of six AI/AN summer interns each year from FY 2009 – 2011.

**Goal #4      Promote data collection of racial and ethnic minority populations, e.g., through minority-serving institutions of higher education and minority organizations.**

NCCDPHP



Objective: Improve the quality of data collected and reported on AI/AN populations involved in research in the PRC program.

Activities:

Develop the PRC information system to collect data on AI/AN populations collaborating on research activities within the PRC program.

Collect health status information on REACH US AI/AN populations where local REACH US programs focus on breast and cervical cancer prevention, cardiovascular health, and diabetes.

Performance Measures: Evidence of improved data collection to enhance reporting of PRC program results specific to AI/AN populations.

Improvement in the quality of data regarding the health status of AI/AN populations in REACH 2010 communities.

**TABLE C-1 SUMMARY OF PLANNED AWARDS BY CATEGORY**  
**Fiscal Year 2009-2011**  
**Agency Name: CDC/ATSDR**  
**Initiative: TCU**

**Category: Training**

<b>Name of Awardee</b>	<b>*Funding Type</b>	<b>Summary of Activities</b>	<b>*Amount of Award</b>	<b>Minority Population(s)</b>	<b>Projected Number of Targeted Population(s)</b>
Diné College	3	Develop or enhance environmental/public health programs, and undertake curriculum building activities with TCUs. In addition, this program is designed to undertake capacity building activities that will assist TCU programs, and graduates, in addressing human health issues related to exposure to hazardous substances that may adversely impact the public health of the American Indians.	\$ 50,000	American Indians/Alaska Natives	250
Turtle Mountain	3	Develop or enhance environmental/public health programs, and undertake curriculum building activities with TCUs. In addition, this program is designed to undertake capacity building activities that will assist TCU programs and graduates, in addressing human health issues related to exposure to hazardous substances that may adversely impact the public health of the American Indians.	\$ 50,000	American Indians/Alaska Natives	250
Totals:			\$100,000		Total 500

**\*Funding Type - Insert the appropriate number(s) that correspond to the following funding mechanisms: 1 = Contract, 2 = Grant, 3 = Cooperative Agreement, 4 = Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement/or Inter Agency Agreement**

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**Fiscal Year 2009-2011**

**Agency Name: CDC/ATSDR**

**Initiative: TCU**

**Category: Training**

Name of Awardee	*Funding Type	Summary of Activities	*Amount of Award	Minority Population(s)	Projected Number of Targeted Population(s)
National Institutes for Health (NIDDK)	4	Eight TCUs developed and are implementing the “Health is Life in Balance” Diabetes Education in Tribal Schools (DETS), Kindergarten through 12 <sup>th</sup> grade curriculum, led by NIDDK and supported by CDC and I.H.S. This curriculum supports the integration of AIAN culture and community knowledge with diabetes-related science. TCU awardees are Candeska Cikana Community College, Ft. Peck Community College, Haskell Indian National University, Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College, Leech Lake Community College, Northwest Indian College, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Stone Child College.	\$315,000 (completing in 2009 – CDC provided this funding every year since 2003)	AI/AN	13 (K-12 <sup>th</sup> grade students)
Total:			\$315,000		13 (K-12 <sup>th</sup> grade students)

**\*Funding Type - Insert the appropriate number(s) that correspond to the following funding mechanisms: 1 = Contract, 2 = Grant, 3 = Cooperative Agreement, 4 = Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement/or Inter Agency Agreement**

**TABLE C-1 SUMMARY OF PLANNED AWARDS BY CATEGORY**  
**Fiscal Year 2009-2011**  
**Agency Name: CDC/ATSDR**  
**Initiative: TCU**

**Category: Major Agency Program**

<b>Name of Awardee</b>	<b>*Funding Type</b>	<b>Summary of Activities</b>	<b>*Amount of Award</b>	<b>Minority Population(s)</b>	<b>Projected Number of Targeted Population(s)</b>
Salish Kootenai Community College, Montana	3	Using Traditional Foods and Sustainable Ecological Approaches for Health Promotion and Diabetes Prevention in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities.	\$91,900 (2009-2013)	AI/AN	adolescents, college students, pre-school
<b>Total:</b>			\$91,900		Approx. 200

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