

Opportunity to Prevent Overdose & Substance Misuse in Urban Indian Communities Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Why is this grant program important?

Answer: This program’s funding supports Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) to conduct opioid and other drug overdose prevention work. Substance use and overdose impacts all communities, rural and urban, yet there are unique challenges facing urban-located American Indians and Alaska Native (AI/AN) community members that are related to higher rates of fatal overdoses compares to non-Hispanic Whites (NCUIH, 2021). Disconnection from culture and traditional lands, historical trauma, lack of access to health and other services, and social isolation can contribute to a higher risk for overdose among urban Indians [Dickerson et al, 2022; Hirchak et al., 2023; Whelshula et al., 2021].

Culturally aligned approaches to prevention and recovery can improve the access to and quality of existing overdose prevention efforts and build social connections in urban Indian communities. UIOs are uniquely positioned to provide behavioral health interventions and substance use prevention efforts for urban AI/AN community members.

Question: What does the Urban Indian Organization (UIO) Overdose Prevention project involve?

Answer: This project will fund five to seven urban Indian program sites. The UIO program sites will participate in monthly meetings with Seven Directions, select a strategy to address overdose or substance misuse prevention, attend an annual meeting (in-person) in July with other program sites at the AIAN Injury and Violence Prevention Conference in Green Bay, WI, and participate in an overall program evaluation. The total project duration is 4 months. The project will provide limited financial support to sites (up to \$45,000 for new projects; up to \$20,000 for continuation projects from past-grantees).

Question: Why should we become a UIO Overdose Prevention Program Site?

Answer:

- To build your organization's capacity to use information you already collect or to create a system to evaluate or build/design public health projects to reduce overdose or substance use in your urban Indian community.
- To receive tailored support to address substance use/overdose prevention issues.
- To participate in opportunities to collaborate with other urban Indian organization project sites to discuss and share ideas, challenges, and strategies around overdose and substance use prevention, or recovery services.
- To receive training and professional development on overdose prevention, and technical assistance related to your projects and/or Indigenous evaluation.
- To receive support in sharing your overdose/substance misuse prevention story and highlighting successes that you want to tell.
- To access support in reporting to your community, advisory boards, and/or other partners in a way that is comfortable for you and your organization.

Question: Who is eligible to participate in this project?

Answer: Any Urban Indian organization (UIO) defined as a Native-led community-based organization or community that provides social, health, and/or other community services and represents or serves American Indian, Alaska Native and/or Native Hawaiian people living in urban areas in the United States. UIOs must also demonstrate a need for substance misuse and overdose prevention in their urban areas.

Question: What are examples of projects and expenses that CAN be funded with this opportunity?

Answer: The following are some examples of potential projects:

- Planning a community needs assessment
- Community outreach to raise overdose awareness, and to distribute Narcan or harm reduction supplies (medicines and medical devices may not be purchased but distribution approaches may be established and implemented using this funding)

- Information and education campaign on substance misuse and/or overdose
- Youth camps to promote culture, physical activity, traditional knowledge, or outdoor activities to prevent substance misuse
- Adding cultural elements to existing recovery or mental health services, such as traditional healing circles for recovery
- Purchasing new culturally tailored substance abuse/behavioral health curriculum
- Harm reduction vending machine and some overdose prevention supplies (drug testing & fentanyl testing strips are allowable)

Question: What cannot be funded as part of this opportunity?

Answer:

This program cannot fund research and clinical supplies or other materials that would be typically covered through a SAMHSA grant (e.g., Narcan/naloxone, syringes). Research activities, direct clinical care, and medication disposal events, devices or programs also cannot be funded through this grant. Furthermore, due to the length of the grant period, this program cannot be used to hire new personnel or staff.

Question: What is the process for becoming a UIO Overdose Prevention Project site?

Answer:

1. Learn more by viewing the Information Webinar slides at <https://www.nativeoverdoseresource.org/funding-your-work/>.
2. Apply by completing this form <https://redcap.link/UIO-App> and uploading a Scope of Work, Budget & Budget Justification.
3. To determine if this opportunity is a good fit for your organization, contact Domin Chan (dominc@uw.edu).
4. Applications are due January 16, 2026.
5. Attend an interview between January 16 - February 4, 2026.
6. The Centers for Disease Control will confirm pilot site approval by February 6, 2026.
7. Program work will begin in March 2026.

Question: Who are the partners on this project and what are their roles?

Answer:

[Seven Directions](#), at the University of Washington, will offer targeted technical assistance, including individual project consultations, assistance in developing your project's detailed scope of work and budget justification, and ongoing training resources throughout your project. Seven Directions will meet with you monthly to discuss and to support progress on your project.

The [National Council on Indian Health \(NCUIH\)](#) will provide training throughout the project period on topics such as overdose prevention approaches in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

The [National Network of Public Health Institutes \(NNPHI\)](#) will administer the grant and provide support to address any fiscal considerations related to the proposed project.

The [Safe States Alliance](#) will provide oversight and support to this project in reaching the desired outcomes of building capacity within Urban Indian Organizations to design, implement, and evaluate culturally driven overdose prevention programs.

Contact Dr. Domin Chan, dominc@uw.edu for programmatic questions.

Please contact Amanda Franklin, NNPHI, afranklin@nnphi.org for budget or contract-related questions regarding this opportunity.

References

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