

Provided by CDC's NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE, TRIBAL, LOCAL, AND TERRITORIAL PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKFORCE

The Office of Tribal Affairs and Strategic Alliances **Bi-Weekly Updates**



Good afternoon,

Below you will find funding opportunities, resources, conferences, and other tribal news.

Fall and Winter Respiratory Virus Season

One of CDC's priority initiatives is to prepare for and respond to the Fall and upcoming Winter respiratory virus season. CDC is focused on ensuring that communities have up-to-date information and access to preventative measures, including vaccination.

CDC created a website <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/index.html>, which is dedicated to all three major respiratory viruses: COVID-19, Flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Additionally, communications toolkits have now been made available at <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-toolkits>. The toolkits include talking points, slide decks, and fact sheets for public health and healthcare staff use during outreach and education. These toolkits are updated as information changes.

If you have questions or would like to engage with subject matter experts from CDC's Respiratory Virus Response, please email CORVDPolicy@cdc.gov. As always, you can also reach out to the Office of Tribal Affairs and Strategic Alliances (OTASA) at tribalsupport@cdc.gov to assist in facilitating communication with the specific programs of interest.

CDC's Bridge Access Program

CDC's Bridge Access Program provides no-cost COVID-19 vaccines to adults without health insurance and adults whose insurance does not cover all COVID-19 vaccine costs. No-cost COVID-19 vaccines through this program will be available until **December 31, 2024**. Additional resources, including materials for healthcare providers, immunization partners, and promotional materials, can be found [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE! CDC Grants Governance Board Tribal Listening Session

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will hold a Grants Governance Board listening session on **December 6, 2023 from 2:00 – 3:30 PM Eastern Standard Time**. The goal for this session is to request input and

feedback from American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal-serving Organizations on priorities for a newly-established CDC Grants Governance Board. This listening session was requested during the CDC/ATSDR 26th Biannual Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting, held on September 6-7, 2023.

CDC established a new Grants Governance Board (the Board) to improve how CDC administers grants and to recommend solutions that can be spread and scaled agency-wide. The Board's primary focus is on domestic, non-research grants and cooperative agreements. The Board's goals are to reduce the administrative burden on grants recipients and improve the consistency of CDC grants activities. The Board – which is co-led by the National Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Public Health Infrastructure and Workforce (PHIC) and the Office of Grants Services (OGS) – is internal to CDC and includes staff from across the agency with grants expertise.

Participants will be asked to consider the grants management lifecycle - and especially areas of recipient burden or issues related to the consistency of grants activities – as they provide input on questions including:

- What are the major areas of concern or burden?
- What are the quick wins the Board can address?
- Where are opportunities for innovation?
- What activities should be prioritized for the Board over the next year?

Please join us for a 90-minute Zoom listening session to learn about and provide input on priorities for the Board. You must register in advance for this meeting at https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_-Nmilb_JRzSB1zqSzvCLOA#/registration

Environmental Justice Community Innovator Challenge

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the launch of a nation-wide HHS Environmental Justice Community Innovator Challenge to support disadvantaged communities and Tribes facing the brunt of environmental injustices, including health harms due to climate change. This Challenge aims to uplift community-level solutions to address health inequities with prizes totaling \$1,000,000 that will be awarded in two phases.

The Challenge has two phases. All eligible entries will be evaluated, and separate prizes will be awarded for each of the two phases.

- Phase 1 will focus on design of an innovative concept to enhance community-driven efforts to mitigate health disparities and advance health equity or the development of an effective approach to support a previously developed concept. **Entries for Phase 1 will be accepted from September 18, 2023, until January 30, 2024.**
- Phase 2 will focus on small-scale testing or implementation of well-developed approaches for community-led efforts to mitigate health disparities and advance health equity. **Entries for Phase 2 will begin in Spring 2024.**

Participants will have access to a technical assistance opportunity in each phase of the Challenge. HHS will also provide informational webinars leading up to the entry deadline. For more details on webinar dates and how to enter, please click [here](#).

NEWLY RELEASED MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT (MMWR)

Notes from the field: Firearm Homicide Rates, by Race and Ethnicity – United States, 2019–2022

The rate of firearm homicide in the United States rose sharply from 2019 through 2020, reaching a level not seen in more than 2 decades, with ongoing and widening racial and ethnic disparities (1). During 2020–2021, the rate increased again (2). This report provides provisional firearm homicide data for 2022, stratified by race and ethnicity, presented both annually and by month (or quarter) to document subannual changes.

To view the full report as well as additional materials, please visit the CDC website [here](#).

OTHER CDC BRIEFS, REPORTS, COMMENTARIES, AND PUBLICATIONS

To continue raising awareness about cancer prevention and control efforts in Indian Country, the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control published a new data brief at [Gastrointestinal Cancer in American Indian and Alaska Native People | CDC](#). The data brief looks at incidence rates of the five most common gastrointestinal cancers among American Indian and Alaska Native people from 2016 to 2020.

In a recent published commentary, [Centering Data Sovereignty, Tribal Values, and Practices for Equity in American Indian and Alaska Native Public Health Systems](#), CDC authors provide context for understanding public health data collection and analysis as they relate to American Indian and Alaska Native communities, as well as the unique challenges associated with them. It also shows how understanding the data equity of American Indian and Alaska Native people is a crucial piece of health equity. Tribal sovereignty, along with critical shifts in the recognition and inclusion of Tribal knowledge systems, data sovereignty, and community values, is key to transforming public health data and systems across all governments.

Webinar — HHS Panel Discussion: Navigating Federal Employment as a Veteran

November 11 is Veterans Day, and one of the ways HHS is observing the holiday is by hosting a November 8 panel discussion for veterans interested in building a career or finding their next opportunity in the civil service as a federal government employee.

Join HHS' webinar on federal government employment for veterans from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. ET on Wednesday, November 8, to hear three current HHS employees, all of whom are veterans—Melissa Wilson, Ted Oja, and Darian Lewis—share their stories and civil service employment tips for former members of the armed services or those transitioning out of military service.

- To learn more, go to the [HHS Panel Discussion: Navigating Federal Employment as a Veteran intranet page](#).
- To register for the discussion, go to [Navigating Federal Employment as a Veteran](#).
- For reasonable accommodation requests, please email: [ACF OCIO Conferencing Operations@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:ACF_OCIO_Conferencing_Operations@acf.hhs.gov)

If you have questions about Navigating Federal Employment as a Veteran, please contact Veterans Employment [Program Officer Paris Bannourah](#).

Job Opportunities

The National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) is hiring, and **many roles are remote work opportunities**. NCUIH offers generous benefits including medical, dental, and vision insurance, retirement planning, life

insurance, and others. NCUIH is dedicated to maintaining and fostering a professional environment in which all individuals are treated with consideration and respect. Career opportunities at NCUIH can be found [here](#).

CDC POSITIONS

The National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP), Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity (DNPAO), Office of Policy, Partnerships, and Communication is recruiting for one Health Communications Specialist GS-1001-12/13 position. More details are found at <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/757742200#hiring-paths>

The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention, Office of Policy, Partnerships, & Communications is seeking an outstanding candidate to serve as a Public Health Analyst (Policy) - GS-0685-13. More details are found at <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/757407100>

Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs)

INTERNAL

[CE-24-011 – Grants to Support New Investigators in Conducting Research Related to Understanding Drug Use and Overdose Risk and Protective Factors \(K01\)](#)

Description: The purpose of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01) is to provide support for an intensive, supervised/mentored career development experience in substance use and/or overdose prevention research leading to research independence. NCIPC supports K01 grants to help ensure the availability of an adequate number of trained scientists to address critical public health research questions to prevent polydrug use and overdose. This funding would support research that aim to better understand and identify risk and protective factors related to any drug use/overdose (e.g., opioids including fentanyl and stimulants, etc.), substance use disorders (SUD), and stigma (e.g., how do certain factors impact stigma). Research can focus the examination of potential moderators or mediators between the relationship between risk and protective factors and drug use and outcomes. Research should be conducted among persons experiencing a disproportionate burden of substance use disorders and overdose, which may include but are not limited, to those people in certain socio-demographic groups (e.g. non-English speaking populations, tribal populations, rural communities, racial/ethnic minority groups, sexual and gender minority groups), people experiencing certain social determinants of health (e.g., reduced economic stability; limited educational attainment, access or quality; limited healthcare access or quality including those who have been historically underserved or are uninsured; limited access to substance use treatment; limited health literacy; those in geographically underserved areas), people experiencing certain social or physical health conditions or experiences (e.g., homelessness, a mental health condition, chronic pain, incarceration or recent release from incarceration, a disability, adverse childhood experiences, a history of suicidal ideation or suicide attempt, a history of substance use disorders and/or overdose).

Application Due Date: December 01, 2023

[TS-24-010 – Identify and Evaluate Potential Risk Factors for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis \(ALS\)](#)

Description: The Centers for Disease Control/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) is seeking investigator-initiated research that will further the understanding of potential risk factors for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), while supporting the National ALS Registry's mission. The National ALS Registry's goals are to estimate the number of new ALS cases each year, estimate the number of people who have ALS at a specific point in time, better understand who gets ALS, and identify what contributing factors, including environmental,

may affect ALS. CDC/ATSDR is seeking investigator-initiated research that will identify and evaluate risk factors contributing to ALS, with preferred focus in this Notice of Funding Opportunity on factors related to military service, contact sports, traumatic brain injury, neuroinflammation, environmental exposures, and infectious agents. Research proposals on preferred topics can be funded under one of two funding options, Funding Option A or Funding Option B. Funding Option A is intended to support ALS risk factor research investigations that have an existing, well substantiated evidence base and would benefit from strengthened rigorous evaluation. Funding Option B is intended to support novel ALS risk factor research investigations that may or may not have an existing evidence base foundation base, may be supported by limited and insufficient preliminary research, and are exploratory and developmental in nature. For Option A and B applicants may elect to use data from the National ALS Registry. Note, this is not compulsory and will not preclude the applicant from consideration.

Application Due Date: December 19, 2023

[CE-24-012 – Rigorous Evaluation of Policy-Level Interventions to Prevent Overdose \(R01\)](#)

Description: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC, Injury Center) is soliciting investigator-initiated research to rigorously evaluate effectiveness of policies for reducing drug use and overdose as well as the effect of these strategies on reducing or worsening existing disparities in medical care and health outcomes. Equally important to quantifying the impacts of these policies on health outcomes is understanding their implementation and how implementation affects achieving the intended outcomes of the policy among groups experiencing disproportionate burden of overdose and/or groups that are at greater risk of experiencing adverse outcomes related to substance use due to social determinants of health. The proposed research should evaluate the impact of a selected local, state, tribal, federal, or organizational policy (e.g., school or health systems) aimed at reducing or regulating substance use or reducing drug overdose, on rates of at least two overdose outcomes (i.e., nonfatal overdose, fatal overdose, substance use disorders, substance use, initiation of substance use among youth).

Application Due Date: February 08, 2024

[CE-24-013 – Research Grants to Identify Effective Community-Based Strategies for Overdose Prevention \(R01\)](#)

Description: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC, Injury Center) is soliciting investigator-initiated research to partner with communities to develop and rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of new, innovative, under-developed, or untested community-based strategies/interventions/programs/practices to reduce overdose. Strategies/interventions/programs/practices may include, but are not limited to, those that focus on preventing drug use initiation and drug use, reducing non-infectious harms related to drug use, reducing stigma or other barriers to harm reduction or substance use disorder treatment, and increasing linkage to and retention in care. Research should focus on groups experiencing disproportionate burden of overdose and/or groups that are at greater risk of experiencing adverse outcomes related to substance use. Research should also involve engaging individuals in the focus population (e.g., people with lived experience with substance use).

Application Due Date: February 08, 2024

EXTERNAL

Safe Drinking Water on Tribal Lands: EPA Announces over \$174 Million in Funding to Improve Drinking Water Infrastructure for American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages: On June 28, 2023, EPA released a funding allotment memorandum that provides information on \$238 million in tribal drinking water and wastewater infrastructure funding.

View the memo here: [Tribal Water Infrastructure Funding Allotment Memo, June 2023 \(pdf\)](#) (451.57 KB, June 28, 2023)

- Tribal drinking water infrastructure funds included in this memorandum will be provided through the following funding programs (For information about funding for tribal wastewater infrastructure, please visit EPA's [Clean Water Indian Set-Aside webpage](#):
 - [Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants - Tribal Set-Aside \(DWIG-TSA\)](#)
 - [Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities \(EC-SDC\) Tribal Grant Program](#)
 - [Small, Underserved, and Disadvantaged Communities \(SUDC\) Tribal Grant Program](#)
- On June 28, 2023, EPA also announced the availability of \$39.6 million in FY 2023 funds for the [Alaska Rural and Native Villages Grant Program](#), which assists Alaska Native Villages and other rural communities in Alaska with the construction of new or improved wastewater and drinking water systems.

CISA and FEMA open the application process for the Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program: The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the [opening of the application process](#) for the [Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program](#) (TCGP) to help tribal governments address cybersecurity risks and threats. The cyber grant program, established by the State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, helps address the unique challenges tribal governments face when defending against cyber threats.

Digital threats impacting Native American and Alaska Native tribes are increasing and becoming more complex. Tribal sovereignty creates unique cybersecurity challenges for these groups that often lack or can't easily access resources needed to address them.

Applicants have until January 10, 2024, to apply for a grant, which can be used to fund new or existing cybersecurity programs. CISA encourages all eligible entities to apply for grant funds to protect our critical infrastructure and communities from malicious cyber activity.

For more information and helpful resources on the Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program, visit CISA's <http://www.cisa.gov/Cyber-Grants> or FEMA's webpage at Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

The **Official Grants.Gov Mobile App** is available for download! Use the [Grants.gov](#) app to run a quick search for grants on the topic of your choice. You can segment your search by funding provider. If you see an opportunity that holds some promise for your organization, **subscribe** to it. You will get an alert if the grantor makes any updates to the funding announcement.

- [CDC's Office of Public Health Law](#)
- [Legal Assistance Resources](#)
- [Congressional Legislative Tracker](#)
- [Statewide Tribal Legislation Database](#)
- [The National Indian Health Board's Regulations Tracker](#)
- [The Intersection of Syringe Use and HIV Criminalization Toolkit](#)
- [National Crime Victimization Survey \(NCVS\) Dashboard](#)
- [Grants Management Academy](#)

No-Cost COVID-19 Test Kits Now Available!

No-cost COVID tests are available through the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

Requests for COVID testing kits being made through TDx@hhs.gov should include the following information:

- A copy of your facility's current [CLIA waiver](#) (for point-of-care tests, this is not needed for over-the-counter tests)
- The name and address of your facility
- The name, e-mail and phone number of your facility POC
- The number of employees in your facility
- The number of tests per week you require
- Weekday/ Weekend delivery hours
- Whether receiving facility is able to accept and off-load 53' trailers with palletized loads
- Any special delivery instructions

Some caveats to be aware of:

- All tests available through ASPR are antigen tests.
- ASPR has supply from a variety of brands, there is no mechanism to request a specific brand when ordering.

Additional information on COVID test kits can be found [here](#). The [No-Cost COVID-19 Testing \(cdc.gov\) Locator](#) helps locate no-cost COVID-19 testing locations and contact information for the providers.

President Joe Biden Proclaims November 2023 as National Native American Heritage Month

To find this year's proclamation, visit [A Proclamation on National Native American Heritage Month, 2023 | The White House](#)