

## How to Apply

### Indigenous Systems: Revitalizing Inherent Alignment

#### Opportunity to Better Align Health Care, Public Health and Social Services to Achieve Shared Goals.

This call for proposals will award two (2) Tribal Health, Public Health or Social Services Departments (Tribal Departments) with grants *up to \$20,000* to support to implement cross-sector alignment projects to better coordinate services across health care, public health and social services.

**Deadline for submissions: November 13,2020 at 5:00 pm Pacific time.**

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#### General Information

Seven Directions, A Center for Indigenous Public Health (Seven Directions), in partnership with Red Star International, Inc. (Red Star), is pleased to announce a *Call for Proposals* for the *Indigenous Systems: Revitalizing Inherent Alignment Project*. Together, Seven Directions and Red Star invite Tribal Departments to participate in this practice-based study of how health care delivery, public health, and social services systems work together to achieve mutually shared goals and desired impact. Seven Directions, based at the University of Washington, is a public health institute whose purpose is to advance American Indian and Alaska Native health and wellness by honoring indigenous knowledge, strengthening Tribal and Urban Indian public health systems, and cultivating innovation and collaboration. Red Star is an Indigenous-led private, non-profit organization based in Tucson, Arizona. Its mission is to advance Indigenous self-determination for healthy and vibrant communities.

Funded through the *Aligning Systems for Health* initiative led by the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC), in coordination with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), this initiative seeks opportunities to improve community health by fostering connections across systems that are built to last. GHPC has developed a Theory of Change (ToC) framework which suggests that the core components to cross-sector alignment are: 1) shared purpose, 2) shared data and measurement, 3) sustainable financing and accountability, and 4) strong governance. This study will include an examination of the meaning, relevance, and applicability of the ToC framework in the tribal context. The findings may support an Indigenous alignment model / framework that can be further developed for systems improvement (i.e., capacity, capabilities, resources, and

infrastructure). (Learn more about the ToC here: <https://ghpc.gsu.edu/download/cross-sector-alignment-theory-ofchange/>).

### **Eligibility**

This opportunity is open to all federally recognized tribes in the United States. Applicants should be represented by a health, public health or social services department.

### **Benefits to Grantees**

*Join an Indigenous community of practice in cross-sector alignment!* Grantees will have access to a growing network of tribal department staff interested in improving coordination, collaboration, and communication across the sectors of health care, public health, and social services.

As a partner and grantee, selected tribes will: 1) receive a \$20,000 grant to implement a cross-sector alignment project; 2) receive capacity building assistance from Red Star International, Inc. and Seven Directions; and 3) evaluate the ToC framework and its relevance in the tribal setting. Capacity building assistance in cross sector alignment includes:

- Access to staff who have worked with tribal departments from across the nation and have created a variety of resources specifically for tribes.
- A one-day, on-site capacity building meeting on cross-sector alignment (pending safe travel).
- Connection to tribally specific workshops, events, tools and resources.
- Tailored webinars designed to address common challenges and opportunities shared by grantees.
- Support with troubleshooting and addressing challenges that may arise while implementing cross-sector alignment projects.
- Tribe-to-Tribe learning opportunities to exchange ideas, troubleshoot, and share experiences and resources among tribal grantees.

### **Practice-Based Research**

Seven Directions will use an Indigenous-centered approach, community-based participatory research, and Indigenous principles and values, to conduct the research component of the *Indigenous Systems: Revitalizing Inherent Alignment* project.

We will weave information gathering and capacity building assistance into one session, in keeping with principles of respect and reciprocity. Tribal partners will be invited to share their perspectives on alignment and the ToC framework (*see link above*) through individual and group interviews, surveys, and network analysis.

Seven Directions will follow each selected tribe's research and review protocols (e.g., tribal IRB, Health Board, Research Committees) to obtain approval of study participation. Grantees will support the research team in completion of these protocols.

## Grant Activities and Project Period

Seven Directions seeks applicants who value shared learning experiences. Grant activities are designed to foster Tribe-to-Tribe learning opportunities and support, in both formal and informal ways. The following activities are required for the project period, January 1, 2021 – April 31, 2022:

- Form a Tribal Transformation Team (T3) with representatives who work in health care, public health, and social services. T3s will oversee the cross-sector alignment project and participate in project activities.
- Implement a work plan to implement cross-sector alignment as proposed in the tribal department's grant application (described in the next section).
- Participate in a virtual project kick-off to be scheduled for January 2021.
- Co-present with other THDs on a webinar regarding cross sector alignment activities and lessons learned.
- Participate in grantee activities, including quarterly all-grantee calls, individual monthly check-in calls, and project evaluation.
- Provide a mid-term report, and a final report in the form of a Success Story that can be shared with others pursuing public health accreditation.

## How to Apply

- Complete the grant application available on Seven Directions' website.
- Submit the completed grant application and attachments by **Friday, November 13, 2020 at 5:00 pm Pacific Time/ 7:00 pm Central Time** via email to Raquel Aviles at [raviles@uw.edu](mailto:raviles@uw.edu).
- All applicants will be notified by *December 1, 2020*.

## Grantee Selection Criteria

Seven Directions will assess all proposals using a committee composed of staff and partners. Seven Directions intends to award this grant opportunity to the proposals receiving the highest total score based on questions in the attached proposal form. Factors to be considered by the committee include:

- How well the applicant describes the THD's programs and services.
- How well the applicant describes their experiences exploring, planning and implementing cross-sector alignment.
  - For tribal departments that are new to cross-sector alignment, how well the applicant describes the conversations, meetings, activities, etc., that led to their interest in exploring cross-sector alignment.
- How well the applicant describes their efforts to maximize opportunities and address identified challenges in the proposed cross-sector alignment.
- How well the work plan activities build on or complement the tribal department's current or previous experiences.
- How well the work plan clearly describes the success markers, goals, proposed activities, and resources needed.
- How realistic the work plan is considering the Tribe's current capacity (past experience, challenges, and opportunities), the project timeline (January 1, 2021 - April 31, 2022), and the budget.

- How well the budget includes the necessary project costs (staffing, travel, resources, contractors) that support the work proposed in the work plan.

**Use of Funds**

Support for the **Indigenous Systems: Revitalizing Inherent Alignment** is provided by a grant from the Georgia Health Policy Center and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Per grant requirements, the award funds **may not** be used to:

- Provide direct support to clients (e.g., delivery of patient care)
- Purchase large equipment; endowment or capital costs
- Support lobbying of any kind

**Informational Call and Questions**

Seven Directions will host an informational webinar to provide an overview of the **Indigenous Systems: Revitalizing Inherent Alignment Project**, the grant application, as well as respond to questions from those interested in applying. The call will be held **Thursday, October 29, 2020, at 2:00 pm Pacific / 4:00 pm Central**. Register for the webinar here: [https://uw-phi.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_8YYONHy8RnW9FO2jFENhtw](https://uw-phi.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8YYONHy8RnW9FO2jFENhtw)

**Key Dates**

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| <i>October 22, 2020 (2:00 pm PT)</i>    | Informational Call        |
| <i>November 13, 2020 (5:00 pm PT)</i>   | Application deadline      |
| <i>December 1, 2020</i>                 | Awarded grantees notified |
| <i>January 1, 2021 – April 31, 2022</i> | Project Period            |