Leading the Way

Native youth from across Indian Country are stepping up to take on challenges and shape our future.

Some are participating in grassroots movements, exercising their voices and organizing to protect our sacred spaces. Others are taking on leadership roles in their communities, starting campaigns to get the Native vote out, and committing to national, state, or Tribal politics. And they are doing it in their own way.

Inspired by the strength, vision, and resiliency of Native youth the National Indian Health Board is committed to growing the next generation of Indian health advocates.

One of the ways the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) is demonstrating this commitment is through our Health Policy Fellowship.
National Indian Health Board
Health Policy Fellowship
Growing the Next Generation of Indian Health Advocates

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) Health Policy Fellowship is a fully-funded professional development program for Native youth who are dedicated to making a difference in the health of their communities.

Over the course of a year, Fellows work directly with their Tribal leadership to identify one priority health issue. Then, with the support of program mentors, Fellows learn how to analyze policy in their issue area, create informed recommendations, present their findings to national and Tribal decision makers, and lead advocacy efforts for change.

The program covers the cost of Fellows’ travel and accommodations to attend three in-person meetings. NIHB also provides free opportunities for professional development, leadership, and skills building for current Fellows and Fellowship alumni.
NIHB Health Policy Fellows:

Learn to be effective advocates and speak at National Conferences and Gatherings

Learn About Policies that Affect the Health of Indian People

Educate Their Congressional Leaders on Pressing Health Issues

Gain a behind the scenes perspective of how Indian Health Policy is actually made at federal, state and Tribal levels
Mentorship is Key
Building Strong Networks

We believe that mentorship is key. That is why we pair each Health Policy Fellow with one Tribal Leader Mentor- all of whom have sat on their community’s Tribal Council.

Mentors guide Fellows through their policy project and support Fellows’ professional development.

Who is Eligible to be a Fellow?
Our Criteria

Native youth who are 18-24, who are an enrolled member of a federally recognized Tribe, and who are interested in exploring Indian health policy, healthcare, and governance are eligible to apply. Strong applicants demonstrate leadership qualities and engagement with their Tribal community.
The Data

What Program Participants Say

In a short survey administered to last year’s Fellowship class, the majority agreed that the networking opportunities, professional development, and advocacy training were valuable aspects of the Health Policy Fellowship program. They also reported the following insights.

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<th>95%</th>
<th>100%</th>
<th>90%</th>
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<td>said the Fellowship increased their desire to work toward positive community change</td>
<td>reported an increased knowledge of Indian health law and policy</td>
<td>said the Fellowship increased their access to resources they can use to advance positive community change</td>
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<th>81%</th>
<th>90%</th>
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<td>reported an increased intention to work in Indian health policy</td>
<td>said they are more skilled at expressing their ideas and enacting plans for change</td>
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“This Fellowship is one of the most inspiring, valuable, and important things I've been a part of. My cohort is my family. They give me energy to continue my work every day. I never thought I would be as engaged in public health as I am now. This opportunity has opened my eyes and my heart and invigorated my passion to help my people.”

“I met a lot of great people. It makes me happy knowing that the future of Indian Country will be in good hands.”
We invite applicants to join the next class of *NIHB Health Policy Fellows*. Full applications are due to NIHB no later than March 30, 2019 at 11:59 PM.

1. Name: __________________________________________________________________________
   First       Middle       Last

2. Address: __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   City                                          State                                                Zip Code

3. Tribal Affiliation: _________________________________________________________________

4. Enrollment number: __________________________________________________________________

5. Mobile Phone: _________________    Alternate Phone: ______________________

6. Gender Identity:
   ❑ Woman    ❑ Man    ❑ Two Spirit    ❑ Non-binary    ❑ Other: ______________________________

7. Date of Birth: _________________
   Month / Day / Year

8. Email address: ________________________________

9. How did you learn about the NIHB Health Policy Fellowship?
   ❑ Social Media    ❑ Parent    ❑ Web Search    ❑ Teacher    ❑ Mentor
   ❑ Friend    ❑ Other: ________________________________

10. If you are in school, what grade will you be in the Fall of 2019? _____________________

11. If you are NOT in school, list your plans for the Fall of 2019 and Spring of 2020?
    ___________________________________________________________
    ___________________________________________________________

12. Are you currently pursuing a health-related profession?
   ❑ Yes    ❑ No, but considering it    ❑ No, not interested    ❑ Other: ____________________
ESSAY QUESTIONS:

We are hoping to learn more about who you are and get a sense of why you are interested in Indian health policy, advocacy, and being a part of this Fellowship program. Please share your honest thoughts and feelings.

On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following questions in no more than 2-3 paragraphs per question.

1. Please share with us some of the health issues that are important to you. Share any community service or advocacy you have done around these issues.

2. Why do you want to be an NIHB Health Policy Fellow?

3. Please describe a leader you respect? What are the qualities that makes this person a good leader? Share any leadership experience you have.

4. NIHB Health Policy Fellows are required to commit to attend 5 virtual trainings (approximately 45-60 minutes each) and attend 3 in-person trainings over the year. Describe school, work, or other activities you are involved in. How will you balance your schedule to honor the commitment to this Fellowship program?

TRIBAL LEADER LETTER OF SUPPORT:

One unique element of this fellowship program is that Fellows work directly with one or more of their Tribal leaders to identify, analyze and work to change a health policy issue of their choice.

Therefore demonstrating an established relationship with a Tribal leader or the ability to connect with a Tribal leader from your home community is important.

Each applicant must submit one Letter of support from a Tribal Leader or else their application will not be considered complete. No exceptions.
National Indian Heath Board

2019 Health Policy Fellowship Application

APPLICANT SIGNATURE:

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: ________________________  DATE: ________________________

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION:

Your full application (including the Tribal Leader Letter of Support) must arrive to the National Indian Health Board office no later than **11:59 PM March 30th, 2019**.

**Mail, email or fax complete applications to:** National Indian Health Board, Attn: Dr. Youth Department 910 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20003 [wgardner@nihb.org](mailto:wgardner@nihb.org) (EMAIL) OR (202) 507-4071 (FAX).
Contact Information

Dr. Wendee Gardner, DPT, MPH
Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians
Native Youth Engagement Manager
National Indian Health Board

For additional information about the NIHB Health Policy Fellowship

Please contact, Dr. Wendee Gardner, NIHB’s Youth Engagement Manager at wgardner@nihb.org or 202-548-7297.

Connect with Us

Are you or someone else you know working to create positive change in the health of your community? Spread the word using #NIHBYouthRising and connect with us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Or visit our website at: https://www.nihb.org/for_youth/index.php.