



Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

5600 Fishers Lane • Rockville, MD 20857

www.samhsa.gov • 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727)



Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), I am pleased to announce the availability of, and distribution decisions for, \$15 million in new resources appropriated in the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Pub. L. No. 116-136, to address coronavirus (COVID-19) prevention, preparedness, and response in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.

As you are aware, the CARES Act provided \$425 million for SAMHSA to increase access to mental health services through Community Behavioral Health Clinics, suicide prevention programs, and emergency response spending that can target support where it is most needed, such as outreach to those experiencing homelessness. SAMHSA released its first funding announcement opportunity (FOA) titled, Emergency Grants to Address Mental and Substance Use Disorder During COVID-19 for \$110 million on April 1, 2020. SAMHSA remains committed to support Tribes and extended eligibility for this FOA to Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and Urban Indian Health Programs. We are happy to report SAMHSA received a tremendous response from Tribes and awarded 50 Tribal programs over \$22M in funding.

Over two weeks, SAMHSA conducted rapid Tribal Consultation to seek input to inform funding allocation decisions to distribute resources to tribal health programs. On March 27, 2020, a Tribal Consultation call was convened with the SAMHSA Tribal Technical Advisory Committee and on April 1, 2020, SAMHSA in partnership with the National Indian Health Board hosted a national listening session to engage in meaningful consultation with Tribes.

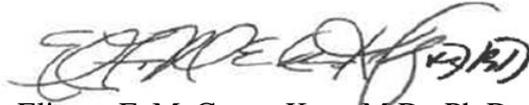
I appreciate the input received during consultation and value your support as we work within a shortened timeline to meet the acute need to provide immediate funding to communities impacted by COVID-19.

In response to Tribal Leader feedback to award funding as expeditiously as possible without having to submit new applications, SAMHSA will allocate \$15 million by providing supplements to the existing Tribal Behavioral Health Grant Program (Native Connections). The grantees will receive one-time, non-recurring funds through these supplement to their existing grants. These funds must be used to expand existing activities under the Tribal Behavioral Health Grant. If a grantee cannot do so, they should notify SAMHSA immediately.

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Thank you for your continued partnership as we work to support our AI/AN communities during this COVID-19 public health emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. McCance-Katz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elinore F. McCance-Katz, M.D., Ph.D.  
Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and  
Substance Use