FOUNDATIONS OF HEALTH EQUITY
for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN)
5 Essential Components

1. **Tribal Sovereignty**
   Respect for Tribal Nations as sovereigns and expanded Tribal self-governance are foundational to AI/AN health equity.

2. **Resilience through Culture**
   Leaning into traditional values and worldviews opens new paths forward.
   - Extended family structures
   - Traditional healing
   - Traditional food systems
   - Community, connection, and belonging
   - Native perspectives on health & wellbeing

3. **Strong Tribal Institutions**
   With collaboration, emphasis on traditional values, and prioritization of health and wellbeing, Tribal institutions can be powerful forces for AI/AN health equity.
   - Tribal governments
   - Regional and National Indian organizations
   - Schools & colleges
   - Healthcare systems
   - Justice systems

4. **Tribal Empowerment in State & Federal Governance**
   Undoing centuries of harm to AI/AN requires dedication to rebuilding relationships and trust and purposeful inclusion of Tribes in decision-making.
   - Meaningful Tribal consultation
   - Inclusion in agency task forces & committees
   - Active Tribal Advisory Committees
   - Expanded pathways for AI/AN to become elected officials and government employees

5. **Federal Trust Responsibility**
   To fulfill the trust responsibility for protecting AI/AN health, the US government must:
   - Fully fund the Indian health system
   - Ensure Tribes have sufficient resources and capacity to meet needs and participate actively in governance
   - Reverse AI/AN erasure through cultural competence training of government employees, Tribally informed public school curricula, and improved data practices

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2022 Inter-Tribal World Café on Health Equity for contributing your insights into charting a path forward for AI/AN health equity!