# Special Diabetes Program for Indians:

Saving lives in Tennessee and providing a strong return on federal investment

### History

Congress established the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) in 1997 to address the growing epidemic of diabetes in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Nations. By allowing Tribes to determine their own approach, the program has become the nation's most effective federal initiative to combat diabetes and serves as a useful model both for diabetes programs nationwide and public health programs in Indian Country. SDPI is currently authorized through Fiscal Year 2023.

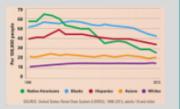
System, 2020

#### SDPI Outcomes

# PROGRAMS IN 35 STATES Between 2013 and 2017 15.4% END STAGE RENAL DISEASE REDUCED BY

\$88,000 IN SAVINGS FOR MEDICARE FOR EACH PATIENT KEPT OFF CHEMODIALYSIS

Between 1999 and 2013- the greatest decline of any racial or ethnic group.



14.6% TRIBES COLLECT DATA AND HAVE **DOCUMENTED THAT** THIS INVESTMENT IS **BOTH SAVING LIVES** AND THE FEDERAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM MONEY!

## **SDPI Impact**

SDPI provides a strong return on federal investment and is saving lives in Tennessee. Since the beginning of SDPI, blood sugar levels have decreased, risk factors of cardiovascular disease have been reduced, diabetes-related kidney disease has been cut by more than half, and primary prevention and weight management programs for Native youth have increased. Nationwide AI/AN diabetes prevalence decreased from 15.4% to 14.6% between 2013 and 2017. National data reflect the excellent outcomes in Native Nations resulting from innovative local level programs.

For more information, visit <a href="https://www.nihb.org/sdpi/">https://www.nihb.org/sdpi/</a>

### Diabetes in Tennessee

FY 2021 SDPI funding in Tennessee totaled \$130,002 for a Community Directed Grant Program at the United South and Eastern Tribes

According to the American Diabetes Association, approximately 730,416 people in Tennessee – 13.6 % of the population – have diagnosed diabetes, and many suffer from serious diabetes-related conditions such as heart disease, neuropathy, and eye, foot and skin complications. An additional 1.8 million people—34.3 % of adults- have prediabetes. In addition to the human toll diabetes places on the people of Tennessee, it also places a large financial burden on the state's healthcare system. The staggering estimate of cost of diabetes in Tennessee is approximately \$7.3 billion each year.

