



STATE OF WASHINGTON
GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

Washington State Board of Health

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

June 16, 2016

Joe Finkbonner, Executive Director
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
2121 SW Broadway, Suite 300
Portland, OR 97201

Re: NPAIHB Application for RFA-MH-17-350

Dear Mr. Finkbonner and Dr. Rushing:

The Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities supports the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board's (NPAIHB) application for the National Institutes of Health Program, *Collaborative Hubs to Reduce the Burden of Suicide among American Indian and Alaska Native Youth*. The NPAIHB has deeply rooted relationships with the forty-three tribes in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, and has a successful track record administering public health research that is sensitive to the concerns and needs of tribal communities.

The Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities is charged with developing recommendations to eliminate health disparities by race/ethnicity and gender, including the persisting disparities faced by tribes and American Indian/Alaska Native communities. As the Chair of the Council, I am available to provide consultation services to the Northwest Native Suicide Prevention Research Hub on research questions and plans, offer my assistance in reviewing project materials, and will assist with disseminating evidence-based prevention strategies and tools.

The Council applauds your efforts to develop collaborative research partnerships to improve suicide surveillance and expand the design and evaluation of culturally-relevant interventions for American Indian/Alaska Native youth. Thank you for your efforts to promote health and reduce health disparities. We wish you the best of luck with your proposal.

Sincerely,

Emma Medicine White Crow, Chair
Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities