



STATE OF WASHINGTON
GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

Washington State Board of Health

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

June 1, 2016

Edward Fox, Director
Skokomish Indian Tribe Health Clinic
100 North Tribal Center Road
Skokomish, WA 98584

Dear Mr. Fox:

The Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities supports the Skokomish Indian Tribe Health Clinic's application for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's *Native Connections* funding opportunity. Your project proposal to develop a model to reduce substance abuse and suicide among Skokomish tribal youth ages 11 to 24 years will help the Tribe address an important need, serve as a model for other tribal programs, and ultimately help Washington State work toward the elimination of health disparities.

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. The Skokomish Tribe experiences disparities in risk factors and health outcomes, including historical trauma, adverse childhood experiences, academic risk, substance abuse, and mental health disorders.

The Council applauds your efforts to develop a youth substance abuse and suicide prevention model program and we strongly support the enclosed grant application. Thank you for your efforts to promote health and reduce health disparities. We wish you the best of luck with your proposal and offer our assistance in implementation in any way we can.

Sincerely,

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