How Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Serving Organizations (TIPSOs) Promote Wellness through Culture & Partnership

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**Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe**

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As part of a broader, statewide COVID-19 equity initiative, the MA Department of Public Health launched the COVID-19 Community Grants Program in August 2020, in partnership with Health Resources in Action (HRiA), a Boston-based public health institute (PHI).

The goal of the COVID Community Grants Program is to rapidly invest funding and capacity building support in black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities hardest hit by COVID-19, with several of those organizations being tribal and indigenous peoples serving organizations (TIPSOs).

This session will explore the strategies and challenges that The Chappaquiddick Wampanoag Nation, Ohketeau Cultural Center, and The Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe experience in their responses to COVID-19 and the social determinants of health exacerbated by the pandemic.

Key Strategies

* Expanded capacity by hiring staff
* Grant funding allowed us to expand capacity by hiring staff to help deploy surveys
* Employ Diverse Communication platforms
* Leverage surveys across social media platforms and email to effectively gather essential data, tailoring services to best serve the needs of our citizens.
* Leverage Experts for Targeted Engagement
* Engage native (and non-native) experts to lead virtual workshops, ensuring culturally appropriate dissemination of crucial information and widening accessibility for tribal citizens.
* Prioritize Mental Health and Wellbeing
* Conduct regular mental health check-ins to address the emotional and psychological well-being of our community members, offering necessary support and resources.
* Provide Essential Resources and Information
* Distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and disseminate crucial health and housing information, ensuring the well-being and safety of our community during challenging times.

Partnerships /Collaborations

Partnerships/Collaborations

Challenges

* **Distrustful of the Vaccine Due to Past Genocidal Experiences**
* # of boosters
* Experimental
* Side effects
* Certain batches given to certain groups
* Concerns about what is in vaccine
* **Cultural beliefs**
* Herbal/natural remedies instead of Western medicine
* **Accessibility to vaccine clinics**

Key Strategies & Partnerships/Collabs

* Creating space for fluid conversations around Health and Wellness
* Womens groups once a month
* Pow Wow Tabling
* Traditional Workshops
* Hide Workshops
* Drum Making
* Regalia Making
* Outings
* Promote mentorship, guidance, and positivity within our communities
* Focus on Youth; Youth Talent Expo
* Implementing youth led programs
* Empowering youth to continue this work
* For the love our People Campaign
* Interviewed/recorded tribal citizens for their reason to get vaccinated
* - radio spots broadcasted on 3-5 radio stations
* - PSA regarding new booster
* Upcoming collaboration with ***Native American Lifelines***
* mobile clinic October 2023

**Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe**

**Listening to our Ancestors**

**Protecting our homeland**

**Key Strategies, Challenges & Solutions for Tribal Health and Wellness**

Health and Wellness

Food Sovereignty – Nutrition

Cultural Gatherings- Ceremony

Distribution of PPE and covid tests

Training and Technical Assistance

Community Outreach

Social media campaigns - meetings/webinars

Partnerships, Collaborations, Networking

Cultivate Balance Wellness Campaign

Three Sisters Method   
Companion Planting

Memberships, Partnerships & Collaborations

Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project (WLRP) – Partner

Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition – Member

University of Massachusetts Boston Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy - External Advisory Board Member

Herring Pond Watershed Association - Board of Directors, Member at Large

Jones River Watershed – Board of Directors

Health Resources in Action / Massachusetts DPH

Plymouth HEAL Coalition, MA-HEALing Communities Study with Boston Medical Center – Partner

Suffolk Law School Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples Clinic – Collaboration

C4 Innovations and New England Mental Health Training Technology Transfer Center Network (MHTCC) – Collaboration

Massachusetts Conservation Commission Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Member (MACC DEI)

Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Seal & Flag – Commissioner

Massachusetts Indigenous Mascot Steering Committee

Community Land and Water Coalition – Advocate

Environmental Justice Advisory Council – Appointed by Governor

Native Youth Empowerment Foundation

Barnstable County Human Rights Commission

Many More…

Thank you