



November 12, 2024

Dear Tribal Leaders:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) invites you to participate in a virtual Tribal listening session on Monday, December 9, 2024, from 1:00pm to 2:00pm ET. This Tribal feedback will help inform the implementation of two anticipated FY 2025 grant initiatives regarding effective approaches for reducing health disparities in dementia and kidney disease. To register for the Zoom meeting, go to this link: [Meeting Registration – Zoom](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The **Demonstrations Reducing Dementia Disparities Initiative** is intended to identify innovative, evidence-based/informed and community-focused strategies that reduce disparities impacting brain health as people age. Between 2020 and 2060, the number of American Indian/Alaska Native individuals aged 65 and older living with dementia is projected to increase four-fold (Source: <https://www.alz.org/help-support/resources/native-americans>). Groups disproportionately affected by dementia and related chronic illnesses may face barriers to health care and social services that increase their risk of poor health outcomes. Projects funded under this initiative will use novel community-based strategies that address social determinants of health (SDOH) and other risk factors in the environment. The forecast for the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) is posted on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

During the listening session, OMH will seek Tribal feedback on the following questions related to the anticipated dementia initiative:

- What are the current resources and approaches used within your Tribal community to support people with dementia or early signs of dementia?
- What are the barriers to health care and social services experienced by individuals with dementia or early signs of dementia within your Tribal community?
- What partnerships and other resources might be needed to the develop and test strategies for addressing dementia in Tribal communities?

The **Innovative Approaches for Reducing Disparities in Kidney Health Initiative** is intended to identify evidence-based/informed strategies to reduce disparities in chronic kidney disease (CKD) and related risk factors. The prevalence of end stage renal disease is 3.5 times greater in American Indian/Alaska Native individuals than that in white Americans (Source: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC2594281/>). Groups disproportionately affected by CKD may face barriers to health care and social services that increase their risk of poor health outcomes. Projects funded under this initiative will demonstrate that innovative community-based strategies can address social determinants of health (SDOH) and reduce health disparities in CKD and related risk factors. The forecast for the NOFO is posted on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

During the listening session, OMH will seek Tribal feedback on the following questions related to the anticipated kidney disease initiative.

- What are the current resources and approaches used within your Tribal community to support people with kidney disease?
- What are the barriers to health care and social services experienced by individuals with kidney disease within your Tribal community?
- What partnerships and other resources might be needed to develop and test strategies for addressing kidney disease in Tribal communities?

In addition to participating in the listening session, Tribal leaders also may submit written comments to OMH at minorityhealthinfo@hhs.gov by Thursday, January 9, 2025, using the subject line “Tribal Feedback on Dementia and Kidney Disease Initiatives.”

We are committed to honoring the nation-to-nation relationship with American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribes. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you that supports OMH in achieving its mission to improve the health of AI/AN populations through the development of policies and programs that help eliminate health disparities.

Sincerely,

Rear Admiral Felicia Collins
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health
Director, Office of Minority Health