








Best / Promising Tobacco Practices in American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Communities

Community Overview of the National Tribal Tobacco Prevention Network (NTTPN) “Best / Promising Practices”


Note: Definitions are at the end of this overview.


 **Introduction.** This is a request for the help of AIAN communities who are currently or have done an AIAN tobacco project. Federally documents, like the “Best Practices” Reports have many limitations and gaps specific to Indian Country. Documents, like the “Best Practices”, are unlikely to include policies with cultural uniqueness, like Tribal Tobacco Smoke Shops. Federal and State agencies as well as some Foundations, use documents like the *Best Practices* document for funding decisions.



 The NTTPN wants to provide a supplement to the *Best Practices* that summarizes good, culturally specific AIAN tobacco projects. The NTTPN Working Group plans to complete this project early summer 2008. This Working Group started in summer 2007. In August 2007, the NTTPN asked volunteers to help create an AIAN “Best / Promising Tobacco Practices” Report. The volunteers formed a Working Group. Twenty-seven members of the Network agreed to help. The Working Group knows that many AIAN tobacco projects do things a little differently than do non-Native programs. For example, most of the AIAN projects distinguish between ceremonial and manufactured tobacco use. The AIAN tobacco projects that are successful are most often designed for:

-  Their local communities
-  Cultural and geographic issues
-  Poor and under-served communities
-  Small and large-scale tobacco programs
-  Urban, rural, village, and community settings

All of these AIAN tobacco programs need continued funding from outside sources. The Committee created a survey for AIAN communities to collect information to be included in the report.

 This is why the NTTPN Working Group is asking for your help by completing this survey. The Working Group wants AIAN communities to feel that the summary report is accurate and inclusive. This report will be widely shared with AIAN communities and funding agencies.

 **Goal:** Produce a summary report of AIAN-specific “Best or Promising” tobacco programs that highlights what works in Indian Country. This summary report will:

-  Provide guidance to tobacco funding agencies.
-  Enable these agencies to initiate, continue and increase support of effective comprehensive Native tobacco programs.

- 🗑️ **Purpose:** Provide a summary document to assist (1) Tribal leaders; (2) urban Indian clinic administrators; and, (3) funding organizations support AIAN tobacco programs that are culturally and geographically relevant to AIAN.
- 🗑️ **Background:** The NTTPN staff asked for volunteers from the Network to create a Working Group to provide a summary of ongoing promising and/or best practices in Indian Country. The Working Group expects that some of the interventions will be similar to those described within the federal government's Best Practice document, and yet other strategies may be unique to the IHS, Tribal, and Urban clinical settings.
- 🗑️ **Methodology.** NTTPN Working Group will provide a tobacco education / intervention survey available on line. But anyone may print the survey to give copies to AIAN programs who have little access to the Internet.
 - 🗑️ **How will the information be collected?** This Working Group met in Portland, Oregon, August 30-31, 2007 to discuss potential strategies. The concern was to provide a way that was inclusive of any AIAN-operated tobacco program. Although the Committee members expressed concern about "being surveyed to death", a survey can provide quick and comprehensive participation throughout AIAN communities. The Working Group readily recognized that excellent culturally specific programs were likely to exist, perhaps in small communities or settings that are very remote. The Working Group decided that a survey might be a way to include such programs and to help provide examples of AIAN communities' unique and successful tobacco programs. The NTTPN Working Group created a survey for people working with AIAN tobacco programs.
 - 🗑️ **Who is the Intended Population?** The primary participants will be the staff who organized, implemented and/or evaluated a local or regional AIAN IHS, Tribal, and Urban tobacco program. The secondary participants are non-Natives who implement and assess tobacco projects that are partnered with or focused on AIAN IHS, Tribal, and Urban tobacco projects.
- 🗑️ **How will AIAN Tobacco Program Staff be able to take part in the survey?** The Committee adamantly agreed that good tobacco programs exist in remote regions of Indian Country. The NTTPN Committee asks your help to make certain these small or remote programs have the chance to take part. We want their information to be also included in the Summary Report. The NTTPN is asking your help to share information about the survey so that any interested AIAN tobacco programs are able to take part. We ask that you share this description by modifying it to create Press Releases (for Indian radio programs, Indian Newspapers / Newsletters), web-based announcements, hard copies disseminated during AIAN meetings and gatherings (presentation, exhibits, displays), as well as one-on-one invitations.
- 🗑️ **The Report.** The Working Group will draft a report and ask for revisions from programs that took part in the survey. Based on feedback, the Working Group will revise the report and submit it to (1) Tribal and Urban AIAN programs; (2) federal and state programs; (3) Foundations that support tobacco projects; (4) Other interested programs and individuals. The Working Group will also share copies via the Internet.