



# Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH)

**NARCH VII Directory of Active Awards  
Capacity Building Branch  
Training, Workforce Development, and Diversity Division  
NIGMS, NIH**

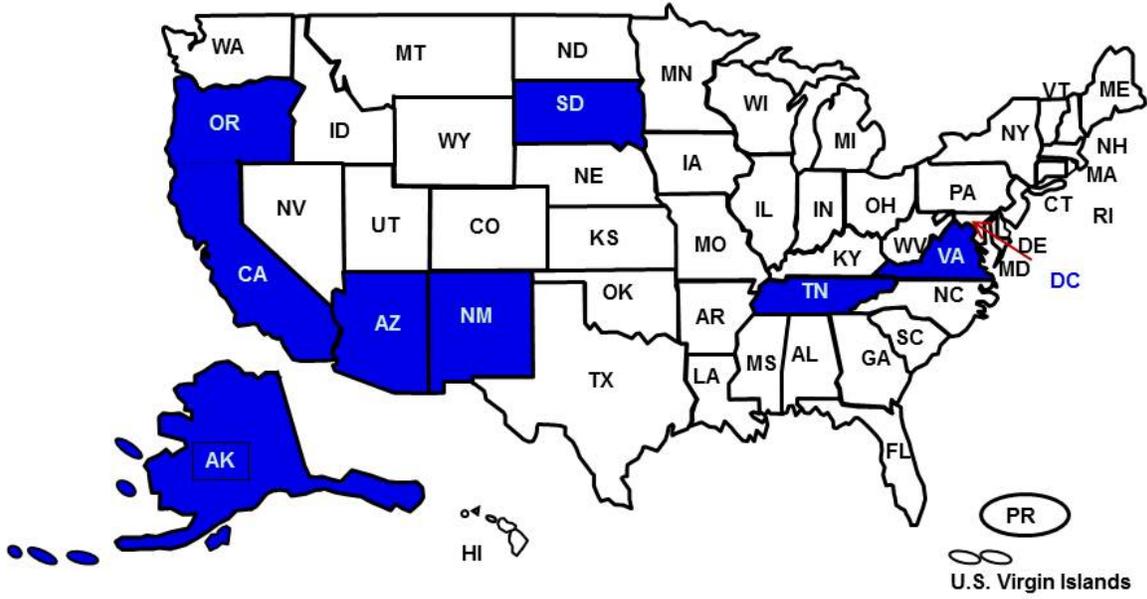


National Institute of  
General Medical Sciences

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# Map of NARCH VII Recipient States



**ALASKA**

**Grant No.: GM106351-01**

**Grantee Institution: Southcentral Foundation**

**Project Title: Southcentral Foundation Research Center for Alaska Native Health**

**Principal Investigator**

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**Sub-Projects**

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- Southcentral Foundation Faculty Development Core for Alaska Research  
NIH Funding Partner(s): NHGRI  
Project Leader: Renee Robinson  
E-mail: [\*rrobinson@southcentralfoundation.com\*](mailto:rrobinson@southcentralfoundation.com)
- Southcentral Foundation Student Development Core For Alaska Native Research  
NIH Funding Partner(s): NHGRI  
Project Leader: Renee Robinson  
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- Genetics & Tobacco Cessation Treatment in an Alaska Native Community  
NIH Funding Partner(s): NHGRI, NIDA  
Project Leader: Renee Robinson  
E-mail: [\*rrobinson@southcentralfoundation.com\*](mailto:rrobinson@southcentralfoundation.com)
- Perceptions of Alcohol use and Sobriety among Alaska Native People  
NIH Funding Partner(s): NIAAA  
Project Leader: Denise Anne Dillard  
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**Abstract**

In the Southcentral Foundation Research Center for Alaska Native Health (RCANH), SCF will position itself to achieve the chief purpose of NARCH, "to reduce health disparities, enhance partnerships and reduce distrust of research by American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities while developing a cadre of AI/AN scientists and health research professionals." Six

independent yet synergistic efforts across 3 Cores and 2 Research Projects (RPs) will be undertaken. A SCF/University of Washington (UW) partnership forms the nexus of the RCANH, building on 5 years of collaboration addressing SCF health priorities. Building research administration and scientific capacity among AI/ANs and at SCF will be the focus of Cores. The Administrative Core will provide resources to build and manage administrative functions, facilitate coordination and support strategic planning; the Faculty Development Core will promote the scientific development of researchers and professionals; and the Student Development Core will increase awareness of an interest in health research and science-related careers among students (middle, high school, undergraduate) and entry-level employees. Then, the 2 RPs provide additional research mentoring and experience while addressing key AI/AN public health issues—tobacco and alcohol misuse. RPs are translational, focused on improving services to potentially include pharmacogenetics (PGX). RP1 will determine the utility of genetic variations in guiding medication-based tobacco cessation among AI/ANs receiving outpatient services; and RP3 will explore the underlying explanatory models of alcohol misuse and sobriety then the acceptability and perceived utility of different treatment strategies to include medication and PGX. With its strong community engagement record, SCF is well positioned to research important but sensitive issues like substance misuse in a respectful and collaborative way. Per prior and ongoing SCF/UW research, the SCF AN community wants to benefit from cutting-edge science and medicine and thus generally endorses genetic and PGX research provided harm is minimized.

**PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE:** This grant will expand the research capabilities within an established Research Department of an innovative Alaska Native-run healthcare organization. Activities will position the Tribal health organization and AI/ANs involved to become independent, competitive applicants for future research funding focused on community based participatory research approaches to acquire new knowledge in the betterment of AI/AN health.

## NARCH VII

### ARIZONA

**Grant No.:** GM106301-01

**Grantee Institution:** White Mountain Apache Tribe

**Project Title:** NARCH VII Program at White Mountain Apache Tribe and Johns Hopkins University

#### **Principal Investigator**

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#### **Sub-Projects**

- WMAT-JHU NARCH Student & Faculty Development Program  
NIH Funding Partner(s): NIGMS  
Project Leader: Mathuram Santosham  
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- Promoting Protective Factors Against Apache Youth Substance Use  
NIH Funding Partner(s): NIDA  
Project Leader: Allison Barlow  
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#### **Abstract**

The White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) and Johns Hopkins University (JHU) have partnered successfully on NARCH I, III, V and VI. Each NARCH application has included an integrated focus on training and community driven research which has deepened our understanding of local and cross-tribal health disparities, produced new public health solutions and added to the continuous development of our innovative training model that combines student and faculty development. Overall goals of the WMAT-JHU NARCH VII initiative are to: 1) increase the pool of trained AI/AN scientists and research professionals; 2) strengthen our partnership with JHU and other research institutions through innovative CBPR projects and learning across WMA and western cultural and scientific knowledge and world views; and 3) field innovative and culturally competent research to combat major AI/AN health disparities. General objectives include: 1) gaining a better understanding of employing strengths and resiliency factors in research and training; 2) strengthening partnerships and Apache community engagement in health research and training; and 3) engaging more AI/AN scientists and health professionals in health research, responsive to the needs of the AI/AN community and goals of the NARCH VII initiative. This NARCH VII application includes 4 components designed to meet the purposes of the NARCH initiative: 1) a student and faculty development project that will integrate scholars' and Apache investigators' continued academic training with field-based research experience within 3 research projects

targeting AI/AN health disparities, including: II) a study examining social network influences on suicide behavior among Apache youth; III) the design, implementation and evaluation of an assets-based approach to promoting protective factors to prevent substance use risks in Apache youth; and IV) an epidemiologic-based study to create a pathway to prevent serious early childhood caries that negatively affect individual's lifetime nutrition and health.

**PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE:** The NARCH VII builds on our successful partnership with JHU to advance the WMAT's sovereignty in health research and training. We are creating a future where multi-disciplined AI scientists will unravel Native health disparities, and our communities will become agents of change for global well-being.

**ARIZONA**

**Grant No.: GM106349-01**

**Grantee Institution: Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.**

**Project Title: ITCA American Indian Research Center for Health (AIRCH)**

**Principal Investigator**

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**Sub-Projects**

- ITCA/UA AIRCH Student Development  
NIH Funding Partner(s): NIGMS  
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**Abstract**

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA), and its intensive research partner the University of Arizona (UA), seeks to continue and enhance the American Indian Research Center for Health (AIRCH) under the auspices of the Indian Health Service/National Institutes of Health NARCH initiative. The mission of the ITCA/UA AIRCH is to reduce health disparities among AI/ANs by engaging and supporting tribes in community based participatory research (CBPR) that will lead to the development of evidence-based preventive interventions. The AIRCH mission directly supports the goals of the NARCH initiative through the development of skilled and knowledgeable AI/AN researchers and health professionals; by removing barriers to CBPR through collaborative projects and student research projects; and by engaging tribes in CBPR that is scientifically sound. Based on the strengths of the current AIRCH, other ITCA-based Tribal research programs, and upon lessons learned in the past 11 years, the project continues and further develops the AIRCH through an intensified and enhanced collaborative approach with four primary Cores: 1) Tribal Research Project Core, 2) Faculty/Researcher and Development Core, 3) Student Development Core, and 4) Administrative Core (Applicant Agency).

**PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE:** As a result of 11 years of experience with the NARCH Program, ITCA has expanded its role as a research resource to tribes, and the faculty and student development cores have trained a large number of students and faculty. To achieve the goals of the current grant, the ITCA/UA AIRCH has drawn upon the strengths of existing and new partners to build on resources, promote community capacity and help faculty and students develop the skills necessary to actively participate in research.

**CALIFORNIA**

**Grant No.: GM106376-01**

**Grantee Institution: Indian Health Council, Inc.**

**Project Title: California Native American Research Center for Health (NARCH VII)**

**Principal Investigator**

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**Sub-Projects**

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- CA-NARCH Student Development Project  
NIH Funding Partner(s): NIGMS  
Project Leader: Stephanie Brodine  
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- Development of a Model & Support Network for FASD  
NIH Funding Partner(s): NIAAA  
Project Leader: Christina Chambers  
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- Reducing Availability & Misuse of prescription Drugs on California Reservations  
NIH Funding Partner(s): NIDA  
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**Abstract**

The California NARCH VII consists of 6 components, namely an Administrative Core, a Student Development Component, and 4 Research Components, titled "Innate Immunity in Healthy and Diabetic Patients with Periodontal Disease," "Development of a Model and Support Network for FASD," "Reducing availability and misuse of prescription drugs on California Reservations" and "Native American and Prediabetes: Novel Urinary Exosome Markers."

## NARCH VII

### NEW MEXICO

**Grant No.:** GM106348-01

**Grantee Institution:** Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board, Inc.

**Project Title:** Southwest Tribal NARCH

#### **Principal Investigator**

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#### **Sub-Projects**

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Project Leader: Kevin English  
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- Southwest Tribal Native American Research Center for Health Student Development  
NIH Funding Partner(s): NIGMS  
Project Leader: Kevin English  
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- Tribal Solutions for Native Youth Affected by Adverse Childhood Experiences  
NIH Funding Partner(s): OBSSR  
Project Leader: Kevin English  
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#### **Abstract**

The Southwest Tribal NARCH VII consists of 4 components, namely an Administrative Core, a Student Researcher Development Component and two Research Components titled "Tribal Solutions for Native Youth Affected by Adverse Childhood Events" and "Tribal Cancer Survivor Narrative Project."

**OREGON**

**Grant No.:** GM106339-01

**Grantee Institution:** Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

**Project Title:** Advancing American Indian/Alaska Native Health: Northwest NARCH Program

**Principal Investigator**

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**Sub-Projects**

- Administrative Core  
Partner(s): NIGMS  
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- Project 1: Improving Health Research Skills for AI/AN Students and Fellows  
NIH Funding Partner(s): NIGMS, NIDA  
Project Leader: Thomas Becker  
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- Project 2: Summer Research Training Institute for AI/AN Health Professionals  
Partner(s): NIGMS  
Project Leader: Thomas Becker  
E-mail: [tbecker@npaihb.org](mailto:tbecker@npaihb.org)

**Abstract**

Carefully designed and implemented health research can provide solutions to help eliminate the vast disparities in health between Northwest AI/ANs and non-AI/ANs; however, AI/AN communities are generally distrustful of health research because of past experiences with non-AI/AN researchers. The overall goal of our Northwest NARCH grant is to develop a cadre of highly trained AI/AN biomedical and health researchers who are sensitive to the culture and specific concerns of Northwest Indian communities, and who can bring the benefits of academic research to these communities to reduce health disparities. The NW NARCH will be operated by the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB)—an Indian organization uniquely qualified to administer NARCH based on an active membership of all 43 Northwest Indian tribes. For this funding cycle, the NW NARCH will accomplish its goal through two training programs: 1) a mentored scholarship program for AI/AN trainees at the post-graduate level; and 2) continuation of the Summer Research Institute for AI/AN health professionals. We will also develop an extensive infrastructure for training and supporting AI/AN researchers in high quality health research. This project opens to AI/AN researchers the health research training opportunities of the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and Portland State University (PSU) as our academic partners. Our

efforts will help to further the position of the NW NARCH as a regional resource for AI/AN health research, and will contribute to the national effort to reduce health disparities among AI/AN people, compared to other races, in the US.

**PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE:** NW Tribal health officials have suggested that efforts aimed at training of young AI/AN health researchers are priority concerns for tribes in this region. We have developed projects that address these issues, in collaboration with OHSU and PSU, in an effort to reduce health disparities among tribal people. Our program builds on our earlier success within the NARCH program and will strengthen our tribal-academic partnership.

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Grant No.: GM106378-01**

**Grantee Institution: Black Hills Center for American Indian Health**

**Project Title: Lakota Center for Health Research**

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**Sub-Projects**

- Administrative Core  
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- Reducing Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Native Children with Asthma  
NIH Funding Partner(s): NHLBI  
Project Leader: Patricia Nez Henderson  
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- The Experience of Chest Pain Among the Lakota  
NIH Funding Partner: NHLBI  
Project Leader: Jeffrey A. Henderson  
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- Complex Metal Exposure and Immune Status on Cheyenne River  
NIH Funding Partner: NIAID  
Project Leader: Esther Erdei  
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**Abstract**

This is one of the most well-known Lakota Sioux phrases, and loosely translated it means "we are all related." However, the "we" refers not just to humans, but to all things seen and unseen. In particular, this phrase is often used to signify the Lakota people's appreciation for and special relationship with the environment (*Unci Maka*, or Grandmother Earth). This NARCH VII program application, titled Lakota Center for Health Research, describes a body of research and activities that are designed to exemplify this concept in fresh and innovative ways. Our partnership is being strengthened by the addition of two new research-intensive partners who bring exceptional and complementary skills and capabilities to the partnership: Stanford University and the University of New Mexico. Specifically, this program of research and activities serves to broaden and deepen our examination of health inequities experienced by our Lakota tribal partners by: 1) filling in a significant knowledge gap as it pertains to the genesis of auto-immune illnesses among the Lakota;

2) filling in another significant knowledge gap with a rich qualitative investigation of the experience of chest pain among the Lakota, whose results will directly inform an intervention; 3) testing whether a highly innovative urinary biomarker feedback trial can significantly spur the adoption of in-home smoking policies in Lakota households with an asthmatic child; 4) conducting a pilot investigation into early markers of autoimmune disease and their possible relation to heavy metal toxicity and pesticides, and in so doing advance the career goals of a promising junior investigator, and; 5) creating a forward-thinking, strategic, synergistic, holistic research direction among the partners of our NARCH collaborative.

**PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE:** Each of the three proposed major research projects and single pilot research project proposed in this NARCH program will expand our examination of the health inequities experienced by our NARCH tribal partners. Our goals will shed considerable light on how we can take better account of both biological and behavioral influences on individual and population-health. In the process, our Tribal partners' knowledge and infrastructure for supporting these kinds of activities will grow, educational opportunities for young American Indians will increase and many of our methods will be easily exportable to other tribal settings.

**TENNESSEE**

**Grant No.:** GM106360-01

**Grantee Institution:** United South and Eastern Tribes

**Project Title:** USET-VU Native American Research Center for Health

**Principal Investigators**

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**Sub-Projects**

- Administrative Core  
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- Mental Health and Diabetes Among Older American Indians  
NIH Funding Partner(s): NIDDK  
Project Leader: Turner Goins  
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**Abstract**

The United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) - Vanderbilt University (VU) NARCH was founded in 2010 to serve the 26 federally recognized USET member Tribes. USET Tribes are located from Maine to Florida to Texas, and include approximately 75,000 American Indians (AIs). The USET-VU NARCH mission is to increase Tribal-Academic research and the training of AI scientists and other investigators interested in improving AI health. The USET-VU NARCH is a Tribally-guided Center that focuses on the use of Health Information Technology and Community Based Participatory Research to improve AI health. The USET-VU NARCH VII will expand upon the current NARCH, and will include leadership of the Center by USET and its Tribes, and participation from VU and other academic experts. The USET-VU NARCH VII will include an expanded Administrative Core, and one research project. Specific aims of the USET-VU NARCH VII include: 1) enhance the USET-VU NARCH administrative infrastructure to support current and future Tribally guided projects in AI health research, training and enrichment activities to improve AI health within the USET area and throughout Indian country; 2) support one research project that investigates the relationship between depression and diabetes among Tribal citizens over age 55; 3) create a Tribally guided infrastructure that provides sustainable support for research and educational efforts that improve AI health.

**PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE:** The USET-VU NARCH was founded in 2010 to serve the 26 federally recognized Tribes that make up the USET. Administrative core and research projects aim to better understand and improve the health of AI/AN Tribal citizens.

## NARCH VII

### VIRGINIA

**Grant No.:** GM106353-01

**Grantee Institution:** American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)

**Project Title:** NARCH VII Program at AIHEC - TCU Behavioral Health Research Network

#### **Principal Investigator**

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#### **Sub-Projects**

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- NARCH VII Program at AIHEC Student & Faculty Development Project  
NIH Funding Partner(s): NIGMS, NICHD, NCI  
Project Leader: Deborah His Horse Is Thunder  
E-mail: [dhishorseisthunder@aihec.org](mailto:dhishorseisthunder@aihec.org)

#### **Abstract**

The project will establish sustainable tribally-centered partnerships between TCUs and the tribal communities they serve and the behavioral health research and intervention community. It will develop the capacity of TCUs to employ Indigenous Community Based Participatory Research methods, using the AIHEC Indigenous Evaluation Framework, and identify and implement culturally-appropriate evidence based interventions. The project will assist TCUs in establishing and developing sustainable, community and culturally-based behavioral health research and academic programs, and will disseminate information about behavioral health intervention and research relevant to TCUs and their communities.

**PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE:** The project will make a significant positive impact on the health of AI/AN communities, strengthening the capacity of TCUs to participate in and make positive impacts on the national behavioral health research and education community, and increase the level of trust between AI/AN and Western research communities.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**Grant No.: GM106347-01**

**Grantee Institution: National Congress of American Indians**

**Project Title: Dissemination & Implementation to Reduce AI/AN Health Disparities**

**Principal Investigator**

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**Sub-Projects**

- Administrative Core  
NIH Funding Partner(s): NIGMS  
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- Dissemination & Implementation to Reduce AI/AN Health Disparities  
NIH Funding Partner(s): NCI  
Project Leader: Malia Maya Villegas (contact); Julie E. Lucero  
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**Abstract**

The goals of this NARCH VII Project are two-fold and include: 1) to develop and disseminate a partnership evaluation toolkit for use with AI/AN research partnerships, and 2) to highlight the role of governance and sovereignty in partnership evaluation. This work can be significant as little attention in Dissemination and Implementation (D&I) science has been given to AI/AN communities and has largely ignored governance and sovereignty as contributing factors to effective D&I.

**PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE:** Understanding research regulation and tribal governance in Indian Country is an integral component to fostering research partnerships that work to improve health of AI/AN peoples. Since AI/AN communities are said to prefer the CBPR approach, documenting the role of regulations and governance in research partnerships is important to advancing effective public health.