



News Release

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 4, 2016
PH16-060

CONTACT: [Ali Bay](#)
(916) 440-7259

CDPH Announces Grant to Reduce Mental Health Disparities in Native American Communities

SACRAMENTO – California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Director and State Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Smith announced today the intent to award more than \$1.9 million in grant funding to help reduce mental health disparities in Native American communities.

CDPH's California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) will distribute the funding to the California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB), a Sacramento-based organization that has served the Native American population for 47 years and has worked to develop common policies on health care issues.

“CDPH recognizes that many of the promising mental health services in our most diverse communities need additional support in order to improve their effectiveness,” said Dr. Smith. “The Department is committed to funding organizations that are doing meaningful work in their communities to reduce mental health disparities among groups of people who have historically been underserved.”

Disparities in mental health services are found among all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and gender identities and expressions. The CRDP aims to reduce these disparities among five target communities, including African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, Latinos, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQ) and Native Americans.

CRIHB has long been a central focal point for Native American health in California and will help ensure that the CRDP resources reach communities and individuals in need of services. The organization works to improve the health status and social conditions of Native Americans by providing advocacy, shared resources, training, and technical assistance. CRIHB will provide technical assistance to community projects that are implementing prevention and early intervention programs focused on reducing mental health disparities, which may include increasing cultural awareness in Native American communities.

The California Reducing Disparities Project will award a total of \$60 million to 41 grant recipients statewide between 2016 and 2022. The CRDP is funded by the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63) that was passed in November 2004. This act imposes a one percent income tax on personal income that exceeds \$1 million.

