



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 9, 2024

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Montana Consortium of Urban Indian Health Receives Grant to Improve Health Delivery for Urban Indian Populations

The Montana Consortium of Urban Indian Health (MCUIH), in collaboration with Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) in Montana and JG Research and Evaluation, announced a \$447,881 award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to enhance data access and analysis to improve healthcare delivery and research for urban Indian populations.

“We are grateful for this funding, which will help us address gaps in understanding and care related to opioid use, prescription management, and chronic pain among Native American communities,” said Jason Smith, Executive Director of MCUIH.

This award is part of the [NIH Native Collective Research Effort to Enhance Wellness \(N CREW\) Program](#), which supports research projects led by Tribes and organizations that serve Native American communities to address overdose, substance use, and pain, including related factors such as mental health and wellness. The N CREW Program is planned to span seven years, with an overall budget of approximately \$268 million, pending the availability of funds. The program is funded through the [NIH Helping to End Addiction Long-term Initiative](#), or NIH [HEAL Initiative](#), which aims to speed scientific solutions to stem the national opioid public health crisis.

MCUIH, UIOs, and JG Research and Evaluation will examine patterns of overdose and chronic pain. This project will identify disparities, better understand client experiences, and support the implementation of effective, culturally integrated interventions to improve healthcare among UIO clients in Montana’s five largest population centers.

One of the project's tasks will be developing a guide for adapting evidence-based practices to fit the cultural context of urban Native American populations. Associate Professor Damian Chase-Begay at the University of Montana will lead the collaborative creation of the guide, which will incorporate Native American Tribal ceremonial practices and lessons learned from the N CREW Program.

MCUIH promotes the health and well-being of American Indians and Alaskan Natives in urban areas. MCUIH is dedicated to supporting UIOs in their mission to deliver healthcare services to these communities across Montana. To learn more, go to mcuih.org.

Research reported in this press release was supported by the National Institutes of Health through the NIH HEAL Initiative (<https://heal.nih.gov/>) under award number [1OT2DA061065](#). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.