

American Indian Suicide Prevention Interactive Resources PHASE I

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Native youth ages 15-24 residing in IHS service areas and is the third leading cause of death of children aged 10-14 years. Exacerbated by factors such as extreme poverty, substance abuse and inadequate mental health service, suicidal deaths among American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) teens has reached the level of a crisis. In addition, many troubled Native adolescents choose to forego help during times of distress due to privacy concerns, a sense of isolation, hopelessness and stigma – all appearing to be strong inhibitors of help-seeking behavior. The present proposal will use emerging trends in technology to develop **ASPIRE (American Indian Suicide Prevention Interactive Resources)** for Native youth in high schools. ASPIRE will offer schools and youth serving organizations, three distinct-yet complementary-resources: (a) an online modular, suicide prevention curriculum whereby practitioners and school staff can create a digital curriculum by selecting and combining modules according to their needs; (b) online training for teachers and practitioners to implement suicide prevention programming ; (c) an online, interactive resource that will utilize the latest Web 2.0 technology and popular social media platforms to promote knowledge, resilience, support and help-seeking behavior among AI/AN teens and young adults. The goal of the ASPIRE project is to create a curriculum that is dynamic and engaging ; is culturally-relevant to Native youth; is cost-effective, and most importantly, incorporates youth content and helps peer-to-peer connections within a safe and monitored community.

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