National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative Innovation: Elder Justice Survey

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“Restoring respect and dignity by honoring Indigenous elders”

Overview

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NIEJI Background

NIEJI Innovation Grant is focused upon development of innovative ways to address the issue of elder abuse among American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian (AI, AN, NH) programs.

The NIEJI Innovation Grant provides opportunities for tribes to:
- Develop elder abuse protection programs
- Gather tribal data about elder abuse in Indian Country
- Produce additional training modules for professionals on working with elder abuse in Indian Country.

NIEJI Goals/Purpose

(NIEJI) Innovation project provides technical assistance to American Indian tribes, Alaskan villages, and Hawaiian homesteads in the collection of local data on elder abuse.

- Technical assistance includes:
  - Native Elder Maltreatment Survey
  - Assistance in sampling
  - Remote training and consultation for interviewers via email or telephone.
  - Data entry and analysis
  - Data storage
  - Production of tables and comparisons with national data
Tribe/Consortiums

❖ Each Tribe/Consortium will provide:
  – A Tribal Resolution documenting participation with Native Elder Maltreatment survey as applicable
  – An estimated number of elders (participants) to interview
  – Volunteer interviewers to conduct the survey
  – Development of recommendations for actions
  – Dissemination of the results of tribal leaders and health officials

Native Elder Maltreatment Survey

❖ Purpose
  – focus on awareness, elder abuse policy development, and infrastructure building for reporting, investigation, and intervention for indigenous elders.
  – data collection of indigenous elder abuse risk indicators through the Title VI programs with a tribally based participatory research model.

❖ Duration of survey
  – Participation may take approximately 30-60 minutes.

❖ Participants
  – (AI, AN, NH) elders 50 years and older.
Native Elder Maltreatment Survey cont.

❖ Procedures
- Participation is confidential and voluntary. Names will not be placed on any forms.
- Surveys topics include: demographics, cultural identification, experiences and/or observations of elder maltreatment and elder abuse, and general past life experiences.

❖ Risks
- Minimal potential risks in this study. Participants will be asked personal questions some pertaining to possible traumatic experiences.
- Participants may discontinue at any time during the interview without penalty.
- Local and national mental health resources will be provided to participants in case of any effects of participation.

Native Elder Maltreatment Survey cont.

❖ Compensation/Cost
- Participants will not receive any compensation from NIEJI for their participation in this study. There are no costs associated with the participation in this study.
- Tribes will receive their overall tribal data and a national aggregate.

❖ Confidentiality
- Information gathered from the surveys will be coded with an identification number. No names are indicated anywhere.
- All materials collected will be kept in a locked file cabinet in NIEJI office.
- Electronic files of the data will be stored on a secure, access controlled, and password protected server.
- NIEJI may transport coded data to the UND SMHS for data entry and data analysis.
Right to Refuse or Withdraw

- Refusal to participate or withdrawal from the study will not result in loss of benefits or relationship with the designated site of data collection or the University of North Dakota.
- Participants can withdraw from the interview at any point.
- If the study design is to be changed you will be informed and your consent re-obtained.
Question Examples

- Do you have anyone who spends time with you, taking you shopping, or to the doctor?
- Are you helping to support someone?
- I know how much money I have and know when money is coming.
- Someone has taken cultural regalia or sacred items for use without my permission.
- I have enough to eat everyday.
- Someone has made it hard for me to move around (moving cane/walker).

Interviewer’s Guide

❖ Interviewer’s Roles and Responsibilities
  - Build rapport
  - Interviewer is responsible for appropriately handling any adverse situations.
    - Clarification is needed to determine if interviewer is considered a mandated reporter. Suspected elder abuse will be reported to appropriate authorities for action as needed.
  - Interviewer’s role is not to investigate, probe, or pry for specific names or incidences while gathering information.
    - If an interviewer is given information about elder abuse or neglect, he or she will need to cooperate with tribal, local, and/or state procedures (who will make the report, to whom will the report be made to etc.).
  - Provide information about community resources (programs, agencies, identify support network).
  - Participants have the right to self-determination.
How to Get Started

1. Get tribal resolution
   - Get tribal permission
   - Allows for participation in the data collection
   - Ensures that the data belongs to the tribe and makes the tribal council receives a copy of the data
   - Allows NIEJI to process tribal and national aggregate data

2. Mail signed resolution

3. Count number of elders
   - Give NIEJI an estimated number of elders participating

4. Begin conducting interviews
   - Put elder at ease
   - Participation is completely voluntary

5. Mail completed surveys
   - Surveys will be scanned and process onsite at NIEJI office

6. Receive report
   - Tribe will receive copy of report
Conducting the Survey: Step-by-Step Guide Overview

- Step 1: Find a location to conduct the survey
- Step 2: Develop friendly connection with elder
- Step 3: Explain the survey to the elder
- Step 4: Verbal Consent
- Step 5: Conduct the Survey
- Step 6: Close the Interview
- Step 7: Return surveys to contact person or tribal agency that provided them
- Step 8: Mail to NIEJI

Conducting the Survey: Step-by-Step Guide

- Step 1: Find a location to conduct the survey
  - Accessible space for elders with limited mobility
  - Suggested spaces: senior center, elder’s home, interviewer’s office
  - Places to avoid: public noisy area, non-confidential space, non-accessible
  - Materials: pencils, erasers, extra surveys
- Step 2: Develop friendly connection with elder
  - Make elder feel welcome/comfortable
  - Build rapport over small talk
  - Maintain positive attitude
  - Offer snack, tea, coffee
  - Show elder restrooms and emergency exits prior to starting
- Step 3: Explain the survey to the elder
  - Introduce yourself and organization
  - Explain goals of finding community needs
  - Survey requested by their tribes/community leaders
  - Randomly selected, no name will appear on surveys
  - Encourage elder to provide honest input
  - Participation is voluntary
Conducting the Survey: Step-by-Step Guide

- **Step 4: Verbal Consent**
  - Given when elder agrees to participate
  - Read ‘Verbal Consent Form’
  - Fill in tribal agency information before prior to starting
  - Local and national mental health information will be provided

- **Step 5: Conduct the Survey**
  - Explain overview of survey, duration, and any relevant information
  - Ask each question as written, rewording may change the meaning of the questions
  - Ask questions clearly and if needed reread the questions
  - It is recommended interview fill in answers
  - Provide elder with a survey to follow along
  - Please take time to answer any questions elders may have and redirect to questions again
  - If an elder responses with “I don’t know” ask the question again. There are no right and wrong answers.

- **Step 6: Close the Interview**
  - Review the survey to make sure all questions are asked and answers marked
  - Make sure each question has one answer unless stated ‘Mark all that apply’ or elder has declined to answer
  - Make sure each circle/oval is completely filled in and completely erase mistakes
  - Provide local and national community resources information

- **Step 7: Return surveys to contact person or tribal agency that provided them**
  - Do not bend of fold surveys
  - Avoid food or drinks near the survey as stains will later delay survey processing

- **Step 8: Mail to NIEJI**
Frequently Asked Questions

❖ Why is there a need to complete the surveys?
   – Elder survey will address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation in Indian Country and assess for services. Items will address prevalence of elder abuse, types of elder abuse, services available, resource information, and tribal codes by the elders in the communities.

❖ Why was I or my tribe selected?
   – Local tribal organizations asked to assist with data collection pertaining to their community.
   – Data will be used for local use in identifying risk indicators of elder abuse
   – Results from the survey will be used to document and address needs in community.

❖ Describe what data will be recorded?
   – Basic demographics, responses to elder abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, and violence will be collected.

❖ Will I be informed of my results?
   – Yes, once local survey results have been received and reviewed by the sponsoring tribal agency(ies), participating and community members can view survey results through their local offices’ dissemination means.

Questions?

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