Tribal Feedback Survey Results

Survey Summary Information

The Oklahoma State Department of Health’s (OSDH) Center for the Advancement of Wellness (Center), with the assistance of the Office of Tribal Liaison (OTL), conducted a tribal consultation bid survey August 26, 2015 through September 4, 2015. The OTL send the survey announcement to various tribes and tribal entities in Oklahoma. The purpose of the survey was to gather input regarding an American Indian specific program initiative aimed at reducing the prevalence of commercial tobacco use and obesity. The Center plans to use the results for program development purposes.

The survey consisted of 13 multiple choice and open-ended questions (which included one optional question to collect contact information). There were 14 respondents with nine of them completing the entire survey. The Center is very appreciative of everyone who contributed to this survey and the feedback gathered.

Survey respondents stated that having dedicated staff allows the program to focus on grant requirements and it is a better use of resources because of diverse geographic locations. The funding level and the type of work required would determine the number of staff a program should hire. When selecting a grant recipient and hiring staff, it is important to remember that each tribe is unique and has its own cultural identity, policies, and procedures. This may cause a challenge when working together, but this can be resolved by finding out as much information as possible about the tribe you are working with. Native Americans will help Native Americans when it is important to common goals.

The majority of those surveyed agreed that tribes are willing to work with a tribal grant recipient or tribal serving organization/entity. It is important that the recipient have health policies in place. They also overwhelmingly concurred that funding should continue for one program to provide mentoring, technical assistance, and consultation to other tribal nations. The recipient of such program should have the following:

- Adequate infrastructure;
- Credibility with other tribes;
- Demonstrated ability to accomplish the work (skills and knowledge about mentoring, TA, and consultation); and
- Cultural competency and understanding of sovereignty

When asked about approval processes regarding the use of marketing campaign materials and logos for producing or placing health communications respondents specified that tribal nations also have processes and having multiple processes can be time consuming and challenging. As a result, there needs to be an effort to grasp an understanding of tribal communication policies and procedures as well as explaining OSDH policies and procedures.

This will allow each to communicate their processes and explain why certain things are in place. The goal is to work efficiently and not let processes impede success. As a way of being culturally competent, it is best to build a partnership and invite tribal communication departments to develop a style guide that would assist with navigating the tribal and OSDH policies and procedures regarding the development of health communication items.