***Dedicated American Indian and Alaska Native Funding Opportunity for Colorectal Cancer Screening***

Name

Title

Organization

Address

Address

Dear Mr./Ms. XX

I am writing today to make you aware of a funding opportunity that will soon be available through the American Cancer Society (ACS). The intent of this advance announcement is to: a) provide potential applicants with a brief overview of the funding opportunity, understanding of data collection and reporting requirements, and allow sufficient time to plan and prepare for the steps required to complete the application process within your organization, and b) allow ACS to gauge the level of interest in this opportunity.

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second most common cancer (following lung cancer), among American Indians and Alaska Native (AI/AN) men and women and is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in these groups. Despite these sobering statistics, AI/AN men and women have some of the lowest screening rates of all US populations. A number of barriers and solutions to CRC screening challenges have been identified. This new ACS funding opportunity is designed to assist organizations serving AI/AN men and women to implement systems changes that have been demonstrated to improve both CRC screening rates and quality.

Since 1991, the American Cancer Society has been formally working with native communities to increase cancer awareness through the Circle Of Life Initiative (COL).

The opportunity is designed to strengthen the relationships between the Society and tribal health systems and, where possible, capitalize on the ground work laid through the COL initiative.

The forthcoming Request for Applications (RFA) will be open to all tribal health organizations and organizations serving the healthcare needs of AI/AN communities in the United States. Applications from tribal health organizations that have an established relationship with ACS (e.g. a history of prior participation in COL or prior CHANGE grant recipient) will be viewed favorably – but such relationships are NOT a requirement for funding.

Through this funding opportunity, the Society will award up to five (5) grants in amounts up to $100,000 ($50,000/year for 2 years) to eligible tribal health organizations and organizations serving the health needs of AI/AN communities to support the implementation of CRC screening projects aimed to improve screening and decrease CRC disparities.

A key component of the program will be collecting data and reporting every four (4) months on the impact of interventions on screening rates.  No patient identifiable information will be required, but reports will need to include baseline data (e.g. screening rates, number of screen-eligible patients served), and key process and outcome metrics such as aggregate number of patients educated and the number of screening exams provided during the project period. This de-identified data may subsequently be used in publications describing the impact of grant funded activities on CRC screening rates and outcomes. Interested applicants should consider their capability to meet these data-sharing and reporting requirements prior to submission of a proposal. For your reference, we have provided an example of a data report form.

The formal funding announcement and RFA will be released in Spring 2017. If you believe that your organization may be interested in pursuing one of these grants we are requesting the submission of a non-binding Letter of Interest (LOI) indicating that your organization may consider applying for these funds. The letter should include the following information:

* Name of the organization
* Primary contact person including, name, address, telephone number and email
* Name, address, telephone number, email address of the Program/Project Manager or Principle Investigator (if known and if different from contact listed above)
* Tribal affiliation(s)/tribes served
* Total number of men and women 50 – 75 years of age covered by the tribal health organization/served by the organization
* Current colorectal cancer screening rate in the population covered/served (if known)
* Current or past relationship to the American Cancer Society and the Circle Of Life initiative (if any)
* American Cancer Society local/regional staff contact (if known)

**Please return the LOI via email by February 28, 2017, to** **spo@cancer.org****.**

We are excited to have the opportunity to collaborate with community partners in this important area! Together we can reduce the burden of colorectal cancer and ensure a healthier future for all.

Sincerely,



Durado D. Brooks, MD, MPH

Managing Director, Cancer Control Intervention

American Cancer Society