



## Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake - Community Gathering Priorities

Urban Indian Health Organization (UIHOs) evaluate the community pulse through needs assessments and community gatherings. This work provides a snap shot view of the current health of the community and drives UIHO efforts to respond to emerging needs. All of which make UIHOs integral to meeting the challenges of improving the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN). Through a grant from the Office of Minority Health, the Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) offered a Community Gathering Award opportunity to the [Urban Indian Center \(UIC\) of Salt Lake City](#) to enhance understanding of local health issues, which can be used to establish local health priorities.

In May 2011, UIC held a community forum for urban AI/ANs living in the Salt Lake City area as well as organizations that provide services to the UIC, for example, Department of Education, Indian Child Welfare and Department of Human Services. AI/AN participants were primarily recruited through email and a local community radio station. Other outreach strategies included fliers, word-of-mouth, and personal staff invitations. Community Gathering attendees participated in a facilitated discussion and then completed a six question survey based on the discussion questions.

The top health priorities attendees identified included diabetes and mental health. When asked to identify other issues faced by the AI/AN community, attendees added employment, health insurance, discrimination, employee issues, the economic situation and poverty.

Participants reported that mental health services and preventive health care provided through an Indian health clinic were the most needed health services for the AI/ANs living in Salt Lake City. Other participants also suggested the need for youth programs (education, tutoring, and mentoring), case management, social services, substance abuse and prevention, and cultural programs.

The UIHI was honored to partner with the UIC to assess local health priorities for our urban AI/AN communities and UIHOs. To learn about how UIHI can assist your community please contact us at [info@uihi.org](mailto:info@uihi.org).