

# GREAT LAKES INTER-TRIBAL EPIDEMIOLOGY CENTER

## A REGIONAL GOOD HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN INDIAN COUNTRY UPDATE



### GHWIC BACKGROUND

Between 2014-2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) invested over \$78 million in chronic disease prevention efforts through the Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC) initiative. With the support of GHWIC funding, eleven Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs):

- Coordinate evaluation activities and data collection to highlight the regional work of GHWIC-funded Tribes and Tribal health organizations.
- Provide technical assistance to GHWIC-funded Tribes and Tribal health organizations.
- Enhance cross-sector partnerships and strengthen American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) networks across the service region.

### REGIONAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND MANAGE CHRONIC DISEASE

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center (GLITEC) coordinates GHWIC evaluation in the Indian Health Service (IHS) Bemidji Area. GLITEC supports chronic disease prevention and management in 34 Tribes and four urban Indian health organizations through:

#### 1. Continued Community of Practice Implementation

GHWIC continues to implement a Community of Practice (CoP) to support all 34 Tribes and four urban Indian organizations as well as regional health boards, GLITECs departments, and public health and research projects. The CoP provides a consistent accessible forum that enables broad sharing of evidence-based public health practices, connection to public health allies including tribal researchers, medical, dental, and behavioral health professionals, and state and federal partners.

#### 2. Technology of Participation

GHWIC's Technology of Participation (ToP) has improved meeting facilitation skills among GLITEC GHWIC staff and individual tribal partners. The CoP and ToP have coordinated connections to subject matter experts, implementation of chronic disease interventions, improvement in local and regional collaboration, and GLITEC's GHWIC policy, systems, and environmental public health infrastructure development. Bemidji Area Leaders Acting for Change (BALAC) partner Tribes actively participate in GLITEC's GHWIC CoP and ToP.

#### 3. Increasing Public Health Surveillance and Raising Awareness

GHWIC and Bemidji area tribal leaders, the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, the Great Lakes Tribal Health Board, and State public health and epidemiological departments initiated a convening and assessment of interjurisdictional delivery of public health services. GLITEC's GHWIC and tribal partners jointly led a multi-state collaboration with Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin to improve regional and tribal awareness and access to public health surveillance datasets, interpretation and analysis of data, and dissemination of reports.

## By the Numbers

**33**

Policy, systems, and environmental changes improving links between healthcare systems and community resources

**46**

Data-focused partnerships to enhance regional epidemiology and surveillance

**31**

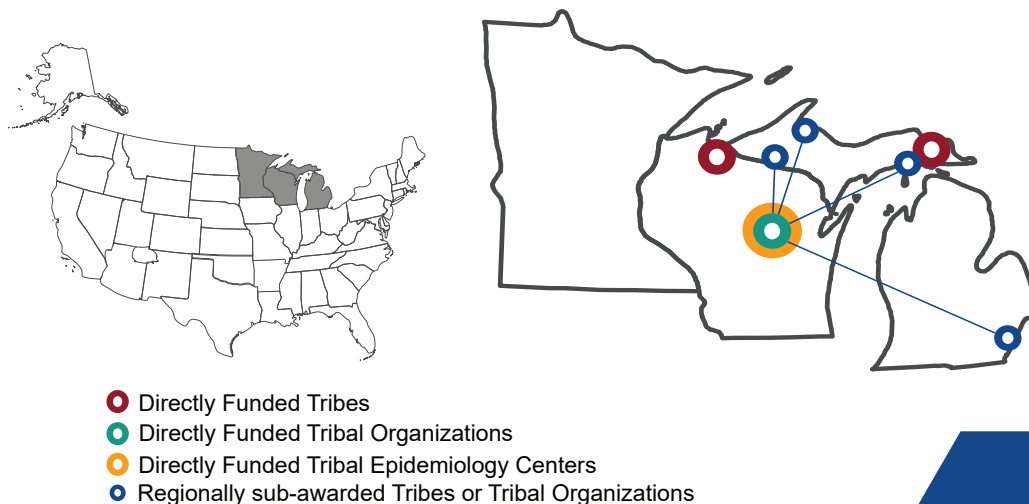
Trainings on chronic disease prevention strategies, grant writing, and evaluation

## Activity Spotlight: Commercial Tobacco Cessation



GLITEC's GHWIC program sponsored a joint Indian Health Service and University of Arizona AI/AN tobacco treatment specialist training. The training included culturally competent indigenous approaches aimed at improving tribally led tobacco interventions, public health service delivery, and associated community-clinical linkages. Each of the 34 Tribes and four urban Indian health organizations in the Bemidji area were given the opportunity to participate in this training to maintain or initiate certification. Through this partnership, GHWIC completed 18 new cessation tobacco treatment specialist coordinator trainings that are now providing more comprehensive cessation intervention and treatment services. Currently, the coordinators serve 12 tribal communities and two urban communities, with an estimated reach of 6,500 tribal and urban AI/AN members.

### Map of GHWIC-funded Tribes and Tribal organizations in the IHS Bemidji Area



**Urban Indian Health Institute**  
A Division of the Seattle Indian Health Board