



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 26, 2020

ALIGNING SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES  
*Seven Directions and Red Star, Inc., support transformations of tribal health care, public health  
and social services systems with support from a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation award*

SEATTLE, WA - Seven Directions, A Center for Indigenous Public Health based at the University of Washington and Red Star International, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to Indigenous wellness, were awarded \$420,000 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, in collaboration with Georgia Health Policy Center's Aligning Systems for Health initiative.

The two-year, community-based participatory research project will engage with five tribal sites to explore cross-sector alignment from an Indigenous perspective, and how to strengthen cross-sector alignment to improve health and health equity in tribal settings. “As a result of federal policies and the underfunding of health and other programs, tribal governments and programs have had to develop flexible and innovative approaches to implement health programs over the decades. We would like to learn more about these efforts, and begin to map out, in collaboration with our tribal partners, how they approach systems alignment from their unique perspectives. We believe this will help support best practices for other tribes and American Indian and Alaska Native communities, and offer opportunities to learn from these innovative approaches,” says Dr. Myra Parker, Executive Director, Seven Directions, and principal investigator for this research project.

“Cross sector alignment efforts can often benefit from an external resource, who understands the tribal context and can help facilitate tribal teams deliberate and identify a pathway forward,” shares Aleena Kawe, CEO, Red Star, and principal investigator for the tribal technical assistance portion of the project. “Red Star’s role is to honor tribal values and approaches to alignment, and to offer support that builds on strengths to bring alignment efforts together and reinforce work tribes are already doing in their communities.”

For more information, please visit [www.indigenousphi.org](http://www.indigenousphi.org)

To learn more about Seven Directions, please contact:

Myra Parker, Director  
Seven Directions  
Center for the Study of Health and Risk Behaviors  
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
University of Washington  
1100 NE 45th Street, Suite 300  
Seattle, WA 98105  
Mobile: (206) 258-1132  
info@indigenouphi.org

###