



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALIGNING SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES
Seven Directions and Red Star International, Inc., partner with five tribal nations to support tribal systems transformation, with support from a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation award.

SEATTLE, WA - Seven Directions, A Center for Indigenous Public Health at the University of Washington, and Red Star International, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing Indigenous self-determination for well-being of humanity and the environment, would like to announce the launch of the *Indigenous Health Systems: Revitalizing Inherent Alignment* study, sponsored by the Georgia Health Policy Center, *Aligning Systems for Health Initiative*, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), 2021 - 2022.

This study addresses the systemic inequities experienced by tribal communities, and underscored by the global pandemic. As tribes put into motion COVID-19 responses, gaps in tribal health care systems became clearer together with the need to address systemic-structural determinants of health. This study provides an opportunity to reflect on the current alignment model, its relevance and meaning, and consider an Indigenous-centered model.

We are honored to announce that the Cherokee Nation (OK), Coeur D'Alene Tribe (ID), Pascua Yaqui Tribe (AZ), Taos Pueblo (NM), and Wabanaki Public Health & Wellness (ME) will join us in this practice-based study of what works across tribal public health, health care, human services, and other health related sectors to build systems for the health and wellbeing of our communities.

"We are grateful and value the opportunity to engage in reciprocal sharing of knowledge and experience with our tribal partners," says Principal Investigator, Myra Parker, "We recognize many tribes have already integrated tribal knowledge and processes that demonstrate inherent alignment and we need to learn from them to inform a more tailored, tribally-specific approach."

"Our systems suffer from historical inequities, and require a systematic reclamation of the relationships, processes and functions that align with the Tribes principles and values," says Aleena Kawe, creator of the [Becoming Butterfly](#) health systems transformation framework and Community Investigator for the project.

For more information, please visit www.indigenouphi.org.

To learn more about this project, please contact:
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