

# July 2019 Newsletter

---

Greetings,

It's been an exciting July at the American Indian Cancer Foundation (AICAF). Our team attended a WNBA game to accept a generous donation, released new survivorship resources and expanded our national reach into Texas and South Dakota. We also welcomed new team members, attended national strategic planning meetings, and had the opportunity to strengthen partnerships across the country.

We are so close to fall, and staff are hard at work in preparation for our upcoming cancer awareness campaigns. Teams look forward to adding new initiatives to our agenda, including a program centered around HPV immunization, and another focused on decreasing use of electronic cigarettes. There is still much work to be done, but we are eager to share these new projects with our partners, community members and champions across Indian Country.

With gratitude,

*The American Indian Cancer Foundation*

---

*Help Us Make a Difference*

[DONATE](#)

---

## *AICAF honored during Minnesota Lynx game*

In July our team was invited to a Minnesota Lynx game to accept a \$2,500 gift from the **Lynx FastBreak Foundation**. This organization supports the efforts of non-profit groups in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota, providing grants and donations to groups that work towards improving the community. Right before tip-off, Prevention & Policy Coordinators Daanis Chosa (Bois Forte) and Angie Nason (Leech Lake Ojibwe) stood on the court and waved to fans as they accepted the donation on behalf of AICAF. Staff waved back from the crowd and watched their smiles light up the jumbotron.



[View Clip](#)

**Thank you Minnesota Lynx and Fastbreak Foundation**  
**Your generosity is helping us make a difference!**

---

## **Improving colorectal cancer screening rates in Indian Country**

Cancer Equity Manager Melissa Buffalo (Meskwaki) attended **National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable's** (NCCRT) strategic planning meeting in Washington, D.C. Together with our partners from the **American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network** (ACS CAN), AICAF will continue to be an integral part of NCCRT's goal to improve colorectal cancer screening rates across the nation.



The July session reflected on the NCCRT's **80% in Every Community** initiative that aimed to achieve an 80% colorectal cancer screening rate across the U.S. by 2018. And while many communities have seen improvements through this work, several are still not benefiting equally. Through coordinated leadership, planning and advocacy, the national coalition will work to bring down these barriers in rural, low-income, and certain racial and ethnic communities. Our team will be focused on identifying the gaps in our tribal health systems, ensuring all Native people have access to colorectal cancer screening education and information.

---

## **Building new partnerships, expanding national reach**



In July we met with leaders from **South Dakota Urban Indian Health** (SDUIH) to address the health barriers facing their community, and to discuss solutions that will close these gaps. Our work through the **National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program** (NCCCP) allows us to partner with several communities nationwide, helping them identify effective ways to prevent disease and implement culturally-appropriate practices. We're excited about a potential new partnership with SDUIH and for their community to benefit from our NCCCP initiatives. For SDUIH leaders, the discussion is currently centered around reducing the impact of colorectal cancer. Through collaboration with AICAF, they are committed to minimizing any financial, educational or travel burdens that prevent community members from getting screened.

To partner with AICAF or to get involved in our programs, contact [health@aicaf.org](mailto:health@aicaf.org).

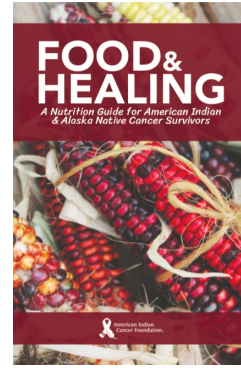
---

## **Community training: survey research & data sovereignty**

This month the Research Team traveled to the **White Earth Nation** in Minnesota to train members and tribal health staff on the collection and storage of community-specific data. Even though every Native community is different and owns their own research data, all can benefit from learning new health ideas, knowledge and methods. AICAF continues to focus on identifying unique research questions and methods, working with communities to collect population-specific data and publishing the findings to increase availability of health data across Indian Country.

## **New Resource!**

While there are many ways to support a cancer healing journey, food and nutrition are crucial to caring for the body. The new Survivor Nutrition Guide provides nutritional support to help American Indian and Alaska Native cancer survivors, caregivers, and families on their path to healing.



[Download the Guide](#)

## ***AICAF programming efforts expand to Texas***



The Prevention & Policy Team expanded AICAF's national health equity efforts by partnering with the **Ysleta del Sur Pueblo's** (YDSP) Health Education & Outreach Division. In August the team will travel to Texas to provide the YDSP Health Services staff with a policy, systems and environmental (PSE) change training. They will also be holding community visioning sessions to give members the opportunity to provide feedback on YDSP's future programming and healthy food initiatives. We can't wait to get started in YDSP and look forward to working with the Tigua people!

To partner with AICAF or to get involved in our programs, contact [prevention@aicaf.org](mailto:prevention@aicaf.org).

## ***Meet our new staff!***



**Research Coordinator**  
Charlie Bouverette, MA, MSW  
*Metis*



**Prevention & Policy Coordinator**  
Alyssa Diaz, BA



**Research Coordinator**  
Caitlin Doerrmann, MPH, CPH



**Cancer Equity Coordinator**  
Misha Loeffler, BA  
*Bay Mills Ojibwe*

American Indian Cancer Foundation | 612.314.4841 | 3001 Broadway St NE, Suite 185, Minneapolis, MN

