



2026 Toolkit

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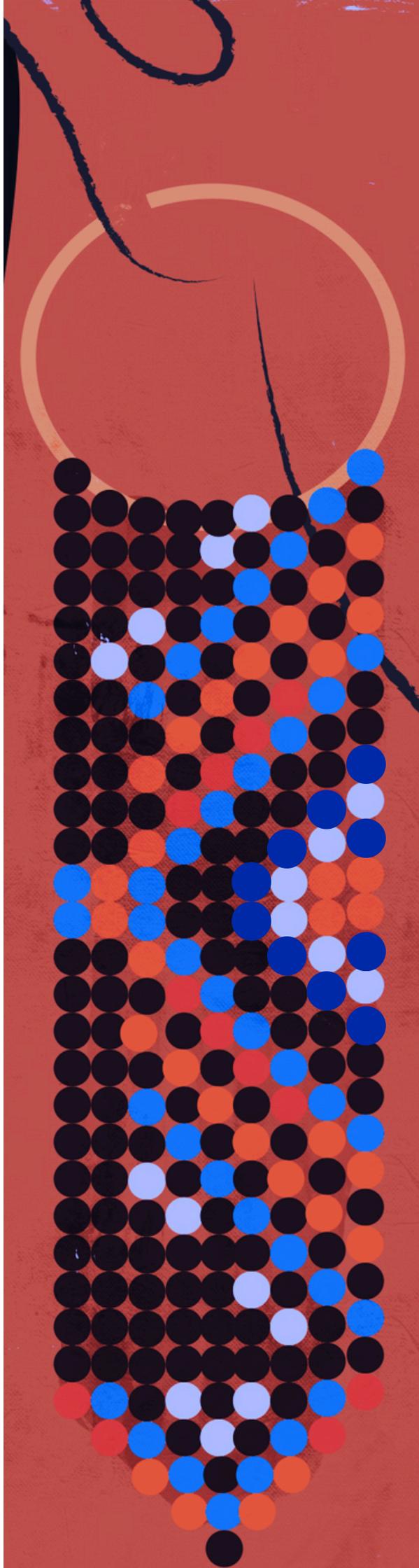
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ABOUT THE AMERICAN INDIAN CANCER FOUNDATION

The American Indian Cancer Foundation (AICAF) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established to address the tremendous cancer burden faced by American Indian and Alaska Natives. Its mission is to eliminate the cancer burdens on American Indian and Alaska Native people through improved access to prevention, early detection, treatment and survivor support. AICAF strives to be a partner trusted by tribes and organizations working toward effective and sustainable cancer solutions based in the cultural teachings and wisdom.



ABOUT THIS SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

AICAF created the #BlueBeads Social Media Toolkit to engage community members, health professionals, and leaders working towards cancer equity in raising awareness of colorectal cancer (CRC) in Native communities. AICAF will honor National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month throughout March, sharing resources, webinars, survivor stories, and colorectal health information.

Learn more about Indigenous cancer burdens and what AICAF is doing at americanindiancancer.org

ABOUT BLUE BEADS

Colon cancer disproportionately affects Native communities and is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer among all American Indian/Alaskan Native people. Support AICAF's 6th annual Blue Beads campaign and raise colorectal health awareness by sharing culturally tailored messaging and resources. Blue Beads aims to educate people about the importance of early detection and remind men and women to stay updated on their cancer screenings. Finding and removing polyps before they turn into cancer may help save your life. Because this national campaign happens on a digital platform, community members can participate from anywhere!

The Toolkit also includes sample posts for social media that can be easily copied and pasted into the social media platform of your choice. We encourage you to personalize these posts with pictures and information unique to your community!

Cancer Screening and Early Detection Resources

AICAF's Cancer Equity Program aims to reduce the cancer burdens on Native people by increasing cancer screening and early detection rates across Indian Country. Program staff focus their efforts on raising awareness of many common cancers faced by Indigenous people through:

- Cancer awareness campaigns that promote screening
- Culturally tailored resources, training, and media tools
- Community education and outreach activities
- Collaboration with clinics to help build capacity and improve tribal health systems

Discover more cancer screening and early detection resources at AmericanIndianCancer.org.

My Colonoscopy Tools (Download)

My FIT Test Tools (Download)

Which Screening is Right for Me? (Download)

End Colon Cancer (Download)

Signs and Symptoms (Download)

Gut Health (Download)



Colorectal Health PSA (Share link)

National Observances

When should you post your content? Below is a list of special days and weeks in March dedicated to raising awareness of various topics. Utilizing or being mindful of special days that occur during the Blue Beads campaign can help keep your posts consistent, relevant, and maintain a flow of content. Planning out your content will also help you save time!

March 2026

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, National Nutrition Month, Women's History Month, and National Kidney Cancer Awareness Month.

- March 6: Dress in Blue Day
- March 8: International Women's Day
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day
- March 20: First Day of Spring
- [March 19: Blue Beads Day](#)
- March 22: World Water Day
- National Physicians Week (March 25-31)
- March 31: Trans Day of Visibility

TIP: Be mindful of ceremonial seasons that may impact your program outreach and activities, as most tribal members take time away to participate during these sacred times.



Social Media Messaging

Tag AICAF in your social media posts so we can share and support your programs!

 americanindiancancer.org

 /AmericanIndianCancer

 @AmericanIndianCancer

Date	Topic	Media	Caption
03.01.26	Campaign Kickoff	Link	<p>Colorectal cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer among IAI/AN people and the second leading cause of cancer death.</p> <p>Support the American Indian Cancer Foundation’s Blue Beads campaign in March during National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month! Wear blue and register for AICAF’s no-cost webinars to learn more about how YOU can raise awareness about colorectal cancer in Indian Country: https://americanindiancancer.org/colorectal-cancer/</p>
03.05.26	End Colon Cancer Resource	Link	<p>Most colorectal cancer starts as non-cancerous growths or polyps, which can be detected with regular screenings and removed with a colonoscopy. Screening is highly recommended for Native men and women ages 45-75. #GetBehindCRCScreening and talk to your doctor about when screening is right for you!</p>
03.06.26	Webinars	Graphic 1 Graphic 2	<p>Join AICAF for two webinars this #BlueBeads Month. March 23rd, engage in a discussion over the importance of colorectal cancer screening in Indian Country. March 30th, tune in to Dr. Dorothy Rhoades discussing CRC prevention efforts, screening options and guidance, key AI/AN data, & more!</p>
03.08.26	Signs and Symptoms Resource	Link	<p>“But I don’t have any symptoms!”</p> <p>AI/AN people are often diagnosed with colorectal cancer in its later stages when symptoms are more obvious. Pay attention to your body and use AICAF’s resource to help you learn the signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer. Screening and Early Detection saves lives! #BlueBeads #AICAF #ScreeningSavesLives #HonorYourHealth</p>
03.09.26	Family History Resource	Link	<p>Does colorectal cancer run in your family? If so, you may be at an increased risk. Learn your family’s health history and ask your doctor if you should be screened for CRC before age 45. Use AICAF’s Family History Tree to guide you and #GetBehindCRCScreening. Don’t forget to wear blue on March 19th for #BlueBeads Day! #BlueBeads #AICAF #ScreeningSavesLives #HonorYourHealth</p>
03.11.26	Which Screening is Right for Me? Resource	Link	<p>Colorectal cancer often has no signs or symptoms in its early stages. Screening and early detection are important to treatment and changing the statistics for our future generations. Did you know there are multiple screening options?</p> <p>#GetBehindCRCScreening and talk to your doctor about which screening option is right for you. #BlueBeads #AICAF #ScreeningSavesLives #HonorYourHealth</p>
03.13.26	One Week Before Blue Beads Day Reminder	Link	<p>Blue Beads day is in ONE WEEK! Help raise awareness about colorectal cancer screening in Indian Country by taking the #BlueBeads Screening Pledge: https://forms.office.com/r/cgRBgiLhc0?origin=lprLink #AICAF #ScreeningSavesLives #HonorYourHealth</p>

Social Media Messaging

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 americanindiancancer.org

 /AmericanIndianCancer

 @AmericanIndianCancer

Date	Topic	Media	Caption
03.14.26	Survivorship	Link	A lot can be learned from the wisdom of the cancer survivors in our native communities. Read about the experiences and inspiring journeys of these brave colorectal cancer survivors: https://americanindiancancer.org/survivorship/
03.16.26	Gut Health Resource	Link	Food is medicine. Get inspired to make a gut-friendly meal! Share your favorite traditional food that promotes gut health in the comments below!!
03.18.26	One Day Before Blue Beads Day Reminder	Link	Blue Beads day is TOMORROW! Wear your favorite blue clothing or beadwork to support AICAF's #BlueBeads campaign during National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, and pledge to get screened to change colorectal cancer in Indian Country! #BlueBeads #AICAF #ScreeningSavesLives #HonorYourHealth
03.19.26	Blue Beads Day	Link	This year, it's estimated over 150,000 people will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer. Join our fight to end this preventable disease by wearing blue today to honor all those impacted by colorectal cancer. Find colorectal cancer resources, survivor stories, and more at americanindiancancer.org #BlueBeads #AICAF #ScreeningSavesLives #HonorYourHealth
03.23.26	My Colonoscopy Tools Resource	Link	Navigate your health journey with confidence! This tools resource is designed to demystify colonoscopy appointments, bringing clarity and empowerment to your colorectal health. Knowledge is key! #BlueBeads #AICAF #ScreeningSavesLives #HonorYourHealth
03.27.26	Take the Pledge	Link	As National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month concludes, let's deepen our commitment to understanding the unique challenges faced by Indigenous communities in the fight against cancer. Join your relatives in taking the #BlueBeads screening pledge to empower yourself on your health journey. Together, we stand united against colorectal cancer!



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