



Center for Health Equity, Education, & Research

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Press Release: From Plans to Action: Prevention and Support for Pregnant Blackfeet Women Using Opioids

The Center for Health Equity, Education, and Research will partner with the Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Center (RMTEC) to work with the Blackfeet tribe in combating opioid and other drug use among pregnant women on the Blackfeet Reservation. The work is supported by a grant from the Montana Healthcare Foundation. From Plans to Action: Prevention and Support for Pregnant Blackfeet Women Using Opioids will follow up on a previous MHCF planning grant from 2016, which funded RMTEC and CHEER to perform initial planning on opioid prevention among pregnant women on Blackfeet.

Last year's funds supported a conference on Blackfeet; a detailed report and feedback; an inspirational visit by a Blackfeet delegation to the Lummi tribe's opioid maintenance program; and the formation of a brand new, multi-partner Opioid Prevention Task Force (OPT) on Blackfeet.

The new funding will continue this work by solidifying and coordinating the work of the OPT; conducting focus groups/key informant interviews with opioid-users and with clinicians on Blackfeet; conducting a Gap analysis to determine any treatment shortfalls for opioid-using pregnant women on Blackfeet; assessing the adequacy of prenatal screening; and establishing a referral system for care.

