

# American Indian Cancer Foundation Circle of Cultures Community Grant Initiative

## Circle of Cultures Traditional Tobacco Grant Application

**6 Tribal Nations will receive funding to implement community-led culturally based initiatives around traditional tobacco.**

*The American Indian Cancer Foundation (AICAF) is a national nonprofit organization that was established to address the tremendous cancer inequities faced by American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people. At AICAF, we strive to eliminate the tremendous cancer burdens faced by our communities through improved access to prevention, early detection, treatment, and survivor support.*

### Background:

The foundation of Creating Connections Project: Keeping Tobacco Sacred is based on the [two tobacco ways](#) principles that honor the original intention of traditional tobacco. This principle honors tobacco as a traditional and sacred gift from the Creator to be used for cultural and spiritual purposes. Commercial tobacco use is the leading cause of death among AI/AN. Creating Connections honors that there are many Indigenous tobacco traditions, including Peoples that do not use tobacco culturally. This proposed project is dedicated to the principles of restorative Indigenous cultural health practices and acknowledges the continued historical imbalance in the health status of American Indians/Alaskan Natives communities and individuals. This project will utilize culturally-based approaches to gather, create, and disseminate tobacco control efforts and strengthen the foundation and understanding of how culture plays a vital role in seeing tobacco as traditional.

### Grant Information:

Provide funding to up to six (6) Tribal Nations to implement community-led culturally based initiatives and solutions around traditional tobacco. These grants will support the cultural systems of knowledge practices and principles to generate and implement cultural teachings and stories that lead to community-led solutions.

Grantees will receive training and technical assistance and opportunities to support the sustainability of their community's traditional tobacco (growing, harvesting, ceremonies, and relationship to traditional medicines and land).

*\*\*The Creating Connections Project is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.*

**Eligible Applicants:** *Federally Recognized Tribes: Includes Tribal governments and all tribal chartered and federally incorporated entities including tribal colleges, tribal foundations, tribal schools, tribal clinics, tribal non-profits located and operating on tribal lands serving an American Indian/Alaskan Native community.*

### Award Amount: □

\$65,000.00 for 1 Year Projects + \$10,000.00 for Travel for a total of \$75,000.00

- Timeline: 1 Year Award (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)

Timeline	
Proposal Guidelines Released	April 15, 2025
Informational Webinar	April 30, 2025

Applications Due	June 1, 2025
Awards Announced	June 15, 2025
Start of Project Period	July 1, 2025
End of Project Period	June 30, 2026

**Requirements:**

- Reporting
  - Grantees will submit quarterly financial and programmatic reports
  - If awarded, all payments will be made by ACH

**Travel Requirements:**

- Participate in Grantee Kick-off meeting (August 2025, Location TBD)
- Participate in Gathering of Native Americans Train the Trainers (October 2025)
- Participate and Present at the National Tribal Tobacco Conference (June 2026)

**Proposal information:**

Primary Guiding Question: How *does tobacco connect?*

Page Limit: 5 pages + Appendices (no limit on appendices)

**Provide the following information:**

- **Background:** Please provide the brief background information on your tribal traditional tobacco work, including how long the organization has existed, what its focus and mission are and where it is located
- **Implementation:** Describe how the project activities will support advancing culturally based initiatives focusing on traditional tobacco.
- **Sustainability:** How will you continue to carry on these teachings into your community?

The cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial use of tobacco is an inherent immutable component for many AI/AN communities. This funding does not ban, prohibit or restrict in any manner the traditional, American Indian communities. The use of cultural tobacco teachings and use are of supreme importance to the health, wellness, and welfare of many of our communities. Cultivation of tobacco for spiritual and ceremonial use is an infinite and inherent right of the Tribal communities.

***Supported activities can include but not limited to:***

- Support the sustainability of their community's traditional tobacco (growing, harvesting, ceremonies, and relationship to traditional medicines and land)
- Convening of a group of elders
- Travel (locally and nationally) to culturally based events to support traditional tobacco knowledge
- Greenhouse
- Planting Medicine Garden
- Canoes for harvesting
- Plant Walks
- Wild Plant Gathering
- Strengthening cultural tobacco practices including (using tobacco at/during cultural events)
- Smoke-free Pow-wows
- Growing Traditional Tobacco
- Seed Rematriation

- Honorariums for Elders as Wisdom Keepers
- Ceremonial uses and responsibilities of tobacco

For more information:  
 CoCo Villaluz, Deputy Director  
 American Indian Cancer Foundation  
[cvillaluz@aicaf.org](mailto:cvillaluz@aicaf.org)

Submit all Grant applications to:  
 American Indian Cancer Foundation  
[cvillaluz@americanindiancancer.org](mailto:cvillaluz@americanindiancancer.org)

*Upon submission, the Creating Connections project will respond with confirmation to the primary email provided. For additional questions or clarification please reach out to AICAF via email [traditionaltobacco@americanindiancancer.org](mailto:traditionaltobacco@americanindiancancer.org)*

### Circle of Cultures Applicant Information

Tribe:			
Address:		Phone:	
Primary Contact Name:			
Title:		Email:	

Authorized Representative Signature:	
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Date:	
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**Project Goal:** Please provide the brief background information on your organization traditional tobacco work, including how long the organization has existed, what its focus and mission are and where it is located:

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**Project Objectives + Implementation:** Describe the project and provide background history (e.g. how many years have you been working with traditional tobacco/medicines? - you may provide attachments as appropriate). List 2 specific objectives that you wish to accomplish during the project period.

Objective #1:

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Objective #2:

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**Sustainability:** How will you continue to carry on these teachings into your community?

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**Project Evaluation:** Describe what your project will collect in order to analyze and ensure that project goals and objectives are met. Additionally, please indicate the methods you will use to collect this data.

Evaluation Method	Collection Method
Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assess knowledge gained</li><li>• Project Reach</li><li>• Lessons Learned, Challenges/Successes</li></ul>	Post-Post Survey Sign-In Sheets and Photos Project Staff Interview

### **BUDGET WORKSHEET**

Please submit a detailed budget using the excel template.