

## **Blackfeet Tribe Teen Pregnancy Prevention Project**

Blackfeet Manpower was awarded a 5 year grant through the *Family and Youth Services Bureau, An Office of the Administration for Children and Families*. The purpose of the grant is to prevent pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases among adolescents, FYSB supports state, Tribal and community efforts to teach abstinence and contraceptive education. Our specific program is the Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program (Tribal PREP) promotes proven and culturally appropriate methods for reducing adolescent pregnancy, delaying sexual activity among youths and increasing abstinence and contraceptive education among sexually active youth in native communities. Programs follow design guidelines similar to those of State PREP, but are specially designed to honor tribal needs, traditions and cultures.

The grant award is from October 1st, 2021 to September 29th, 2026.

### **Goals of the Project**

The goal of the Blackfeet Teen Pregnancy Prevention Project (BTPPP) is to educate American Indian (AI) youth on or near the reservation in the areas of abstinence, pregnancy prevention, and prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and Adulthood Preparation Subjects (APS) to promote positive health outcomes for youth by reducing risky sexual behavior and decreasing teen pregnancies across so that teens will be better prepared for adulthood.

To accomplish this effort, BTPPP is using the *Respecting the Circle of Life (RCL)* Curriculum to provide a pregnancy prevention, sexual health and development program to middle school students in 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade in participating school districts serving the Blackfeet community. BTPPP has also selected four adulthood preparation subjects (Healthy Relationships, Adolescent Development, Healthy Life Skills, Parent/Child Communication) that will be incorporated into the curriculum.

### **What is the *Respecting the Life curriculum (RCL)*?**

*Respecting the Circle of Life (RCL)* is an STD/HIV education and pregnancy prevention intervention for Native American youth between ages 11 and 19 and their parents or other trusted adults. The program gives youth the knowledge and skills needed to protect themselves from unplanned pregnancies and STDs. *Respecting the Circle of Life* is adapted from *Focus on Youth with ImPACT*, a program originally developed in Baltimore to reduce the risk of HIV among urban African-American youth. The *Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health* worked with Native American community members to adapt the program for use with Native youth and families to include a focus on unintended pregnancy in addition to STD/HIV. These

adaptations were made prior to the selection of this curriculum, and indeed, are a major reason for the selection of RCL as it had been tested and found effective within AIAN youth populations.

### **Requirements on schools end and duration of partnership**

The project would like for Browning Public Schools to implement the curriculum in the 7th and 8th grade and sustain the implementation of the curriculum for the five years of the grant, with the end goal being that the implementation of the curriculum goes beyond the five years of the grant. Requirements of the grant consist of measuring progress and performance, some measures we take are measures of attendance, reach, and dosage, participant characteristics, and measures of participants' behavioral intentions and perceptions of the program and its intended effects. We will need the school's help in obtaining this data and having access to this information. We will also be conducting voluntary entry and exit surveys every year that the curriculum is implemented in order to measure the progress and performance of the curriculum we are implementing. We want to provide Increased support for sexual health education in the school and our long term goal is that the outcome of the implementation results in decreased rates of teen pregnancies and STIs, better school attendance, grades, communication, awareness of local support, healthier & happy teens, caregivers & families, increased communication skills, & long-term generational impact.