

RST CHIPRA Outreach Project

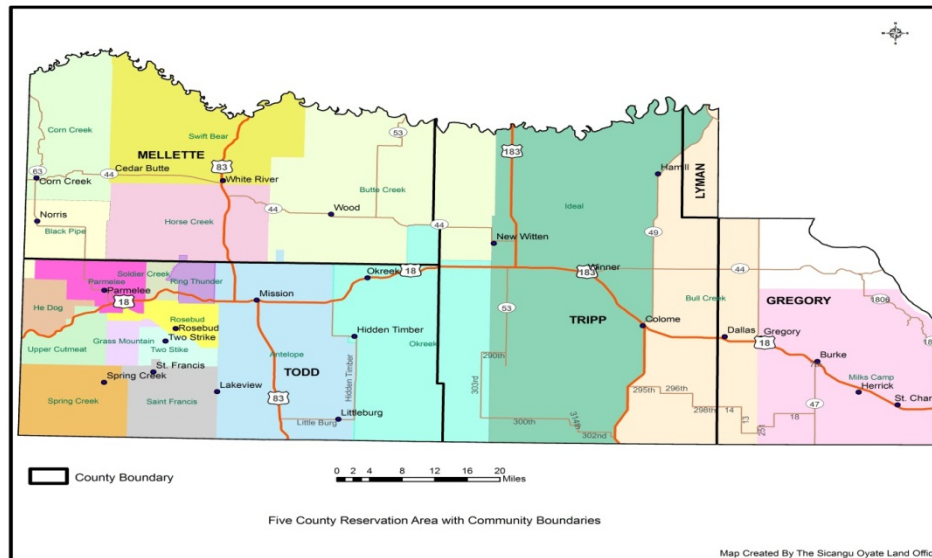
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Introduction

- As a federally recognized Indian Tribe, the Rosebud Sioux Reservation possesses a land base 922,759 acres with twenty (20) recognized Indian Communities spread throughout the counties of Todd, Mellette, Tripp, Gregory, and Lyman.



- It is the home of the Sicangu Lakota, or Rosebud Sioux, a tribal group of the western Teton Dakota. The reservation is home to over 29,000 enrolled members of the tribe with 6,992 enrolled children 0-19 years of age, not including the 443 children with pending enrollment status.
- Todd County is historically recorded by the United States Census Bureau as the third poorest county in the United States as evidenced by an average per capita income of \$ 7,500 per household. The unemployment rate hovers around 84%. This evidence suggests the number of Native American children eligible for Medicaid and CHIP is substantial.
- Indian Health Services (I.H.S.) was used as the primary data source because despite the existence of other medical clinics serving the Reservation, the Rosebud I.H.S. is the only clinic serving Indian children with or without medical coverage. Furthermore, we are targeting uninsured children, and the children who receive care at other facilities must have medical coverage in order to receive services.
- It is important to note the actual numbers of tribally enrolled children and the numbers of active I.H.S. users differ due to I.H.S. serving all Native Americans regardless of Tribal Affiliation.



Partner Program

RST CHR Program

- The CHR Program has been identified as the ideal program for this project because of their already established presence in each of the twenty communities' reservation wide.
- Through the CHR program each community has one CHR Representative available to the residents.
- Services already being provided to community members by CHRs include, but are not limited to home visits, health screenings, health fairs, and health education.
- The RST CHR program has been in operation for over 35 years and possesses rapport and credibility with tribal members who reside on the reservation.
- The commitment of the CHR program is evidenced by the passion and professionalism exhibited through their extensive efforts to assist Tribal members in achieving healthier lifestyles.



Goals of the RST CHIPRA Outreach Project

The CHIPRA program proposes to coordinate with the state of South Dakota and the Rosebud I.H.S. to conduct a three year comprehensive outreach plan to enroll all eligible Native American children residing within the boundaries of the Rosebud Sioux Reservation into a federally funded medical coverage plan such as Medicaid or CHIP. The Overall goal for this project is to:

GOAL 1: Enroll Native American children in CHIPRA Programs

Objective 1a: Provide education to the families to reduce stigma related to punitive fears associated with receipt of benefits.

Objective 1b: Create opportunities for families to enroll children into state programs.

GOAL 2: Assist in retention of medical benefits coverage of enrolled beneficiaries.

Object 2a: Provide education and opportunities for families to retain medical coverage.




Status of Project

- We are currently in all twenty (20) communities on a monthly basis. Some of our communities are so small we can service three (3) communities in one day.
- Collaborated with the area schools for client participation during Family Night and Parent/Teacher conferences.
- We have partnered early on with the RST WIC program collaborate on their clinic days out in the communities
- Door to Door outreach has proven to be the most effective method of outreach activities.
- Campaign material with program information distributed to the clients.
- Satin Star Quilt drawing for clients that complete enrollment of CHIP or Medicaid application and/or complete our client information form.





RST CHIPRA Outreach Project Performance Team

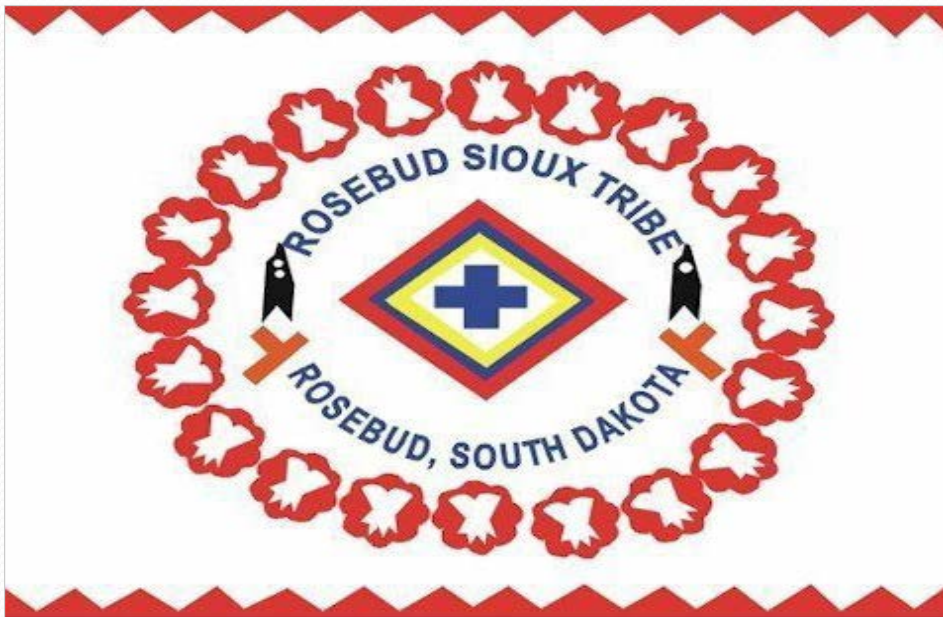
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- RST CHIPRA-Norman Running, Jr., Project Coordinator
 - RST CHIPRA-Kara Ford, Field/Data Specialist
 - RST CHR-Karen Reifel, Field Health Specialist
 - SD DSS-Janie Tinant, Benefits Specialist
 - SD DSS-Jill Sell, Regional Manager
 - Rosebud I.H.S.-Georgia Kills In Water, Patients Benefits Coordinator

Team Meeting Objectives

- The team meetings are directed toward evaluating the project data to determine if the following outcome performance measures are being met.
- Have community indicators been established, such as barriers, gaps in service delivery, demographics, etc.?
- Does the number of eligible applicants reflect the project is reaching the target population?
- Does the number of completed applications being submitted by the project staff reflect positive outreach results?

Obstacles

- Numbers that are specified in the grant (Number of applicants to be turned in monthly) as this number is unrealistic. Change the wording in the grant to reflect this change. This has been a major discussion in our Performance Team meetings.
- No funds for advertising, such as in the local newspapers and radio stations.
- The weather has been an issue the past couple months. Still out in the communities on a daily basis.



RST Tribal Support

The current administration supports our efforts in meeting our project goals by allowing our work schedules to be flexible, to support our needs in the communities.

Ongoing Activities

- Collaborating with the area schools for active participation in our project. (Todd County Schools, St. Francis Indian Schools, and White River School District)
- Will be collaborating with the RST CHR Program for annual health fairs in their respective communities, for the summer months
- Collaborated with the RST Tribal President to enroll all tribal employee's children into Medicaid or CHIP programs
- Accepting referrals for enrollment from our partner programs, such as, RST CHR, Ambulance Service, Lakota Tiwahe Center, and WIC
- Drawing for a satin star quilt for active participation in enrolling their children into our project, or providing our project with their Medicaid/CHIP information