

Diabetes & Native Americans



American Diabetes Association.

The American Diabetes Association — Working to Improve the Lives of Native Americans with Diabetes.



©2008 American Diabetes Association

About Us Awakening the Spirit: Pathways to Diabetes Prevention & Control was created as a subcommittee of the American Diabetes Association to help share important messages about diabetes. No one should have to fight diabetes alone.

It is important for you to know:

- ☀ People with diabetes can manage it
- ☀ People with diabetes can live full lives
- ☀ People with diabetes can be well enough to watch their grandchildren grow up

Our Mission To carry a message of hope to Native people that diabetes is preventable and treatable

Our Vision A future free of diabetes for Native people

Community-based Activities The Native American Initiatives is ADA's response to addressing the needs of the Native American community. At current the focus of the program's activities has centered around advocating for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) bill. The Awakening the Spirit team has been very instrumental in this effort. The team employs several advocacy strategies, including education for communities on how to advocate for diabetes funding and by contacting congressional members through letter, faxes, calls and email/internet message. The team and staff work with communities to help them lobby for issues of concern specifically addressing diabetes needs in the Native American community. ADA's Awakening the Spirit team developed an Advocacy Kit to provide tribal leaders and community member the tools they need to effectively advocate to Congress for the reauthorization of the SDPI. They also spearheaded an effort wherein several Native American communities representing 17 states, shared personal stories illustrating the critical role diabetes funding plays in their local efforts to create healthy communities. These stories were shared with various members of Congress. The program's strategy also includes development of educational materials to be disseminated and implemented in Native American communities across the country.

Call Center The American Diabetes Association has trained staff at 1-800-DIABETES who are dedicated to answering thousands of calls and e-mails every day from people with diabetes, their families, friends and health care providers. American Diabetes Association staff and volunteers serve as a source the public can count on to provide support, encouragement, and education on diabetes management; our Call Center is available M-F 8:30am-8:00pm. Information packets are tailored to meet the specific needs of each caller.

Research The American Diabetes Association funds medical research to help people with diabetes live longer, healthier and happier lives. ADA has supporting projects that focus on diabetes prevention and education in Native American communities. Topics include:

- ☀ The role of the primary care clinician in the prevention of diabetes among Native American adolescents and young adults in Southwestern communities
- ☀ Translator education and the translation of diabetes terms and concepts into Navajo

The Association also funds fellowships for under-represented minority postdoctoral candidates in an effort to increase the diversity of investigators pursuing careers in diabetes research.