

October 26, 2011

Dear Friends,

Enclosed you will find the Aboriginal Health Initiative Program (AHIP) package for 2012/2013 funding.

The following are key dates in this proposal call:

- ***October 25, 2011*** proposal call out begins
- ***October 25-December 12, 2011*** proposal development process, please call our office if you need ANY assistance in completing your application. We do have 2 volunteer mentors who have let us know that they too can assist communities to develop proposals, so please let us know as we can connect you to these resources.
- ***December 12, 2011*** proposals are due by 8 a.m., electronic, fax or mailed files are all acceptable
- ***January 2012*** review panel meets to confirm funding allocations
- ***February-April 2012*** Contracting process
- ***April 1, 2012*** Projects can begin.

The Aboriginal Health Initiative Program has \$700,000 available for new projects, for the 2012/2013 fiscal year for the Vancouver Coastal Health Region. Projects MUST have Indigenous Practices imbedded in the project methodology and focus and also MUST fit into one of the five funding streams: (as per the VCH Aboriginal Health and Wellness Plan 2008-2012)

- ***mental wellness and self-esteem,***
- ***chronic disease,***
- ***access to health care services,***
- ***early childhood, or***
- ***local community food security.***

The 2012/2013 Funding Guidelines, including what MUST be included in your Letter of Intent, are available on our website at www.vch.ca/ahip. The application, budget and letters of support can be submitted electronically but must be sent by the deadline noted above. If you are sending in your documents electronically, please ensure the subject line reads “2012-2013 AHIP”.

Partnerships, community voices and input are key to successful AHIP projects. We look forward to receiving applications that demonstrate innovative health promotion activities and community capacity building ventures that have a lasting impact on Aboriginal communities.

If you have any questions regarding this package, please contact me and I will be happy to assist.

In Friendship and Respect,

Mary Clifford, Leader Community Development/Engagement
Tel: (604) 875-5600 Extension 21253
Email: mary.clifford@vch.ca