

Zero Suicide Initiative Coordinating Center

Training and Technical Assistance to Indian Health Service Grantees in Project Year 2

July 2024 - June 2025

Background and Key Goals

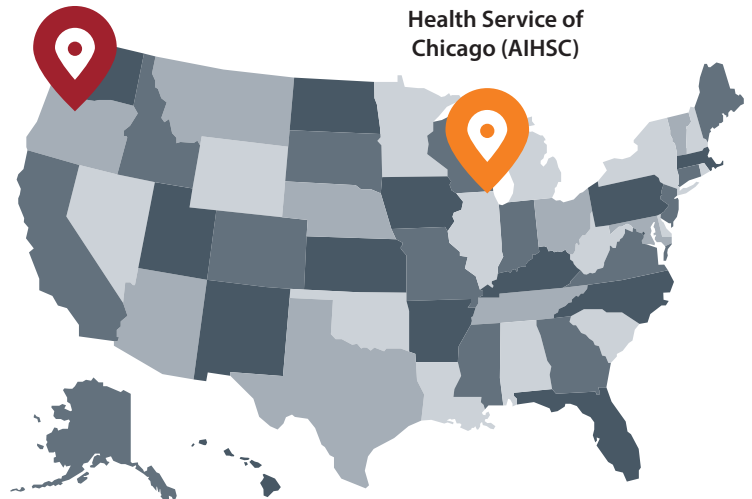
For more than a decade, the Indian Health Service (IHS) has been committed to addressing suicide in Indian Country. In 2015, IHS funded a Zero Suicide Initiative (ZSI) academy to provide training and technical assistance (TTA) to select Tribal health centers and Urban Indian Organizations (UIO) working to improve the system of care for those at risk of suicide.

Today, IHS continues its TTA support of ZSI grantees through two coordinating centers that support eight 2021 ZSI grantees.

RTI International focuses its TTA efforts on two UIO ZSI grantees: American Indian Health Service of Chicago, Inc. (AIHSC) and Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest (NARA NW).

Native American
Rehabilitation
Association of the
Northwest (NARA NW)

American Indian
Health Service of
Chicago (AIHSC)



TTA Process

RTI develops tailored TTA workplans in collaboration with the grantee organizations. Each workplan is a dynamic document based on the team's assessment and reassessment of needs throughout the project timeframe.

Workplans are updated quarterly to reflect grantee progress and changing priorities and needs, ensuring that TTA remains responsive, relevant, and aligned with grantee's needs and implementation realities.



Needs
Assessment



Individualized
TA Workplans



TA
Activities



Monthly individualized TA sessions
with each UIO



ZSICC TTA resource hub:
<https://zsicc.com/resources/>



Group technical assistance/
webinars



Annual Grantee Meeting

ZSI Framework

Guided by the **Zero Suicide Framework for Safe Suicide Care**, RTI co-creates TTA goals with ZSI grantees each year.



ZSI Framework Elements and Corresponding ZSI Grantee TTA Goals (Year 2)

ZSI Element	TA Goals	ZSI Element	TA Goals
	Use comprehensive screening tools for suicide prevention.		Facilitate the transition to a new EHR system.
 	Facilitate the transition to a new electronic health record (EHR) and parallel data system.	 	Engage with community partners to expand reach of ZSI programming and strengthen care pathways.
	Use survey data and patient feedback for decision making and quality improvement.		Provide continuous updates, support, and resources to community partners.
	Improve evaluation planning and evaluation process to align with future goals and objectives.	 	Improve communication and relationship with local law enforcement.
	Provide staff training on requested areas of interest.		



Lead



Train



Identify



Engage



Treat



Transition



Improve

TTA Activities by the Numbers

From July 2024 to June 2025, RTI International delivered TTA through several channels and invited participants to provide feedback to inform future TTA efforts.

10

individualized TTA sessions for American Indian Health Service of Chicago, Inc.

09

individualized TTA sessions for Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest

05

virtual webinars and peer-sharing sessions (152 attendees in total)

Across all webinars, most participants reported satisfaction with the information presented; that they would be able to apply what they learned during the webinar to their work; and that the webinar met the intended objectives.

“Both presenters offered valuable information.”

Suicide Care and Treatment Modalities, October 2024

“It was great information and wonderful speakers.”

Police Engagement in Mental Health Crisis Response and Suicide Prevention, April 2025

“The webinar was excellent and informative.”

Ask Suicide Screening Questions encore webinar, May 2025

[These images do not reflect the individuals' quotes and instead are taken from gettyimages.com]

2025 Annual Grantee Meeting

There were **30** attendees from the eight grantee organizations. **7** in-person sessions covered numerous topics.

Current State of Sustainability Efforts



Provider Burnout



Using the Indigenous Evaluation Toolkit with Workforce Survey and Organizational Self-Study Data



Zero Suicide Initiative Model Sustainability Panel



Community Advisory Board



Review of ZSI Implementation



Chronic Pain Management as Part of Suicide Prevention



Lead



Train



Identify



Engage



Treat



Transition



Improve

Most attendees reported that the hybrid meeting sessions met the intended learning objectives and provided helpful information that they could apply to their work supporting ZSI implementation.

“The interactive sessions were very helpful, learning what other organizations do to care for the patients and to make ZSI program successful.”

“This webinar was excellent. Would love to have access to the recording to share with staff.”

“I learned new ways for sustainability and new ideas to help implement ZSI in my community.”

[These images do not reflect the individuals' quotes and instead are taken from gettyimages.com]

TTA Outcomes

TTA activity outcomes are reported annually. In Year 2, grantees reported outcomes addressing several elements of the Zero Suicide Framework Care.

Assessed gaps in community partnership and opportunities for outreach.	
Participated in community coalitions and engaged community partners in a Community Advisory Board.	
Identified opportunities to leverage community partnerships to strengthen the ZSI program.	
Identified ways to represent data in a dynamic visual format to better engage staff and community partners.	
Increased capacity to collect and analyze data to inform ongoing planning and improvement efforts.	 
Identified missing data elements and identified what data could help complete the evaluation process.	
Examined evaluation practices and learned how to integrate Indigenous methodologies into evaluation.	 
Strengthened capacity to leverage health information technology (IT) for suicide prevention.	 
Identified best practices for establishing IT and EHR leadership structure.	 
Learned how to use new EHR system and improved existing processes.	 
Discussed processes and policies for implementation of a parallel data collection system.	 
Identified key community partners to engage, clarified internal processes for collaboration, and began developing a more intentional and structured approach to community partnerships.	 
Developed a communication plan.	
Identified best practices for hosting meetings with law enforcement and other community partners.	 
Strengthened capacity to leverage health IT for suicide prevention, address chronic pain as a suicide risk factor, and engage law enforcement in crisis response.	 
Supported staff wellbeing.	



Lead



Train



Identify



Engage



Treat



Transition



Improve

Acknowledgments

Acknowledgments: This document was developed by members of RTI International's ZSI Coordinating Center (Monica Desjardins, Michele Dorsainvil, Kate Ferriola-Bruckenstein, Rebecca Perry, and Ivette Rodriguez Borja) with graphics and editing support from Tayo Jolaoso and Christina Rodriguez.