

Frequently Asked Questions: Patient Discussions as Part of the Zero Suicide Initiative Coordinating Center

Evaluation of the Urban Indian Organizations' Zero Suicide Initiative

RTI International has been hired by the Indian Health Service (IHS) to serve as a Zero Suicide Initiative Coordinating Center and conduct an independent evaluation of the Urban Indian Organizations' Zero Suicide Initiatives (ZSI) also known as Unity Circle and Healing Rooted in Tradition and Culture. The purpose of this evaluation is to understand patients' experiences with Unity Circle and Healing Rooted in Tradition and Culture and any impacts of the program.

Each year, RTI visits AIHSC to speak with staff about Unity Circle and Healing Rooted in Tradition and Culture. This year, we hope to speak with patients about Unity Circle and Healing Rooted in Tradition and Culture.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Patient Discussions

1. *How many discussions will be conducted and with whom?*

We plan to conduct no more than 4 interviews with patients this year. We also plan to interview Unity Circle and Healing Rooted in Tradition and Culture staff and other staff at AIHSC.

2. *When will these discussion take place?*

Interviews will take place in November 2026. We will conduct interviews virtually using Zoom at a date and time that works for you.

3. *Who will conduct these discussion?*

The interviews will be conducted by two RTI staff. One staff member will ask questions and the other will take notes.

4. *How are patients identified for these discussions?*

We are asking AIHSC to reach out to patients who have been involved in Unity Circle and Healing Rooted in Tradition and Culture for more than 60 days and have a documented safety plan in the system. AIHSC is doing initial email outreach. Interested patients that meet the criteria more than 60 days of involvement and a documented safety plan in place are being encouraged to email zsicc@rti.org to schedule an interview.

5. *Where will the interviews be conducted?*

The interviews will be conducted virtually using Zoom.

6. *Will interview participants receive an incentive for any costs such as time, travel, and possibly child care?*

Yes, interview participants will receive a \$65 incentive to pay for their time, travel, and other expenses incurred to participate in the interview.

7. *Will information discussed during the interview be shared?*

All information discussed will be de-identified for analysis and reported in summary form. No information identifying from individual participants will be provided in any of the public written materials.

All participants will be asked to consent prior to participating. Consent information will assure participants that any information they provide to the RTI team will remain confidential and that they will incur no penalties if they do not wish to respond to any or all questions or topics.

8. *What type of questions will you ask during the interview?*

The interviews will ask questions about:

1. Your experience with Unity Circle and Healing Rooted in Tradition and Culture including what you like about it and what you dislike; and
2. What has gotten better or worse since you started participating with Unity Circle and Healing Rooted in Tradition and Culture.

9. *How long will the discussions last?*

Each interview will be about 60 minutes.

10. *Will the discussions be recorded?*

The discussions will be recorded so that we can ensure our notes are complete and accurate.

11. *Will the discussions be conducted in multiple languages or have translation services available?*

All discussions will be conducted in English.

Further Questions?

Please feel free to contact the following individuals:

- **The RTI Project Director:**
Rebecca Perry at rjperry@rti.org
- **The RTI Institutional Review Board that approved this data collection:**
RTI International's Institutional Review Board, Office of Research Protection, 1-866-214-2043