

HPOG Program Summary



Blackfeet Community College Issksiniip Project: Meeting the Holistic Health and Education Needs of the Niitsitapi

Location:

Browning, Montana

Program Goals:

- Enroll 712 participants into training and education programs
- Ensure that 570 of those enrolled complete training
- Enable 460 of those who complete training to find employment in healthcare

Health Professions Taught:

Successful participants earn certifications qualifying them to be a certified nurse assistant, emergency medical technician/paramedic, nurse, or community health representative, or to work in the fields of allied health, human services, social work, health and physical fitness, or holistic healthcare.

Approach:

Blackfeet Community College (BCC) provides Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients and other low-income individuals the opportunity to pursue associate degrees, with the option to transfer into a 4-year degree program. Associate degree courses are offered through classroom and online instruction, combined with hands-on internships at reservation healthcare facilities. BCC also provides certificate programs and trainings through classroom and on-site practicum instruction. The college also provides a Holistic Health Care certificate for completion of studies about the unique framework of alternative tribal healthcare knowledge and practices.

Key partners include the Blackfeet Community Hospital, Blackfeet Care Center, various tribal health programs, and School District #9, all of which provide facilities for hands-on training. Blackfeet Manpower Program One-Stop offers a holistic approach to the provision of educational and occupational opportunities and provides support services including cash benefits, emergency services, employment stipends, and job-readiness training. Other key partners are the Glacier County Office of Public Assistance and the Blackfeet Care Center, a full-service nursing home and assisted living facility on the reservation. Other collaborating agencies include the Blackfeet Community Hospital, Blackfeet Tribal Health Department, University of Montana, Montana State University, and the Salish Kootenai College.

Additional services to program participants include childcare, tuition and fees, books, transportation, tutoring, GED (General Educational Development) preparation, remedial services, and training designed to enable participants to acquire the skills necessary to complete a degree or 1-year certificate program. Placement counselors, academic support counselors, and retention counselors as well as mentors are available to participating students. Participants are also eligible for financial assistance sufficient to enable them to focus on their studies.