

PROMOTING BETTER DIABETES CARE FOR RESIDENTS OF NORTH DAKOTA

Support for health professional education, outreach to Native Americans, and patient initiatives

Public Health Problem

- North Dakota has limited resources, is home to health systems that are cutting staff and services for economic reasons, and is sparsely populated by an increasingly aging population as younger people leave for better paying jobs and a kinder climate.
- These factors create a huge challenge to public and private health interests to employ and retain the qualified staff needed to solve the state's health problems such as the increase in the number of state residents with diabetes, particularly among the American Indian population.

Program

- The Dakota Diabetes Coalition began as a loose network of practitioners that now has wide outreach to diabetes care providers in the state, many of whom have reduced opportunities for ongoing education and travel due to personal and workplace financial considerations.
- The Diabetes Prevention and Control Program conducted a provider needs assessment and funds salaries for a part time director and part time administrative and web support staff for the coalition. The non-profit status the coalition is seeking in order to be eligible to receive grants will allow them to offer more programs and services for Coalition members and for the people with diabetes they serve.

Impact

The Dakota Diabetes Coalition is.....

..... meeting the need for tailored continuing education identified by diabetes care providers by offering regular updates on diabetes topics provided by a North Dakota physician who is an expert in diabetes prevention and control, distributing a free diabetes team guide that offers free continuing medical education hours and providing guest speakers on timely topics

..... providing scholarships and arranging mentors for people taking the Certified Diabetes Educator exam to increase the number of trained practitioners available to help people control their diabetes

..... supporting the North Dakota Pharmacy Association pilot to expand diabetes patient education and MediQHome, an advanced medical home project using technology to track patient-centered care, a first-of-its-kind undertaking

..... increasing outreach to American Indians by moving an annual in-person meeting to the United Tribes Technical College, a more convenient venue and by including tribal managers in regular conference calls

..... continuing to recruit members who cite the coalition's strengths as clear communication, opportunities for leadership, and conflict resolution

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