



# Road Map for American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples

**NAPA Advisory Council Meeting**  
January 13, 2025



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## Road Map for American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples



The new *Healthy Brain Initiative: Road Map for American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples* provides actionable steps for strengthening public health responses to Alzheimer's and other dementias in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Building on the success of the first edition released in 2019, this updated Road Map:

- Focuses on the indigenous determinants of health;
- Has inclusive imagery and graphics;
- Includes examples of public health actions from AI/AN communities.

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## Leadership Committee

- 21 members
- Co-chaired by the Alzheimer’s Association and CDC
- 15/21 members are American Indian or Alaska Native People
- There was also AI/AN representation on each of the staff teams: writing, facilitation, graphics and review

- » **Co-Chair: Carl V. Hill, Ph.D., MPH**, Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer, Alzheimer’s Association
- » **Co-Chair: Lisa C. McGuire, Ph.D.**, Senior Health Scientist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- » **Collette Adamsen, Ph.D., MPA**, (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa), Research Assistant Professor, Director of the National Resource Center on Native American Aging, University of North Dakota
- » **Ronny Bell, Ph.D., M.S.**, (Lumbee), Fred Eshelman Distinguished Professor, Chair of Division of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- » **Bill Benson**, President and Executive Director, International Association of Indigenous Aging
- » **Catherine Carrico, Ph.D.**, Clinical Associate Professor, Associate Director, University of Wyoming Center on Aging
- » **Ryan Eagle** (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation), Public Health Research Project Manager, American Indian Public Health Resource Center
- » **Abigail Echo-Hawk, M.A.**, (Pawnee), Director of the Urban Indian Health Institute, Executive Vice President, Seattle Indian Health Board
- » **Bruce Finke, M.D.**, Elder Health Consultant, Indian Health Service
- » **Will Funmaker, MBA, MLT (ASCP)CM**, (Ho-Chunk Nation), Director, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center

- » **R. Turner Goins, Ph.D.**, Ambassador Jeanette Hyde Distinguished Professor, Western Carolina University
- » **R. Kim Hartwig, M.D.**, (Nez Perce/Diné/Cowichan), Medical Director, Nimiipuu Health
- » **J. Neil Henderson, Ph.D.**, (Choctaw), Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota Medical School
- » **Cynthia LaCounte** (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa), Director of the Office of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Programs, Administration for Community Living
- » **LaRita Laktonen-Ward, MPH**, (Alutiiq), Project Director for Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country Coordinating Center, Senior Program Manager, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- » **Jessica Lewandowski, MBA**, (Cherokee Nation), Patient Experience Manager, Cherokee Nation Health Services
- » **Jordan P. Lewis, Ph.D., MSW**, (Aleut, Native Village of Naknek), Associate Director of the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team, Professor, University of Minnesota
- » **Twila Martin Kekahbah, M.Ed.**, (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa), TMK Independent Contractor
- » **Julianna Reece, M.D., MPH, MBA**, (Diné/Navajo), Director of the Healthy Tribes Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- » **Billie Toheo** (Otoe-Missouria), Executive Director, National Indian Council on Aging
- » **Chandra Wilson, MSW**, (Modoc/Klamath/Yahooskin), Project Director, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

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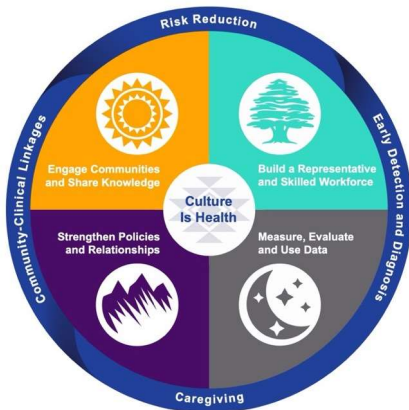
## Road Map Development Timeline

November 2023	Fall/Winter	Spring/Summer	Fall 2024
<p><b>Leadership Committee Convened</b></p> <p>Experts provided guidance and perspective to shape the next version of the HBI Road Map for Indian Country and public health’s role in reducing the population impacts of cognitive decline</p>	<p><b>Open Input Period</b></p> <p>Online written and discussion input sessions to receive public input on the next HBI RMIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feb/March: Host in-person Leadership Committee Meeting to review feedback and finalize actions</li> </ul>	<p><b>Drafting, Reviewing, and Designing</b></p> <p>Draft the content of the RMIC, finalize design and graphics, complete review sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August: Virtual leadership committee meeting to receive feedback on Road Map draft</li> </ul>	<p><b>Review, Release and Promotion!</b></p> <p>Synthesize feedback and publish in November 2024.</p> <p>Broad dissemination and engagement of the release</p>

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# Framework for the Healthy Brain Initiative Road Map



## Road Map for American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples

The framework for the Road Map consists of four domains built from the Essential Public Health Services. This framework is centered around culture and surrounded by the areas of practice across the life course. The wheel depicts the interconnectedness of these elements showing the essential nature of each in a successful strategy to improve brain health.

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**Engage Communities and Share Knowledge:** Public health engages with AI/AN communities to understand how knowledge can be shared. Public health professionals in the community can then share practices to increase awareness about the factors that influence brain health and ways to maintain or improve cognitive health and ultimately quality of life.

*The sun icon symbolizes warmth, energy and growth as communities engage and share knowledge together.*



**Build a Representative and Skilled Workforce:** Public health is responsible for training and preparing the public health and health care workforce to provide culturally centered and appropriate care to people at risk for or living with dementia while also supporting caregivers.

*The cedar tree icon represents protection and healing. The diverse uses of the tree call to mind the roles of the different members of the workforce.*



**Measure, Evaluate and Use Data:** Public health supports data sovereignty while working with communities to monitor health status, identify and solve community health problems, and evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality of health improvement programs. Findings are shared with the community and used to inform programs and policies to improve brain health across the life course.

*The moon icon symbolizes the moon's role as a guide and a timekeeper, signifying transformation and the importance of measurement and data.*



**Strengthen Policies and Relationships:** Public health strengthens, supports and mobilizes community partnerships to improve brain health. It also creates, champions and implements supportive policies and plans by increasing awareness of dementia and its impact among tribal leadership.

*The mountain range icon signifies strength and sacredness, representing the power of policies and relationships.*

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## Implementation Funding Opportunity

### The Healthy Brain Initiative (HBI) Road Map

**Champions Program** is a funding opportunity for tribally-led health programs and urban Indian organizations will support the implementation of the public health strategies in the Road Map.

Ten HBI Road Map Champions will be awarded in spring 2025.

Applications for the 9-month grants are open now. [View the application](#) to learn more and reach out to [publichealth@alz.org](mailto:publichealth@alz.org) with questions. Applications close February 21<sup>st</sup>.



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## Register for the Launch Webinar

**January 22 at 2:30pm EST**

*Honoring Traditions and Uplifting Strengths to Promote Brain Health: The HBI Road Map for AI/AN Peoples.*

- Hear from Road Map Leadership Committee members on how they worked to include culturally-centered practices that promote brain health in the Road Map
- Learn how to integrate the Road Map guidance into public health and community-based initiatives



Registration link

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