

# The Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI)

## *Saving Lives in Louisiana and Providing a Strong Return on the Federal Investment*

### History of SDPI

Congress established the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) in 1997 to address the growing epidemic of diabetes in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities. This program has grown and become our nation's most strategic and effective federal initiative to combat diabetes. SDPI is currently reauthorized through fiscal year 2017.

### SDPI Outcomes

SDPI funding supports over 450 programs in 35 states, and the results have been extraordinary. We are now able to document that this investment is both saving lives and saving our federal healthcare system money. Blood sugar levels have decreased, the risk of cardiovascular disease has been reduced, diabetes-related kidney disease progression has slowed, and primary prevention and weight management programs for children and youth have increased.

"I have been a diabetic for 24 years and my Tribe's Health Department has done an outstanding job in providing services, glucose meters, test strips, education and most importantly visits to Doctors. The doctor visits allows us to maintain our diabetes and ensure we are doing everything to offset this disease."

Christy Murphy  
Jena Band of Choctaw, Louisiana

National Indian  
Health Board



For more information, visit [www.nihb.org/SDPI](http://www.nihb.org/SDPI)

### SDPI support in Louisiana

According to 2010 CDC data, approximately 358,000 adults in Louisiana – 10.7% of the state's population- had diagnosed diabetes, and many of them suffer from serious diabetes related complications or conditions. In addition to the human toll diabetes places on people in Louisiana, the financial burden diabetes places on the state's health system is staggering- in 2012, the estimated direct and indirect cost of diabetes in Louisiana was approximately \$4.19 billion.

### SDPI funding in Louisiana totals

**\$307,288.**

**Of this total, \$307,288 funds four  
Community-Directed Grant programs.**

### Programs

- Chitimacha
- Coushatta
- Jena Band of Choctaw
- Tunica-Biloxi

### Renewal Is Vital

SDPI is providing a strong return on the federal investment and is saving lives in Nebraska. Congress must renew this critical program to ensure that the SDPI funded programs can continue their important work and that the lessons learned from these programs can be disseminated across Indian Country and replicated to keep us on the path to a diabetes-free future