

# Special Diabetes Program for Indians

*Saving lives in New Mexico and providing a strong return on federal investment.*



## History

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 the nation's most strategic and effective federal initiative to combat diabetes. SDPI is currently authorized through fiscal year 2017.

## SDPI Outcomes

SDPI funding supports over 300 diabetes treatment and prevention programs in 35 states, and the results have been extraordinary. The structure of the grant program has allowed Tribes to collect data and document that this investment is both saving lives and saving the federal healthcare system money. For example, according to the United States Renal Data System, there has been a remarkable decline in diabetes incidence rates among AI/ANs since 1998 that has resulted in **a 29% decline, more than any other race**, in prevalence rates of end-stage renal disease (ESRD) – a costly complication often linked with diabetes. ESRD requires expensive treatments and is the single largest driver of Medicare costs. The Medicare cost per year for hemodialysis (a common ESRD treatment) exceeded \$84,000 per patient in 2013.



*"If it wasn't for the Heart Saver Project, we would be suffering."*

-Elsie R. Pino  
Ramah Navajo Heart Saver Program

## Diabetes in New Mexico

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in 2014, approximately 217,000 people in New Mexico – **10.4% of the population** – had diagnosed diabetes, and many suffered from serious diabetes related conditions such as heart disease, neuropathy, and eye, foot and skin complications. In addition to the human toll diabetes places on the people of New Mexico, it also places a large financial burden on the state's healthcare system. In 2013, the staggering estimate of direct and indirect cost of diabetes in New Mexico was approximately \$1.53 billion.

## FY 2016 SDPI funding in New Mexico supports 29 Community-Directed Grant Programs at:

- Alamo Navajo School
- Canoncito Band
- Jicarilla Apache Nation
- Ohkay Owingeh
- Pueblo of Acoma
- Pueblo of Isleta
- Pueblo of Laguna
- Pueblo of Pojoaque
- Pueblo of San Felipe
- Pueblo of Zia
- Ramah Navajo School
- Santa Clara Pueblo
- Taos Pueblo
- Gallup Service Unit
- Shiprock Service Unit
- Albuquerque Unit
- First Nations Community
- Mescalero Apache Tribe
- Picuris Pueblo
- Pueblo of Cochiti
- Pueblo of Jemez
- Pueblo of Nambe
- Pueblo of Sandia
- Pueblo of San Ildefonso
- Pueblo of Zuni
- Santa Ana Pueblo
- Santa Domingo Tribe
- Crownpoint Unit
- Kayenta Service Unit

## Renewal is Vital

**Congress must renew this critical program** to ensure that the SDPI funded programs can continue their important work and that lessons learned from these programs can be shared and replicated to keep Indian Country on the path to a diabetes-free future.

National Indian  
Health Board



To find out more about SDPI, visit [www.nihb.org/SDPI](http://www.nihb.org/SDPI)