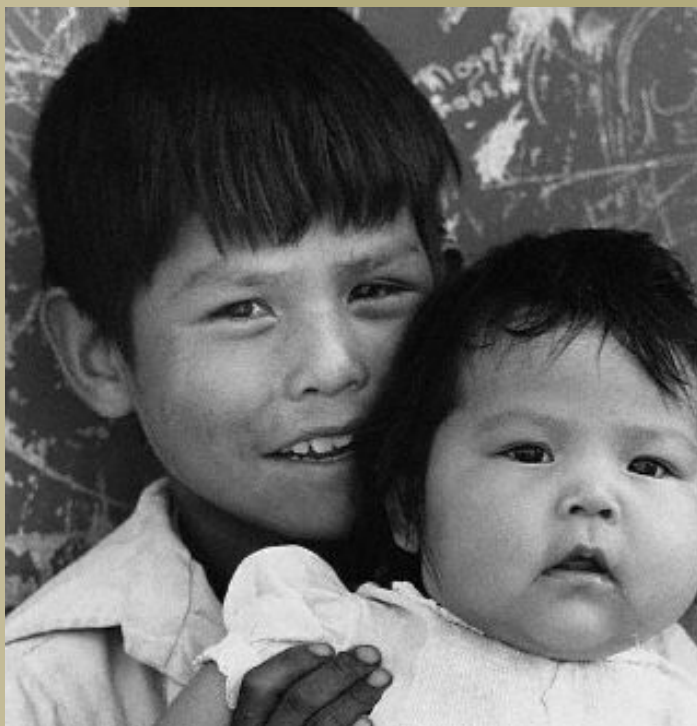




Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation

Celebrate Native Health



An Opportunity
for American Indian
and Alaska Native
Youth to Create
Community Change

Call for Proposals

Brief Proposal Deadline

April 1, 2006

United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY) believes in the power of Native youth to engage in action that yields visible, meaningful results for their communities. Through its Healthy Lifestyles Campaign and Celebrate Fitness, UNITY Native youth councils have promoted healthy, active living within their tribes, villages, schools, and communities. While Celebrate Fitness focused mostly on active living and physical activity, this new program, Celebrate Native Health, will build on the success of Celebrate Fitness and will emphasize healthy eating.

Now UNITY youth councils can take action to influence the health and destiny of their tribes, villages and communities! With funding provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), UNITY is calling upon youth to help build healthy communities by taking a key leadership role in preventing obesity!

RWJF is committed to tackling childhood obesity—one of today’s most pressing threats to the health of our nation’s children and families. The Foundation’s goal is to help halt the rise in childhood obesity rates by promoting physical activity and healthy eating in schools and communities throughout the nation. RWJF places special emphasis on reaching the children at greatest risk, including Native youth.

Kids know better than anybody about how to reach out to other kids, but they can’t solve the problem of obesity alone. UNITY and RWJF will assist youth councils in developing action plans and provide small grants to support their work. *Celebrate Native Health* will provide members of participating youth councils the opportunity to participate in UNITY national meetings and to interact with experts, national leaders, and other youth councils throughout the United States.

**General Information
Concerning the
Program and
Application Process:**

Up to 12 UNITY-affiliated youth councils will be elected to organize *Celebrate Native Health* projects within their tribes, villages, schools or communities. The selected youth councils each will receive up to \$32,000 over four years. They will develop projects involving children, youth and families that make it easier to have healthy foods and participate in fun physical activities.

The participating youth councils will represent the geographic diversity of Native America and will include youth councils from reservations, Alaska Native villages, urban areas and other off-reservation programs.

Youth can gain a lot from participating in *Celebrate Native Health*, including:

1. Networking skills (with other youth councils, community members, national leaders)
2. Leadership skills
3. Organizational and planning skills
4. Teamwork skills for working with peers
5. Skills to collaborate with adult leaders and community organizations
6. Support and guidance from RWJF and UNITY

Celebrate Native Health is about youth leadership for community change. UNITY youth councils can help overcome the barriers to healthy eating and physical activity. They will lead by example and affect change within themselves, as well as their families, tribes, villages, schools and communities.

Eligibility:

Any Native youth council affiliated with UNITY is eligible to apply. If you’d like to find out how to organize a youth council, please go to the UNITY Web site at: <http://www.unityinc.org>

How to apply:

1. First, youth council members should tell their youth council adviser(s) that they're interested in participating. The youth then should request support of the application from the leadership of the youth council's sponsoring tribe/village/school/urban organization. The tribe/village/school/urban organization should provide a resolution or letter authorizing the youth council to submit an application and committing its support. It will be helpful if specific support is listed, such as office space, staffing, transportation, and/or additional funding.
2. Next, youth council members should work with their advisers to address the five issues listed in the application. Be sure to include the signatures of your advisers and council members. The application responses should be formatted in 12-point type, with one-inch margins all round. The completed application should not exceed five pages, not counting any supplemental information.
3. Applicants may attach supplemental information, such as a list of community partners (and others outside of the community) who will assist with the project; letters of commitment from the sponsoring tribe, village, school or organization; and indications of community commitment to similar initiatives, including news clippings and/or copies of brochures. Other supplemental information is described in the application as follows.
4. Send the original and two copies of the completed application to:

Celebrate Native Health
c/o UNITY
500 North Broadway Ave., Suite 10
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

To be considered, applications must arrive at the UNITY office before the close of business on April 1, 2006.

UNITY Celebrate Native Health Grant Application

Please type responses to the following and send to UNITY.

- I. **Youth Leadership Influence**—Provide examples of youth influence in your community or school setting and describe the role of youth leadership in that setting. Applicants also may include supplemental information, such as thank you letters and news clippings that demonstrate youth commitment to past community projects.
- II. **Community Description**—Provide a general description of the tribe, village, school or urban organization. Include relevant demographic information. Describe the problem of obesity in your community and related health problems, such as diabetes, arthritis and other community health risks.
- III. **Community Resources and Need**—Provide a list of resources (e.g., gym, wellness center, swimming facility, restaurant, local food store, Indian Health Service clinic, and staff who may be available). Applicant may attach supplemental information, such as a list of potential volunteers (e.g., coaches, trainers and medical and health personnel), organizations (Boys and Girls Clubs, and the YMCA), and others who share a similar interest and may become involved in the project.
- IV. **Youth Commitment**—Provide a description of the youth council and its overall goals. Include the date the youth council was first organized and a brief description of community projects completed. Supplemental information (in the appendix) should include:
 - A list of the names of the currently active members.
 - If appropriate, a resolution by the youth council that states its commitment to this initiative and includes the signature of the adult adviser and the signatures of youth council members who commit to active participation.

- V. **Leadership/Community Commitment**—Resolution of commitment by the sponsoring tribe, village, school or urban organization to the youth council and its proposed participation in Celebrate Native Health project. Provide a list of concrete ways that the community and its leadership will be supporting this work. Support may be in the form of matching dollars, space, transportation funds, etc.

Remember that advisers and youth council members should sign the application and a letter or resolution supporting the application should be included.

Application Scoring: Applications will be scored using the following maximum values assigned to the respective sections.

Section	Maximum point value
I. Youth Leadership/Influence	20
II. Community Description	10
III. Community Resources & Need	20
IV. Youth Commitment	25
V. Leadership/Community Commitment	25
Total Points Possible	100

Program Steps and Timeline:

- Applications from youth councils must be received at the UNITY office by April 1, 2006.
- All applicants will be notified about the results of the selection process by April 30, 2006.
- Each selected youth council will receive a planning grant for \$2,000 on or around May 15, 2006.
- Project orientation will take place Wednesday, July 12, and Thursday, July 13, before the 2006 National UNITY Conference in Buffalo, New York. (Travel expenses will be covered by UNITY.)
- From May 2006 to November 15, 2006, each participating youth council will work on developing an action plan. The \$2,000 planning grant might be used for external or local experts to help guide plans, as well as for surveys of the food and physical

activity environments in local communities or schools. Each youth council will be expected to organize a Health Committee that includes leaders and representatives of key local organizations, such as health clinics, recreation centers and schools. UNITY staff, a national advisory committee and other experts will assist in the planning process and will review the written action plans. During this time, the participating youth council members will participate in sessions on how to make significant lasting changes in their communities and schools.

- To carry out their action plans, selected youth councils will receive \$10,000 per year for three years if they successfully complete their annual goals as determined by UNITY project staff.
- Each youth council will present a progress report at the annual UNITY conference. Youth councils will actively work with community organizations and tribal/village leadership to maximize the continuation and further development of their projects. The nearly four-year time line will ensure that new students can get involved and that the projects become part of the fabric of the community.

Be Creative. Innovate. Take Action.

We have looked over the horizon together, and what lies before us is a universe of possibilities.

John Herrington, first member of a Native American tribe to travel in outer space

About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. The Foundation seeks to:

- Assure that all Americans have access to quality health care at reasonable cost.
- Improve the quality of care and support for people with chronic health conditions.
- Promote healthy communities and lifestyles.
- Reduce the personal, social and economic harm caused by substance abuse—tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs.

For more than 30 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime.

For more information, visit www.rwjf.org.

Sign up to receive e-mail alerts on upcoming Calls for Proposals at:
<http://subscribe.rwjf.org>



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