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SUPPORTING THE TRAJECTORIES OF OUR SPIRIT: LIVING KIIPAATAAPIISIINII (OUR SPIRITUAL WAY OF LIFE) – RESEARCH ASSOCIATE JOB POSTING

Date: April 21, 2021

Subject: Supporting the Trajectories of Our Spirit: Living Kiipaataapiisiinii (Our Spiritual Way of Life) – Research Associate Job Posting

Prepared for: Blackfoot Confederacy Nation Members

JOB DESCRIPTION

The *Supporting the Trajectories of Our Spirit* is a Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) funded project, and was developed in partnership with the Blackfoot Confederation Tribal Council (BCTC) and the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba (FNHSSM). The project aims to support wellness by taking back the roles and responsibilities of our women, families and Nations to provide access and knowledge of the ceremonies to support life. The purpose of the project will be to answer the proposed research question: ***How do cultural, spiritual, land-based and community connections from the time of birth impact the health and well-being of our children as defined by our Nations?*** The Nation's Research Associate will be responsible for working with an Advisory Committee (AC) in their Nation to plan, coordinate and implement the project activities for the duration of the project, ending November 2022.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Research Associate (RA) will work with the Alberta Project Coordinator (PC) and the Nation's Health Director (HD) to perform a range of duties and responsibilities that will contribute to the goals and successes of the *Supporting the Trajectories of Our Spirit* in their Nation.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Complete training in data collection, OCAP®, informed consent, qualitative and quantitative data collection, discussion circles facilitation, and the training by Thunderbird Partnership Foundation to lead discussions on biological & genetic sampling and research
- Work with the PC and the Nation's AC that will direct the implementation of the research in their Nation to:
 - Analyze, interpret the findings, and develop a dissemination plan
 - Identify and document activities and programs that support wellness across the lifespan. The focus will be to highlight the innovation and initiatives the Nation is already doing
- Lead discussion circles on DNA biological sampling
- Provide support during discussion circles and other activities to further define the indicators of well-being for their Nation
- Complete birth helper training developed by Wijiiji'idiwewag ikwewag, and then work with Blackfoot knowledge keepers, mothers, and health providers to develop a Blackfoot birth helper training, based on Blackfoot knowledge and traditions





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- Coordinate and manage the Indigenous birth helper program, including matching mothers and birth helpers, supporting continuing education and mentorship for the birth helpers, and processing payment for the birth helpers
- Conduct guided interviews within 2 weeks to one month after birth with the families that have a birth helper and recruit them into the longer-term cohort study
- Conduct discussion circles (focus groups) with the birth helpers, families and health care professionals in year two to examine the impact of the intervention on connection to culture. This will also include a review of the proposed nation-based indicators to determine which indicators they feel would be most impacted by the intervention (support from a birth helper)
- Build collaborative relationships and provide ongoing liaison with other Nations involved in the project, BCTC, FNHSSM, and other stakeholders within and outside the Nation
- Ensure data security protocols are adhered to
- Collaborate with the PC to provide presentations and written reports to various audiences including First Nation leadership, health directors, Nation members, knowledge keepers, policy makers, academic conferences and journals
- Meet regularly with the PC and research team to discuss the project's progress, provide updates, report issues and status, and quality of data collection
- Perform other duties as assigned

QUALIFICATIONS

- Post-secondary education and/or two years relevant work experience
- Comfortable and experienced in facilitation and presenting to groups
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office
- Ability to speak Blackfoot is an asset
- Ability to interact with researchers and staff, create and maintain relationships with research team and stakeholders
 - Strong organizational skills
 - Knowledge of Indigenous research methods
 - Knowledge of Blackfoot history, culture, traditions and practices
 - Proficiency in use of computers and relevant information technology
- Excellent written and interpersonal communication skills and the ability to work independently are required for this position

ENQUIRES FOR THE POSITION CAN BE DIRECTED TO:

CHYLOE HEALY, ALBERTA I-HELTI PROJECT COORDINATOR

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