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A Circle of Learning for American Indians: Living Kidney Donation Education -- Overview

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Consortium Members: South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD; LifeSource, Upper Midwest Organ Procurement Organization, St. Paul, MN

PURPOSE: The purpose of this program is to provide a culturally-focused education which increases knowledge of the process, risks, advantages and disadvantages of living donation among American Indian patients with chronic kidney disease who are potentially eligible for preemptive referral for transplant.

NEED: American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) experience an excessive burden of chronic kidney disease (CKD), largely due to having a high prevalence of type 2 diabetes. There are barriers to accessing education on living kidney donation and transplantation at the transplant center for this underserved population.

Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) is a public transplant hospital located in the heart of downtown Minneapolis. HCMC provides tribal contract health services to more than 50,000 individuals including nephrology consultation and comprehensive transplant programs. The greatest number of kidney transplants to AI/ANs in the four state region of MN, Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota, are conducted at HCMC. The hospital ranks fourth among all nationwide transplant centers in renal transplants to AI/ANs over the past 20 years.

TARGET POPULATION: This project targets federally-designated American Indian tribes that are located within the state of Minnesota (MN), and a large urban AI/AN population that resides in the Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN metropolitan area. Combined, these community populations constitute over 25,000 adults who classify themselves as partially or solely AI/AN.

Participating Sites		
Name	Tribe	Location
Leech Lake Band	Ojibwe	Cass Lake
Red Lake Band	Ojibwe	Red Lake
Bois Forte Band	Ojibwe	Nett Lake
Fond du Lac Band	Ojibwe	Cloquet
Mille Lacs Band	Ojibwe	Mille Lacs Lake
Urban American Indian Population		
Health Service Site		
Indian Health Service Clinic		
Native American Community Clinic		
Minneapolis American Indian Center		