

Handout W1. Project Idea (3 Examples)

2023-2024 IHS IVP Fellowship Program

This document presents three examples of project ideas (one for each project type). They are meant to help you prepare your own idea for a Fellowship project. The examples are presented using the outline format with responses in blue font color. Each example addresses a unique aspect of the same I/V topic and represents a progression from problem analysis, to program planning, and finally to evaluation.

Example: Project #1 – Problem Analysis

1. Project Title: *Create a draft (working) title that suggests the purpose of the project. (It might be easier to do this after you complete Part 3.)*

ANSWER: Understanding the Risk for Suicide in our Tribal Communities

2. Describe the Project Rationale/Need: *Answer these questions to provide reasons for doing the project.*

Question	Answer
a. What IVP need or I/V topic(s) do you want to focus on?	Suicide
b. What drew your attention to the need or topic(s)?	Someone I know attempted suicide
c. What is the priority population or geographic area of focus?	Our tribe (NAME) has 20,000 members of which 15,000 (75%) live on reservation and are the focus for the project
d. <i>(If focusing on one I/V topic):</i> i. How much of a problem is it? <i>(Provide some statistics.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• According to the CDC:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ AI/AN suicide rates are higher than all other U.S. racial and ethnic groups○ Suicide is the 8th leading cause of death for AI/AN across all ages in the U.S.○ U.S. suicide rates have increased 139% for males and 71% for females since 1999 (this is 2-4 times greater than the rate in the general U.S. population)• Tribal ER physicians and nurses perceive an increase in suicide attempts and fatalities in the past two years
ii. How do local stakeholders perceive the problem and/or need for solutions?	Tribal leadership want to understand the scope of the problem among the Tribe



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3. Identify Project Type and Questions: Select and **yellow highlight** one Project Type that best match what your project will do. Then select and **yellow highlight** the questions for that Project Type which you will answer by the end of your project. (DON'T answer them now, just highlight them.)

Project Type #1 – Problem Analysis: Comparatively analyze multiple I/V problems in general, **OR** identify and analyze one problem in detail, including the risk/protective factors that influence the problem.

i. (If focusing on multiple I/V topics):

- A. What are the main I/V problems in the community?
- B. What population groups or geographic areas are most at risk?

ii. (If focusing on one I/V topic):

- A. What is the scope/urgency of the I/V problem in the community?
- B. What are the key risk/protective factors of the problem?
- C. How prevalent in the community are the key risk factors?

4. Outline the Project Methods/Activities: Answer the questions only for your Type. This will help you plan your Methods.

Questions for Project Type #1 – Problem Analysis

Question	Answer
a. What secondary data exist that you could use?	None
b. How easy will it be for you to get the secondary data?	N/A
c. What local, primary data do you need to collect?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tribal police records and IHS hospital ER records need to be reviewed to document suicide fatalities (and possibly attempts).• Tribal police records of gun permits/licensing need to be reviewed.• Interview area pharmacists, mental health staff, and addiction treatment professions to estimate the prevalence and change in opioid prescriptions and opioid addiction in the Tribe
d. How could you analyze the data to get the answers you need?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Counts and proportions• Calculate rates• Compare Tribal rates to state and/or U.S. rates (will this require standardized rates?)



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Example: Project #2 – Program Planning

1. Project Title: Create a draft (working) title that suggests the purpose of the project. (It might be easier to do this after you complete Part 3.)

ANSWER: *Piloting an Intervention Approach to Prevent Suicide by Reducing Access to Lethal Means*

2. Describe the Project Rationale/Need: Answer these questions to provide reasons for doing the project.

Question	Answer
a. What IVP need or I/V topic(s) do you want to focus on?	Suicide
b. What drew your attention to the need or topic(s)?	Someone I know attempted suicide
c. What is the priority population or geographic area of focus?	Our tribe (NAME) has 20,000 members of which 15,000 (75%) live on reservation and are the focus for the project
d. (If focusing on one I/V topic): i. How much of a problem is it? (Provide some statistics.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the CDC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AI/AN suicide rates are higher than all other U.S. racial and ethnic groups ○ Suicide is the 8th leading cause of death for AI/AN across all ages in the U.S. ○ U.S. suicide rates have increased 139% for males and 71% for females since 1999 (this is 2-4 times greater than the rate in the general U.S. population) • Suicide is the 3rd leading fatal injury in our community with 20 suicides in the past 15 years. The Tribal suicide rate is double the national rate. • Most Tribal suicides are by violent means, because the person has access to a gun or other lethal means such as opioid medication.
ii. How do local stakeholders perceive the problem and/or need for solutions?	Tribal leadership refuse to enact legislation requiring gun and medication lockboxes, but they are willing to promote the installation of such devices. Non-Tribal funding is needed.



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Project Type #2 – Program Planning: Identify an EBI to prevent/reduce the problem; plan how to implement the program; pilot-test the program; conduct a process evaluation to help improve later implementation.

- i. What evidence-based intervention (EBI) would best prevent/reduce the problem and be most feasible for the community?
- ii. How can the EBI be implemented in the community (including adjusting existing programs)?

4. Outline the Project Methods/Activities: *Answer the questions only for your Type. This will help you plan your Methods.*

Questions for Project Type #2 – Program Planning

Question	Answer
<p>a. <u>Planning and adaptation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What (if any) program already exists and can you use it? ii. If a program already exists, does it need tailoring or cultural adaptation for your community (and if so, in what way)? iii. If no program already exists, how will you develop a program? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC recommends lockable storage for both firearms and medications. My Lit Review will search for locking storage options and vendors. • I'm not aware of adaptations that design the locking devices specifically for AI/AN culture and legal systems. My Lit Review will search for adaptations. Also, I will conduct focus groups to learn what would make locking storage acceptable to Tribal households. • I will need to search for sources of funding to purchase locking storage devices and have them installed in Tribal homes.
<p>b. <u>Pilot-test</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How will you pilot-test the program? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit households with individuals using prescription opioid medications. They would receive the locking storage and education about how to use them.
<p>c. <u>Process evaluation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How will you document the pilot-test? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record the costs for purchasing and installation, and for any educational materials that we cannot produce ourselves. • Develop and pilot a survey to assess household satisfaction with the installation process, and their prediction of whether they will use the locking storage.



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Example: Project #3 – Program Evaluation

1. Project Title: *Create a draft (working) title that suggests the purpose of the project. (It might be easier to do this after you complete Part 3.)*

ANSWER: Enhancing Tribal Security by Installing Lockboxes for Firearms and Prescription Opioids

2. Describe the Project Rationale/Need: *Answer these questions to provide reasons for doing the project.*

Question	Answer
a. What IVP need or I/V topic(s) do you want to focus on?	Suicide
b. What drew your attention to the need or topic(s)?	Someone I know attempted suicide
c. What is the priority population or geographic area of focus?	Our tribe (NAME) has 20,000 members of which 15,000 (75%) live on reservation and are the focus for the project
d. <i>(If focusing on one I/V topic):</i> i. How much of a problem is it? <i>(Provide some statistics.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the CDC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AI/AN suicide rates are higher than all other U.S. racial and ethnic groups ○ Suicide is the 8th leading cause of death for AI/AN across all ages in the U.S. ○ U.S. suicide rates have increased 139% for males and 71% for females since 1999 (this is 2-4 times greater than the rate in the general U.S. population) • Suicide is the 3rd leading fatal injury in our community with 20 suicides in the past 15 years. The Tribal suicide rate is double the national rate. • Most Tribal suicides are by violent means, because the person has access to a gun or other lethal means such as opioid medication.
ii. How do local stakeholders perceive the problem and/or need for solutions?	Tribal leadership refuse to enact legislation requiring gun and medication lockboxes, but they are willing to promote the installation of such devices. Non-Tribal funding is needed.



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Project Type #3 – Program Evaluation: Evaluate a program you will implement OR evaluate a program implemented by others (currently or in the past). Use both process and outcome evaluation methods.

- i. How was the EBI implemented in the community, and was any tailoring/adaptation appropriate?
- ii. What were the EBI outcomes in the community?

4. Outline the Project Methods/Activities: Answer the questions only for your Type. This will help you plan your Methods.

Questions for Project Type #3 – Program Evaluation

Question	Answer
a. Briefly describe the program or intervention you want to evaluate.	Installation of free, locking firearm/ammunition and medication storage in Tribal households, with education to household members about how to use each device.
b. What ideas do you have for evaluating the program’s process and outcomes?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Process</u>: Describe the installation procedure. Summarize what went well and where there were challenges. Describe the total (and average per home) costs for installation and education. 2. <u>Outcome</u>: Assess whether storage behavior changed in pilot households.
c. What data will you need to collect?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep notes (like a diary) during project implementation to document what happened, what went well, what barriers arose, and how we resolved the barriers. • Conduct a survey (or interviews) with IVP staff and IVP Coalition members to ask about their perception of lockbox vendor responsiveness/delivery and installation challenges. • Conduct a survey (or interviews) with a sample of households receiving the locking storage to understand their challenges when learning to use the devices. • Conduct baseline and follow-up observations of firearm/ammunition and medication storage within Tribal households (the intervention sample could be households receiving the locking storage; the comparison sample could be households lacking the locking storage).
d. How can you analyze the data to get the answers you need?	Calculate the difference in storage behavior from baseline to follow-up for each sample. Statistically test for differences in the mean for each sample, and a comparison of means across samples.

