

# Handout W1. Project Idea (3 Examples)

2025-2026 IHS IVP Fellowship Program

This document presents three example project ideas (one for each project type). The examples are aligned with the *Project Idea* template (Worksheet W1) which is completed as part of the Fellowship application process. Each example addresses a unique aspect of the same I/V topic and represents a progression from problem analysis to program planning, and ultimately to evaluation. For each example, the template responses are recorded in blue font.

## Example: Project #1 – Problem Analysis

### 1. Why is Your Project Needed? *Answer these questions to describe the need for your 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)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Someone I know attempted suicide</li><li>Hospital Emergency Department staff have noticed an increase in suicide attempts and fatalities in the past two years</li></ul>
c. What do you already know about the scope or scale of the problem (e.g., how big a problem is it – can you list any evidence or data)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>According to the CDC:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>AI/AN suicide rates are higher than all other U.S. racial and ethnic groups</li><li>Suicide is the 8<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for AI/AN across all ages in the U.S.</li><li>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)</li></ul></li><li>Our Hospital Emergency Department staff have suggested that young men and older people in general are more at risk.</li></ul>
d. What population or community do you want to focus on?	Our tribe [NAME REMOVED] has 20,000 members of which 15,000 (75%) live on reservation and are the focus for the project
e. What geographic area do you want to focus on?	The physical boundary of our reservation
f. Who are some of the key stakeholders interested in the problem (e.g., Tribal leaders, local government officials, health officials, community members, IHS staff)?	Tribal leadership want to understand the scope of the problem among the Tribe

### 2. Identify Project Type: **Yellow highlight** only one Project Type (#1, #2 or #3) that best matches what you believe your project will do.

- Project Type #1 – Problem Analysis** (Select either Option A or B, and yellow highlight it):  
**Option A:** Identify and analyze one I/V problem, including the risk/protective factors that influence the problem; or **Option B:** Analyze and compare multiple I/V problems.



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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; and/or conduct a process evaluation to help improve implementation.
- **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.

### 3. What Will You Do to Conduct Your Project? *For only the Project Type you selected in item #2, read the description of what the project might accomplish, and then answer the questions in the table to explain how you might conduct the project.*

#### **Project Type #1 – Problem Analysis**

(Select either Option A or B, and yellow highlight it): **Option A: Identify and analyze one I/V problem, including the risk/protective factors that influence the problem;** or **Option B: Analyze and compare multiple I/V problems.**

#### **Description of what the project might accomplish:**

- i. **(OPTION A - focusing on one I/V topic):**
  - A. Summarize the scope and urgency of the I/V problem in the community
  - B. Identify population groups and geographic areas most at risk
  - C. Estimate the prevalence of key risk and protective factors
- ii. **(OPTION B - focusing on multiple I/V topics):**
  - A. Summarize the scope and urgency of multiple I/V problems in the community
  - B. Identify population groups and geographic areas most at risk

Questions about the Potential Project	Your Ideas
a. What is currently being done to prevent/reduce the problem, and what stakeholders are involved?	Nothing yet. Some are nervous even discussing the issue.
b. What secondary data might you use to examine: the size of the problem; how it is distributed across subgroups; and the prevalence of key risk/protective factors?	Data from the Hospital and EMS agency.
c. How easy will it be for you to get the secondary data?	I'm not sure if I'll have access to data from the Hospital and EMS agency.
d. What local, primary data might you need to collect?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tribal police records could be reviewed to document suicide fatalities (and possibly attempts).</li> <li>• Tribal police records of gun permits/licensing could be reviewed.</li> <li>• Interview area pharmacists, behavioral health staff, and addiction treatment professions to estimate the prevalence and change in opioid prescriptions and opioid addiction in the Tribe</li> </ul>



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## Example: Project #2 – Program Planning

**1. Why is Your Project Needed?** Answer these questions to describe the need for your 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)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Someone I know attempted suicide</li> <li>Hospital Emergency Department staff have noticed an increase in suicide attempts and fatalities in the past two years</li> </ul>
c. What do you already know about the scope or scale of the problem (e.g., how big a problem is it – can you list any evidence or data)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to the CDC:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AI/AN suicide rates are higher than all other U.S. racial and ethnic groups</li> <li>Suicide is the 8<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for AI/AN across all ages in the U.S.</li> <li>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)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Suicide is the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading fatal injury in our community with 20 suicides in the past 15 years. The Tribal suicide rate is double the national rate.</li> <li>Most Tribal suicides are by violent means, because the person has access to a gun or other lethal means such as opioid medication.</li> </ul>
d. What population or community do you want to focus on?	Our tribe [NAME REMOVED] has 20,000 members of which 15,000 (75%) live on reservation and are the focus for the project
e. What geographic area do you want to focus on?	The physical boundary of our reservation
f. Who are some of the key stakeholders interested in the problem (e.g., Tribal leaders, local government officials, health officials, community members, IHS staff)?	Tribal leadership have refused to enact legislation requiring gun and medication lockboxes, but they are willing to promote the installation of such devices. Non-Tribal funding is needed.

**2. Identify Project Type:** **Yellow highlight** only one Project Type (#1, #2 or #3) that best matches what you believe your project will do.

- Project Type #1 – Problem Analysis** (Select either Option A or B, and yellow highlight it):
  - Option A: Identify and analyze one I/V problem, including the risk/protective factors that influence the problem; or
  - Option B: Analyze and compare multiple I/V problems.



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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; and/or conduct a process evaluation to help improve implementation.
- **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.

### 3. What Will You Do to Conduct Your Project? *For only the Project Type you selected in item #2, read the description of what the project might accomplish, and then answer the questions in the table to explain how you might conduct the project.*

#### Project Type #2 – Program Planning

Identify an evidence-based intervention (EBI) to prevent/reduce the problem; plan how to implement the program; pilot-test the program; and/or conduct a process evaluation to help improve implementation.

#### Description of what the project might accomplish:

- Select an effective and feasible EBI to prevent/reduce the problem
- Plan and pilot-test how to implement the EBI in the community
- Establish collaborative partnerships to implement the EBI

Questions about the Potential Project	Your Ideas
<p>a. <u>Planning and adaptation</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What (if any) program already exists and can you use it?</li> <li>If a program already exists, does it need tailoring or cultural adaptation for your community (and if so, in what way)?</li> <li>If no program already exists, how will you develop a program?</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDC recommends lockable storage for both firearms and medications. My Lit Review will search for locking storage options and vendors.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• I will need to search for sources of funding to purchase locking storage devices and have them installed in Tribal homes.</li> </ul>
<p>b. <u>Pilot-test</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With what population or group might you pilot-test the program?</li> <li>What will you or others need to do to implement the program?</li> <li>How long might the pilot last?</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit our Tribal households that have individuals using prescription opioid medications and firearms. They would receive the locking devices and education about how to use them.</li> <li>• We need to have a method to select households because there probably will be too many to handle all of them. I'm not sure if some form of random sampling would work.</li> <li>• The pilot could continue until the Fellowship timeframe needs to shift into analysis.</li> </ul>
<p>c. <u>Process evaluation</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What could you document about the pilot-test (e.g., participation, satisfaction, knowledge)?</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would record the costs for purchasing and installation, and for any educational materials that we cannot produce ourselves.</li> <li>• I could create a survey to assess household satisfaction with the installation process, and their prediction of whether they will use the locking storage.</li> </ul>



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## Example: Project #3 – Program Evaluation

**1. Why is Your Project Needed?** Answer these questions to describe the need for your 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)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Someone I know attempted suicide</li> <li>Hospital Emergency Department staff have noticed an increase in suicide attempts and fatalities in the past two years</li> </ul>
c. What do you already know about the scope or scale of the problem (e.g., how big a problem is it – can you list any evidence or data)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to the CDC:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AI/AN suicide rates are higher than all other U.S. racial and ethnic groups</li> <li>Suicide is the 8<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for AI/AN across all ages in the U.S.</li> <li>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)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Suicide is the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading fatal injury in our community with 20 suicides in the past 15 years. The Tribal suicide rate is double the national rate.</li> <li>Most Tribal suicides are by violent means, because the person has access to a gun or other lethal means such as opioid medication.</li> </ul>
d. What population or community do you want to focus on?	Our tribe [NAME REMOVED] has 20,000 members of which 15,000 (75%) live on reservation and are the focus for the project
e. What geographic area do you want to focus on?	The physical boundary of our reservation
f. Who are some of the key stakeholders interested in the problem (e.g., Tribal leaders, local government officials, health officials, community members, IHS staff)?	Tribal leadership have refused to enact legislation requiring gun and medication lockboxes, but they are willing to promote the installation of such devices. Non-Tribal funding is needed.

**2. Identify Project Type:** **Yellow highlight** only one Project Type (#1, #2 or #3) that best matches what you believe your project will do.

- Project Type #1 – Problem Analysis** (Select either Option A or B, and yellow highlight it):  
Option A: Identify and analyze one I/V problem, including the risk/protective factors that influence the problem; or Option B: Analyze and compare multiple I/V problems.
- Project Type #2 – Program Planning:** Identify an EBI to prevent/reduce the problem; plan how to implement the program; pilot-test the program; and/or conduct a process evaluation to help improve implementation.



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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.

### 3. What Will You Do to Conduct Your Project? *For only the Project Type you selected in item #2, read the description of what the project might accomplish, and then answer the questions in the table to explain how you might conduct the project.*

#### Project Type #3 – Program Evaluation

Evaluate a program you or someone else is currently implementing or has implemented in the past. Use both process and outcome measures.

#### Description of what the project might accomplish:

- Describe how the EBI was implemented and/or adapted in the community
- Summarize the EBI outcomes in the community

Questions about the Potential Project	Your Ideas
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. With whom will you share the evaluation results?	Tribal Council and the Hospital administrator.
c. For the Process Evaluation – how might you document the pilot or implementation process?	<p>For the Process evaluation, I need to document what happened in detail and collect data from participants about how it went:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep notes (like a diary) during project implementation to document what happened, what went well, what barriers arose, and how we resolved the barriers. For example, I could describe the installation procedure. Summarize what went well and where there were challenges. I could record the total (and average per home) costs for installation and education</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Conduct a survey (or interviews) with a sample of households receiving the locking storage to understand their challenges when using the devices.</li> </ul>
d. For the Outcome Evaluation – what short-term outcomes could you measure?	<p>For the Outcome, I need to assess whether storage behavior changed in pilot households that received the devices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I could do this by conducting baseline and follow-up observations of firearm/ammunition and medication storage within Tribal households</li> <li>• I would need two samples. One receiving the devices, and the other would not. The difference from baseline to follow-up would be compared between the two samples.</li> </ul>

