

BHA EDUCATION PROGRAM

LAUNCHING FALL 2021

NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA INDIAN HEALTH BOARD

Your culturally-specific educational pathway starts now!

What is the Behavioral Health Aide (BHA) Program?

Behavioral Health Aides (BHAs) provide critical healthcare services and supports to individuals, families, adolescents and communities throughout Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) has designed a training and education program that is specific to the scope of work of BHAs.

This program prepares BHAs with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to provide quality behavioral health care in Pacific Northwest tribes and communities to increase access and services in a culturally-responsive manner. BHAs will learn how to:

- Engage with behavioral health prevention and intervention programs.
- Identify and use resources to address individual, family, and community needs.
- Communicate and interact effectively with an indigenous client population.
- Evaluate client needs and document services accurately.

Do I get college credit?

Yes. The BHA Education Program has partnered with Northwest Indian College and Heritage University to deliver a two-year Associates Degree for BHAs to aid in the reimbursement of service providers. Already have a degree? We can work with you to earn a BHA Certification.

The BHA Training program is designed to:

- Prepare students with the knowledge and skills necessary to be a Tribal-based behavioral health provider.
- Meets training requirements for BHA-1 and BHA-11 certification. Clinical Supervision and oversight is defined in the Portland Area Community Health Aide Program Certification Board (PACCB) Standards and Procedures.
- Provide an educational pathway to Indigenous young adults that responds to the needs of non-traditional students by allowing students to earn a living while studying in an apprenticeship-based program.



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Indian Leadership for Indian Health

How are classes delivered?

Core BHA courses are taught by NWIC & Heritage University instructors.

- A majority of courses are distance-delivered via live telehealth sessions.
- There is one week of in-person training at Yakama Indian Nation and Swinomish Indian Tribal Community (pending social distance limitations apply)
- Technical assistance is provided to BHA supervisors to support BHAs in on-the-job learning.

What do I need to enroll?

- A commitment to a two-year academic program
- Private workspace to attend distance delivered course during the workday
- Computer, internet access, telephone
- Supervisor approval
- Regular clinical supervision from a master's level clinician

Students will have access, employment, and financial support to complete this program. Funding is available on a first come, first serve basis.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM



What is the application process?

Complete and send us a copy of the following:

- NPAIHB BHA Education Program Online Application (click [here](#) to access)
- Reference from clinical supervisor
- Current Resume & Cover Letter

Completed applications are reviewed by the Behavioral Health Academic Review committee. NPAIHB will contact applicants regarding the status of their application and acceptance into the program.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact **Katie Hunsberger**
BHA Student Support Coordinator at
the Northwest Portland Area Indian
Health Board



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