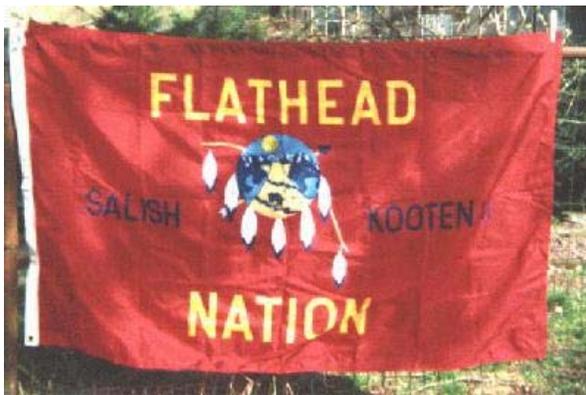


Native American Caregiver Support Program (NACSP) *Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes*

THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES (CS&KT) are located on the Flathead Indian reservation on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains in Montana. The CSKT Tribal Elders Program provides a hot meal and a break from the isolation that many elders face and facilitates access to other services. The Program provides case management services for care coordination in circumstances where an older person or his/her caregiver is experiencing diminished functional capacities or other characteristics which require services by formal service providers.



The CS&KT dreamed of having a Home Care Services Program for caregiver providers. They had envisioned a comprehensive, consumer friendly delivery system to provide these services. With funding sources shrinking and needs increasing, they felt that bringing together different funding sources might be the answer. They were awarded a Native

American Caregiver Support Program Demonstration Grant in 2001 to help in developing such a program.

As it is usually the efforts of the informal caregiver that allows the elder to stay in their home and community as long as possible it is important to care for the caregiver. CS&KT's goal for their Caregiver Support Program is to develop culturally sensitive services and systems to sustain the efforts of family and other informal caregivers.

Caregiver Support Program Goals

The CS&KT's Caregiver Support Program has the following goals:

- Bring together all existing in-home service providers to brain storm how they can work together;
- Plan ways to work together as a team;
- Revise current services to meet the needs of the caregiver;
- Develop a one-stop service deliver system; and
- Develop policies and procedures and a Home Care Attendant Handbook Manual to share with others.

Program Successes

Coordination with other projects has been successful. The Elders Program (Title VI), Tribal Health and Human Services, Area Agency on Aging, the Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program and Adult Protective Services are working together.

The Salish and Kootenai College has also been involved in developing training opportunities for the certification of Certified Nurses Assistants to be available to provide respite care for the caregivers. A complete Manual will be available this spring.

CS&KT is on their way to having a one-stop program for their elders and caregivers.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

AoA recognizes the importance of making information readily available to consumers, professionals, researchers, and students. Our website provides information for and about older persons, their families, and professionals involved in aging programs and services. For more information about AoA, please contact: US Dept of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging, Washington, DC 20201; phone: (202) 401-4541; fax (202) 357-3560; Email: aoainfo@aoa.gov; or contact our website at: www.aoa.gov
