

AI/AN/NH Cancer Partnership

Community Partner & Cancer Center Strategic Planning Guide

Background

During 2024–2025 (Year 1), the AI/AN/NH Cancer Partnership brought together NCI-designated cancer centers and AI/AN/NH community representatives through a series of monthly webinars. The webinars created a space for participants to share existing cancer-related programs, activities, and partnerships underway within their cancer centers and communities. Participants also discussed what was happening within their respective regions, including approaches that were working well, ongoing challenges, and areas where additional support or collaboration might be needed.

These conversations helped participants better understand the range of work already taking place across regions and begin identifying common barriers, priorities, and opportunities across the cancer continuum. The year culminated in the inaugural March 2025 in-person meeting at Huntsman Cancer Institute, where participants built on the webinar discussions, explored areas of shared interest, and identified opportunities for stronger cross-site and community collaboration.

During 2026 (Year 2), the AI/AN/NH Cancer Partnership continued the monthly webinar series and built on the relationships and shared learning established during Year 1. Discussions increasingly focused on common challenges, community and cultural perspectives, and opportunities for cancer centers and community partners to learn from one another across regions. Participants also began identifying areas in which greater coordination, shared strategies, or collective action could strengthen efforts across the cancer continuum.

The March 2026 meeting at UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center provided an opportunity to bring these discussions together in person. Participants further examined shared system-level gaps and priorities, strengthened cross-site collaboration, and identified areas that could inform future collective work. Together, the first two years of activities created a foundation for moving from shared learning and relationship-building toward the development of a national strategic plan.

Purpose

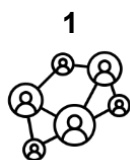
The purpose of this guide is to support the development of the AI/AN/NH Cancer Partnership's Regional and National Strategic Plans by gathering community-informed recommendations across the cancer continuum.

The planning process is designed to ensure that the national strategic plan reflects the priorities, knowledge, and experiences of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities while recognizing both shared national priorities and important regional and community-specific differences.

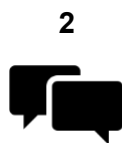
Leading up to the 2027 AI/AN/NH Cancer Partnership National Meeting:

- Cancer centers and community partners will meet before each monthly webinar to discuss an assigned cancer continuum topic.
- Together, they will identify priority issues and recommendations and complete a Strategic Planning Template.
- Monthly webinars will bring recommendations together so participants can compare perspectives, identify areas of alignment, and distinguish national, regional, and community-specific strategies.
- Recommendations will be synthesized and refined throughout the webinar series while preserving important regional and community-specific perspectives.

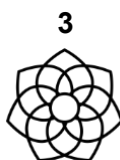
- A comprehensive working draft of the national strategic plan will be developed before the April 14–16, 2027 AI/AN/NH Cancer Partnership National Meeting hosted by Fred Hutch Cancer Center.



Partnership
Launched
Completed



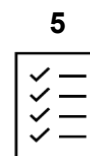
Input + Priorities
Gathered
Completed



Planning Framework
Established
Completed



Community Engagement &
Webinar Series
2026 – 2027



Draft & Finalize
Strategic Plan
2027

Before Each Monthly Webinar

Each monthly AI/AN/NH Cancer Partnership webinar will focus on a topic from the cancer continuum. Before each webinar, participating cancer centers will meet with their community partners to discuss the month's topic and complete the Strategic Planning Template together.

Instructions

1. Review the monthly webinar series schedule, cancer continuum topic, and the template submission deadline on page 4.
2. Meet with relevant community partners to identify priorities, strengths, challenges, and key issues related to the monthly topic.
3. Complete one strategic-planning template for each key issue identified with your community partners. If an issue has more than one recommendation, duplicate the template and complete a separate copy for each recommendation.
4. For each key issue, work with your community partners to develop recommendation(s) and related action item(s), explain the rationale or purpose of each action, and define the intended outcomes.
5. Identify whether each recommendation is nationally relevant or may require a regional or community-specific approach.
6. Submit completed templates through the [Strategic Planning Template Submission Form](#) by the deadline of the corresponding webinar on page 4.
7. Come prepared to share and discuss your recommendations during the webinar, participate in regional breakout discussions, and help refine the national strategic plan.

Strategic Planning Template

Complete one template for each priority recommendation. Duplicate this template as needed.

Issue: <i>What problem, gap, need, or priority should be addressed?</i>		
Recommendation: <i>What overall approach is recommended to address the issue?</i>		
Action <i>What specific steps are needed to carry out the recommendation?</i>	Rationale/Purpose <i>Why is each action needed or important?</i>	Outcome(s) <i>What result or change is each action intended to achieve?</i>

Example

NOTE: The original plan was limited to AIANs and released in 1993. Ongoing work is inclusive of Native Hawaiians

Issue III: American Indian and Alaska Native people have among the poorest survival rates from cancer of all racial groups. Specific cancers not commonly reserved in the general population occur at high rates in the American Indian and Alaska Native people and warrant special attention.		
Recommendation A: The Network for Cancer Control Research Among American Indian and Alaska Native Populations recommends that the federal agencies investigate the negative impact of the lack of prompt and effective treatment on the poor survival rates from cancer among American Indians and Alaska Natives.		
Action	Rationale/Purpose	Outcome(s)
1. Federal agencies should organize efforts to develop study data collection to document survival from cancer in American Indian and Alaska Native people.	Available information suggests that American Indians and Alaska Natives have lower survival rates from cancer even when adjusted for stage at diagnosis and treatment.	Federal agencies will develop a standardized approach to collecting data on survival from cancer.
2. Federal agencies should investigate the negative impact of the lack of prompt and effective cancer treatment as a cause of the poor survival rates.	Research in other populations has established the link between prompt and effective treatment and improved cancer survival.	Federal agencies will support programs for early detection and assure state-of-the-art treatment to American Indian and Alaska Native people with cancer. The registration of American Indian and Alaska Native people in NCI-approved cancer treatment protocols will be encouraged by the cooperative groups.
3. Federal agencies should sponsor cancer research to investigate the poor survival rates from cancer of American Indian and Alaska Native people.	Survival data are available only for American Indians of the Southwest as reported by the SEER data.	Federal agencies will provide financial assistance to support the SEER-like data with comparable databases in regions with American Indian and Alaska Native populations.

Example provided by the 1993 Network for Cancer Control Research Among American Indian and Alaska Native Populations' National Strategic Plan with permission by Linda Burhansstipanov, DrPH, MSPH, OPN-CG.

Strategic Planning Template Submission Schedule

2026–2027 AI/AN/NH Cancer Partnership

Webinar Date	Cancer Continuum Topic Area	Template Submission Deadline
September 22, 2026	Re-orientation & Upcoming Monthly Webinar Review	N/A
October 27, 2026	Prevention & Early Detection	October 20, 2026
November 17, 2026	Diagnosis, Treatment & Palliative Care	November 10, 2026
December 15, 2026	Hospice	December 8, 2026
January 26, 2027	Survivorship & Thrivorship	January 19, 2027
February 23, 2027	Clinical Trials	February 16, 2027
March 23, 2027	Dissemination & Community Benefit	March 16, 2027
April 14 –16, 2027	AI/AN/NH Cancer Partnership National Meeting	Not applicable

Webinars will generally be held on the **fourth Tuesday** of each month from **12:00 – 1:30 PM PT | 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM ET**, beginning in September 2026 and continuing through March 2027.

Please contact the Indigenous Cancer Health Excellence Initiative (ICHE-i) with any questions:
indigenoushealth@fredhutch.org.