We are in need of culturally informed practitioners in the urban and rural regions.

People need more options. There needs to be a “one-stop-shop” at each clinic or reservation. People need to be offered all types of services in one centralized location to help them deal with their addiction.

There needs to be more outlets in the community so people don’t run straight to opioids. They need to be able to talk to someone about their problems.

Trade walks help youth remember roots, gives them something to be involved in and an accomplishment to be proud of.
Healing Our California Tribal Communities: A Strategic Plan to Address Tribal Opioid Use

California Tribal communities have been greatly impacted by the current opioid crisis. This epidemic has strained families, communities, health, and public safety. While there are no easy fixes or solutions, there are proven methods to help those addicted and prevent others from succumbing to the powerful draw of opioids.

Local coalitions, Tribal leaders, communities, organizations, and other key stakeholders such as CRIHB play a vital role in developing and implementing the environmental, individual, and societal factors to permanently shift the opioid tide.

Based on current statewide statistics, the results from the SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) conducted by CRIHB Opioid Program Staff and the lived experiences and stories of California Tribes, five major key focus areas have been identified as having the greatest importance in addressing the opioid epidemic in California Tribal communities:

1. Prevention
   - Community Education
   - Youth Education
   - Health Care Provider Education
   - Medication Safety Education
2. Expanding Treatment and Recovery Services
3. Expanding Partnerships
4. Engaging Tribal Leadership
5. Expanding Substance Use Policies
   - Community
   - Clinical Setting

To help guide efforts in developing an opioid response plan for California Tribal communities, the full version of the strategic plan can be accessed at https://crihb.org/ctec/#opioidstrategicplan

For questions or comments regarding the Strategic Plan, please contact the CRIHB Research and Public Health Department at 916-929-9761 or rph@crihb.org.

This plan was supported by the Tribal Public Health Capacity Building and Quality Improvement, Cooperative Agreement number NU38OT000264, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Health and Human Services.
American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) in California have been greatly impacted by the opioid crisis. In order to learn more about the harm affecting reservations, rancherias, families, and homes, CRIHB staff traveled throughout California to speak with Tribal communities. The following illustration represents the voices of Northern California Tribal communities.

**OUR COMMUNITIES NEED:**
- Accessible Native Recovery Centers
- Opioid Education Programs
- Mediation Assisted Treatment
- More Treatment Options

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**OUR COMMUNITIES NEED SUPPORT FROM:**
- Elders
- Youth
- Tribal Leaders
- All Community Members
- Health Care Professionals

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"I agree with MAT because some people may need that. And if it doesn’t work then they can try something else. What works for some may not work for others."

"We need more treatment centers. Instead of putting kids in jail, we need to offer treatment."

"Seems like almost every family I know has a real problem with opioids with one or more family members, and it seems to affect everyone."

"I think you have to go back to family roots and cultural values and dig deep into them because if you don’t then you get lost in the system."
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**GROUND AND GROWING**

**Healing Our Central California Tribal Communities**

Our young people are easily addicted to drugs because of all the trauma that is brought from generations. They come from broken homes. They’re trying to take the pain away.

“We need to get Narcan out into the community. We need harm reduction education. We need Native-based treatment centers. We need spiritual guidance counselors.”

“It’s a Tribe thing. It takes a village. We have to all do it together, so we need to have our leaders on board.”

“Our communities need:

- Accessible Native Recovery Centers
- Opioid Education Programs
- Medication Assisted Treatment
- More Treatment Options

Our communities need support from:

- Elders
- Youth
- Tribal Leaders
- All Community Members
- Health Care Professionals

“We need to get youth involved with learning their songs, dancing, talking to the spirits, and praying.”

We need to strengthen our traditional foundation.
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