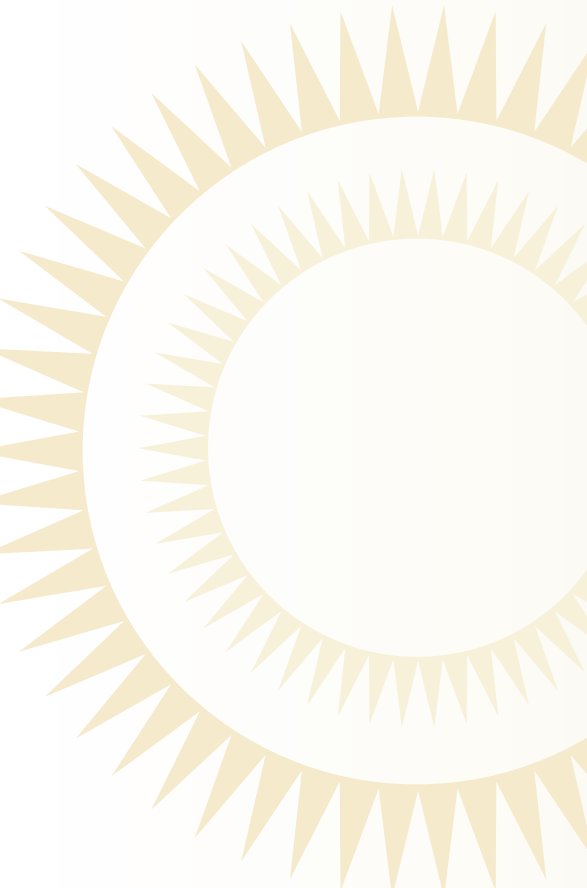


# A Targeted Approach to Increasing American Indian Tissue and Organ Donation

---



End stage kidney disease is a major public health concern among the American Indian population. It is 3½ times more common among American Indians than White Americans, and results overwhelmingly from an excess of type 2 diabetes. In treating end stage kidney disease, transplantation is associated with a better quality of life, lower costs, and a longer life expectancy than long-term dialysis. Even so, American Indians remain longer on transplantation wait lists and have lower rates of kidney transplantation compared to Whites.

The goals of this project are to increase awareness of the need for organ donation and transplantation among American Indians and to increase the number of American Indians who register to donate organs. To accomplish these goals, we are partnering with Tribal Colleges and Universities in Washington, Montana, North Dakota, and Alaska to create educational materials and organ donation awareness programs on campuses and in the surrounding communities. In collaboration with students and faculty, we are conducting focus groups to create culturally appropriate and sensitive end stage kidney disease and organ donation education and media materials. For each campus and community, we will work together with students and faculty to develop and implement a program to increase awareness of the need for organ donation and transplantation and to increase donation registration.

---

**Key Staff:** Principal Investigator, Dedra Buchwald, MD  
Project Research Coordinator, Lannesse Baker, MPH (Anishinaabe/Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa)

---

**Contact:** Lannesse Baker, MPH (Anishinaabe/Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa)  
(206) 543-3268  
bakerl4@uw.edu

---

**Sponsor:** National Institutes of Health  
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases  
Grant # 1R01DK079670

---