



# **WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE**

## **A Sovereign Tribal Nation**

### **(Authorizing Grant Proposal by Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center to Conduct Proposed Study "Heart Wellness in American Indians with Substance Abuse Disorders (HeartWISE)")**

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- WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe ("Tribe") of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation ("Reservation") provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a), that the Tribal Council ("Council") shall exercise the power, "[t]o represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe..."; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribe, in conjunction with the Whiteriver Service Unit, has worked to improve the level of health of all residents of the Reservation; and
- WHEREAS,** American Indians, including members of the Tribe, are disparately impacted by conditions (diabetes, hypertension, substance use disorder) that lead to high rates of cardiovascular disease; and
- WHEREAS,** Access to echocardiography and cardiac specialty care is limited in rural settings, like the Whiteriver Service Unit, and the Tribe, via Resolution No. 10-2020-237, approved a proposal to understand new implementation techniques in order to improve access to echocardiography for Tribal members; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribe, via Resolution No. 08-2023-197, subsequently approved a proposal to develop a cardiovascular disease extender program, co-designed with the community, that will be integrated within the Community Health Representative Program, which is uniquely equipped to lead this preventative health initiative; and
- WHEREAS,** Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Oregon Health & Science University partners are qualified to evaluate the prevalence of cardiac disease within those impacted by a substance abuse disorder, as well as equipped to help the CHR program to expand cardiac screening services (BNP and screening echocardiography) and evaluate their effectiveness; and
- WHEREAS,** Cincinnati Children's Hospital and the Community Health Representative Program requests authorization to submit the proposed outlined Heart Wellness in American Indians with Substance Abuse Disorders (HeartWISE) grant proposal, with the goal of expanding cardiovascular disease services to address those impacted by substance abuse disorders and to improve outcomes for those with associated cardiac disease; and
- WHEREAS,** The Council finds that authorizing the grant proposal will allow for refinement and improvements of the INSTEP program, integrated within the Community Health Representative Program, to have the greatest impact to increase detection of heart disease and contribute to improved health outcomes for members of the Tribe.

***Resolution No. 04-2025-48***

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, the Oregon Health & Sciences University, and the Community Health Representative Program to submit the "*Heart Wellness in American Indians with Substance Abuse Disorders (HeartWISE)*" grant proposal, thereby allowing for potential implementation of the HeartWISE program if funded as described herein.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on APRIL 02, 2025 duly adopted by a vote of EIGHT for, ZERO against, and ZERO abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1, of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on November 10, 2021, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

Kasey Velasquez  
Kasey Velasquez, Chairman

4.2.25  
Date

Vaneyssa Johnson  
Vaneyssa Johnson, Tribal Secretary

04/02/2025  
Date