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MEDIA RELEASE

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NATIVE HEALTH Receives *Connecting Native Youth to Coverage Grant*

*Funds to increase the Native American community's
participation in AHCCCS and health coverage*

(Phoenix, AZ) The number of uninsured Native American youth in Maricopa County should decline in coming years, thanks to a grant NATIVE HEALTH received recently from the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS). The *Connecting Native Youth to Coverage Grant* awards NATIVE HEALTH \$495,596 to increase participation among Native American children and teens in Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (Arizona's Medicaid) and KidsCare, health coverage available to eligible Arizona youth.

“This grant enables us to expand our outreach to schools and reach more American Indian children and their families with health coverage information and application services,” said Walter Murillo, Chief Executive Officer, NATIVE HEALTH. “It’s been well documented that children who have healthcare services, learn better in the classroom. That’s what we want for all of these children.”

NATIVE HEALTH will use the grant to engage schools in the Phoenix metropolitan area – Maricopa County, 24 cities/towns and five American Indian Reservation Communities – in health coverage outreach, enrollment and retention activities. NATIVE HEALTH’s goal is to help 1,000 Native American children apply for or renew AHCCCS annually.

NATIVE HEALTH will accomplish this goal by launching outreach and enrollment programs regarded as “best practices” in schools as well as through partnerships with local Indian education programs.

“We’re looking forward to making a significant difference in the lives of many children,” Murillo said. “This is a great opportunity to improve the health of our community’s youth.”

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The **NATIVE HEALTH** Mission: *NATIVE HEALTH provides holistic, patient centered, culturally sensitive health and wellness services.*