

**Rocky Mountain College – Montana Indian Country CARE Project (MICCP)**  
Level II – awarded 10/1/06

This Level II project is working with Crow, Northern Cheyenne, Fort Peck and Fort Belknap tribal reservations to reduce toxics in their communities. Community cleanup days reduced hazardous chemicals in the environment and resulted in healthier living conditions. Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tool Kits educated teachers, students and parents on ways to improve indoor environments and improve children's health. CARE staff conducted inventories of laboratory chemicals in schools and assisted in the removal of hazardous chemicals which resulted in improved children's health. Healthy home visits are continuing to demonstrate behavior changes in the areas of smoking, pets in the home, and cleaning bedding which will reduce asthma triggers and improve children's health. 65 people participated in a tribal response and solid/hazardous waste workshop to assist them in developing codes and defining informal and formal compliance and enforcement solutions to reduce toxics in their communities.

During the next year MICCP will work more closely with tribal colleges, and educators to provide hands-on training and education in the area of water quality, water protection and water science. A published paper outlining findings of CARE community work on the asthma project and how it affected tribal communities will be completed. Work will continue on illegal dumping; recycling initiatives; junk car removals which include disposing of hazardous fluids to reduce toxics in the environment and keep these substances from seeping into the groundwater thus resulting in cleaner water.

Before CARE, recycling was unheard of on reservations, but now three tribal communities recycle at powwows, colleges and public places. Using the promotora model, CARE has benefited from the experience of knowing inside environments and how these environments impact chronic disease (asthma for example). CARE was able to do outreach and education, preventative measures, experiences that almost never happen in Indian country – an example of this is the Illegal Dumping Sign Campaign. Tribes struggle to find resources to clean-up open dump sites but fail to educate communities about the cost and damage to the environment. Through CARE the Northern Cheyenne community now knows the cost of illegal dumping, and through our efforts illegal dumping will decrease.

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Status: Project is complete