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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **WINNEBAGO PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT AWARDED NEW GRANT**

**WINNEBAGO, NE.** – The Winnebago Public Health Department (WPHD) has been awarded the Strong Systems, Stronger Communities grant from the National Indian Health Board (NIHB). The award from NIHB provides a total support package of \$84,000 to ten Tribal organizations in efforts to strengthen Tribal public health systems by offering support and technical assistance to Tribes as they complete projects to improve their performance, meet national public health accreditation standards, and/or promote interconnection across the public health system to improve population health.

“For many years, the National Indian Health Board has supported Tribes in finding innovative ways to strengthen their public health systems. We are glad to continue that support this upcoming year. The Tribes we work with have and will continue to lead the way in advancing Tribal Public health through systematic improvements and culturally based solutions.” said NIHB Chief Executive Officer Stacy A. Bohlen.

Performance improvement and system improvement (PI/SI) is a continuous process that promotes high quality public health services. The path in strengthening public health capacity is unique for each Tribe, and WPHD is one of the awardees focusing specifically on preparedness for a Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) site visit. Accreditation by the PHAB pertains to performance and quality improvement of WPHD and provides a framework for the health department to identify performance improvement opportunities, improve management, develop leadership, and improve relationships with the community.

“WPHD is thankful to be granted another round of funding through NIHB. These funds allow us to complete our Community Health Improvement Plan which provides guidance in making effective change within the Winnebago community in order to create and maintain healthier lifestyles,” said Mona Zuffante, the Winnebago Public Health Administrator.

*About the Winnebago Public Health Department:* WPHD is a division of the Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System operated by the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. The organization strives to create and maintain a health community by providing a wide range of total health and wellness programs. These programs include physical, mental, safety, and social services that benefit the Winnebago community.

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