

2019-2020
Indian Health Service
Epidemiology (EPI) Fellowship

Program Summary



Applications due March 1, 2019

2019-2020 EPI Fellowship Program Summary

Injury Prevention Epidemiology Fellowship Description

The IHS Injury Prevention Epidemiology (EPI) Fellowship provides practical knowledge and skills for injury and violence prevention practitioners working in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities. Building on the IHS Injury Prevention Program Short Courses, and prior experiences of the participants, the Fellowship offers advanced training in:

- injury epidemiology
- field work
- program evaluation
- report writing and presentation skills

Fellowship participants develop their skills by working on individual data collection and assessment projects to:

- define or provide context about an injury or violence problem, **or**
- evaluate an IP intervention or program

EPI Fellowship Program Goals

The goal of the EPI Fellowship is to provide advanced training and experience managing a project to injury and violence prevention practitioners working with AI/AN communities. The Fellowship prepares participants to:

- Describe evidence-based strategies to prevent or reduce injury (e.g., motor vehicle crashes, falls, fire/burns, opioid overdose) or violence (e.g., intimate partner violence, child abuse/neglect, suicide)
- Design data collection forms
- Develop a data collection and analysis plan for use in documenting a problem or evaluating an intervention
- Analyze and interpret injury data
- Summarize results in a project report
- Present results of a project or study at a scientific meeting

Prerequisites and Financial Support

All of the following prerequisites must be completed or obtained **by the time of application**:

- A Bachelor's degree or higher degree
- At least 3 years of experience in public health
- At least 2 years of experience working in injury or violence prevention
- Completion of the IHS Introduction to IP (Level I) Course, or equivalent (e.g., the 1-week IP overview course at Johns Hopkins University)
- Completion of the IP Intermediate (Level II) or equivalent coursework (e.g., an injury epidemiology course at a school of public health)
- Broadband internet access at home or work

Applicants can be employed by tribes, tribal organizations, or the IHS. Arrangements can also be made to accept participants from other federal, state, or local agencies (e.g., state or local health departments; urban Indian research centers; US Coast Guard; NIOSH). Applicants from tribes who have compacted under the Self-Governance provisions of *Public Law 93-638* will be considered along with those from non-compacting tribes.

IHS Area Offices will provide the funding for Fellowship participants' travel, per diem, and tuition for required course work, with the exception of participants from self-governance compact tribes that have taken their training shares from IHS. These tribes are responsible for paying all travel, per diem, and tuition expenses for their participants. Financial arrangements for non-IHS candidates are considered on a case-by-case basis.

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Fellowship Project, Report, and Presentation

Fellowship participants are required to complete a project related to an injury or violence problem among American Indians/Alaska Natives. EPI Fellowship projects can focus on unintentional injury or intentional violence and should emphasize data collection and analysis (e.g., epidemiology, surveillance, cost, evaluation). These projects involve data collection and assessment to:

- define or provide context about an injury or violence problem, **or**
- evaluate an IP intervention or program.

Please see **Appendix A** for a list of select EPI Fellowship project titles. In the online application, applicants are required to describe their project. In doing so, applicants must:

- Consult with their supervisor and the Area IP Specialist (or designee)
- Describe their proposed project (e.g., purpose, importance, methods, Tribal approval requirements, and local mentor options)
- Identify with whom the project has been discussed

Limited funding from IHS Area Injury Prevention Programs might be available to support projects (please discuss funding opportunities with your IHS Area IP Specialist, or designee) prior to completing an application.

All Fellowship participants will develop a project report, and present the results of their projects in Rockville, MD in June 2020 (dates TBD) at the IHS *Fellowship Symposium*, attended by IHS staff, injury prevention program consultants, and other guests. Each presentation is 12 minutes with 3 minutes for questions.

Curriculum Schedule and Time Commitment

Fellowship participants will attend five in-person sessions away from their job sites (approximately 5 weeks), and will participate in four distance-learning sessions conducted to enhance professional development. The current order and timing of in-person and distance-learning sessions (subject to modification) are listed in the table below.

<i>In-person</i>	
1. Assessment and project planning: <i>June 10-14, 2019; Atlanta, GA</i>	A. Applied epidemiology and data collection methods: <i>TBD dates Jul-Sept 2019</i>
2. Networking at <i>National Conference on AI/AN Injury and Violence Prevention</i>: <i>July 23-26, 2019; Denver, CO</i>	B. Funding and proposal development: <i>TBD dates Oct-Dec 2019</i>
3. Epidemiology field work: <i>TBD dates (5-days) September or October 2019; IHS Navajo Area</i>	C. Scientific writing and presentations: <i>TBD dates Feb-Mar 2020</i>
4. Continuing education at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health (<i>Winter Institute</i>): <i>anticipated January 6-17, 2020; Baltimore, MD</i>	D. Social marketing and advocacy: <i>TBD dates Apr-May 2020</i>
5. Symposium/Graduation: <i>TBD dates (2-3 days) June 2020; Rockville, MD</i>	

For a more detailed summary of in-person and distance-learning sessions, and a program timeline, please refer to **Appendices B and C**. Learning objectives for the sessions will align with select *Core Competencies for Injury and Violence Prevention Practitioners*, developed for the injury/violence field, [available here](#).

Fellowship participation requires approximately 5-10 hours per week of work related to your project (including participation in and completing ‘homework’ assignments for distance-learning sessions). Participants will also write a project report and prepare a project presentation. Time to complete these activities may be required while you are at work and/or at home.

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Mentors

Each Fellowship participant will have a local project mentor (throughout the program), and access to external advisors. Both the mentor and external advisors will be available to provide advice and guidance.

The local mentor can be an IHS Injury Prevention Specialist, or a community member with experience or special expertise in the project topic. The local mentor's role is to assist the Fellow in identifying a topic and developing a project or study outline, establishing timelines, meeting deadlines, and providing guidance in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the research project. Fellowship participants will be matched with an external advisor, based on project topics and areas of expertise required for the project.

Overview of Online Application

To apply to participate in the EPI Fellowship, you will complete a multi-part online application.

The application is divided into several parts (see preview in Appendix D), some of which require additional information (e.g., prerequisite documentation, letters of support):

- A. Background Information about You
- B. Background Information about Your Work
- C. Your Commitment and Motivations
- D. Project Description
- E. Letters of Support (from direct supervisor and Area Injury Prevention Specialist ^a)
- F. Prerequisite Supporting Documentation
- G. Final Checklist and Submission

^a See list at www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/InjuryPrevention (click on "IHS and Tribal Contacts").

Applicants should [use this link](#) to **initiate** their online application.

Online applications can be completed over several days (i.e., all questions do not need to be answered in one sitting). However, by 9:00 pm EST (5:00 pm Alaska Standard Time) on **Friday, March 1, 2019**, all questions must be answered, and all supporting documentation must be provided (e.g., proof of prerequisites, letters of support), prior to clicking on the 'complete my application' step (the final page of the online application).

The 2019-2020 EPI Fellowship will be facilitated by an academic advisor team contracted by the IHS Injury Prevention Program from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health. The UNC team, led by Dr. Carolyn Crump and Mr. Robert Letourneau, MPH, will work in consultation with the IHS IP Program Manager (Holly Billie, MPH). For additional questions, please contact Holly Billie, MPH, IHS IP Program Manager at 301-443-8620 or Holly.Billie@ihs.gov.

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Appendix A: Fellowship Project Examples

Projects completed for the IHS Injury Prevention Epidemiology Fellowship should emphasize data collection and analysis (e.g., epidemiology, surveillance, cost, evaluation). These projects involve data collection and assessment to: **define or provide context about an injury or violence problem** occurring at an AI/AN tribe or community; or **evaluate an IP intervention**. Projects from 1987 to 2015 have focused on unintentional injury, intentional injury, and/or other topics, including:

Unintentional Injury Project Topics:

- Animal Injuries
- Athletic Injuries
- Bicycle Safety
- Carbon Monoxide
- Drowning
- Falls
- Fire/Burns
- Firearm
- Home Safety (general)
- Motor Vehicle
 - Child Passenger Safety
 - Cost
 - Crash Surveillance
 - Driving Under the Influence
 - Helmet Use
 - Law Enforcement
 - Livestock Control
 - Roadway Modification
 - Seat Belt Use

Unintentional Injury Project Topics (continued):

- Pedestrian
- Playground Safety
- Substance Use
- Workplace Injuries

Intentional Injury (Violence) Project Topics:

- Assault (general)
- Child Abuse/Neglect
- Domestic Violence (general)
- Homicide
- Suicide
- Youth Violence

Other Injury Project Topics:

- Emergency/Medical Response
- Injury Prevention/Control (general)
- Injury Surveillance (Cost, Data Sources, Descriptive Studies)

Tables 1 to 3 list recent EPI Fellowship Projects (2007-2015) by type of injury (e.g., unintentional, intentional, other) and injury topic, including project title, year (of Fellowship start), and Fellowship participant name.

Table 1. Unintentional Injury IHS EPI Fellowship Projects.		
<i>Project title</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Name</i>
Falls		
Elder falls prevention.	2015	Alyssa Bernido
A home safety assessment to reduce fall injuries.	2011	Tim Balderrama
Elder Falls Prevention: A Self-Assessment Tool for Evaluating Level of Program Development in California Tribal Health Programs.	2007	Susan E.C. Ducore
Motor Vehicle (Child Passenger Safety)		
Promoting child passenger safety	2015	Marc Matteson
Motor Vehicle (Cost)		
Direct Medical Costs of Motor Vehicle Related Hospitalizations.	2007	Siona Willie
Motor Vehicle (Crash Surveillance)		
Causes of motor vehicle crashes on Navajo Route 12	2011	Jacey McCurtain
Haxton Way: A Descriptive Study of Motor Vehicle Crashes and Potential Interventions- Lummi Indian Reservation, Washington.	2007	Stephanie Peebles Coffey
Motor Vehicle (Driving Under the Influence)		
Developing a MADD Chapter on Fort Berthold Indian Reservation: Challenges in Changing a Community Norm.	2007	Dr. Verlee K. White Calfe-Sayler

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Table 1. Unintentional Injury IHS EPI Fellowship Projects.		
<i>Project title</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Name</i>
Motor Vehicle (Law Enforcement)		
Improving traffic law enforcement in Oklahoma: Cross-deputizing BIA and Tribal police officers.	2011	Dustin Joplin
Motor Vehicle (Livestock Control)		
The Grass is Greener: A Descriptive Study of Animal-Car Crashes 1999-2005 on US 163 in Kayenta Service Unit, Navajo Nation.	2007	Elisa DuBreuil
Motor Vehicle (Seat belt Use)		
Increasing awareness and enforcement of a Tribal seatbelt law.	2011	Molly Madson
Substance Use		
Tracking Methamphetamine Data.	2007	Belinda Aungie
Workplace Injuries		
Commercial fishing income and injury rates in Southwest Alaska.	2011	Bryan Reed

Table 2. Intentional Injury HS Epidemiology Fellowship Projects.		
<i>Project title</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Name</i>
Assault (general)		
Reducing assault recidivism among 15 to 34 year old males from a South Dakota Sioux Tribe.	2011	Martin Stephens
Suicide		
Youth suicide risk reduction.	2015	Martha Maynes
Suicide intervention among Alaska Native people: an evaluation of ASIST.	2011	Hillary Strayer
The value of medical records in exploring risk factors for suicide.	2007	Bonny M. Weed

Table 3. Other IHS EPI Fellowship Projects.		
<i>Project title</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Name</i>
Emergency/Medical Response		
A Global Positioning System to improve emergency response at the Tohono O'odham Nation.	2011	Travis Bowser
Injury Prevention/Control (General)		
Albuquerque Area injury interventions.	2015	Jerrold Moore
Building injury control capacity among California Tribes: Evaluating the Area's mini-grant program.	2011	Lisa Nakagawa
Injury Surveillance (Cost)		
Epidemiology and costs of injuries at CRIT.	2015	Isaac Ampadu
Injury Surveillance (Data Sources)		
IP data for IP coalition.	2015	Katie Tompkins

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Appendix B: In-person and Distance-learning Summary and Program Timeline

1. Project Planning

March to June 2019

Following acceptance to participate in the 2019-2020 EPI Fellowship class, participants will complete the following activities prior to the first in-person academic session:

- Complete skill assessments and pre-program evaluation survey.
- Begin working with local mentor.
- Review a summary of Fellowship expectations.
- Refine project ideas and conduct project planning (e.g., begin literature search).

2. Assessment and Project Planning: In-person #1

June 10-14, 2019; Atlanta, GA

This session focuses on the planning required for EPI Fellowship projects, including a review of epidemiologic approaches, ethical issues in data collection and reporting, and finding data and information related to projects. Learning outcomes include, but are not limited to:

- Review of concepts from IHS IP Short-Courses (Levels 1 and 2).
- Review concepts related to epidemiology and biostatistics.
- Identify sources of data for descriptive and analytic studies related to I/V surveillance and/or evaluation.
- Understand data collection ethics and review processes in Tribal communities.
- Obtain information from subject-matter experts regarding leading IV issues in AI/AN communities.
- Complete a literature search using the Internet.
- Finalize a project plan.
- Present project summary to Fellowship participants.

3. Networking at National Conference on AI/AN Injury and Violence Prevention: In-person #2

July 23-26, 2019: Denver, CO

This session allows Fellowship participants to attend the first-ever *National Conference on AI/AN Injury and Violence Prevention* and to provide project updates. Learning outcomes include, but are not limited to:

- Identify, attend, and apply learning from projects conducted by injury/violence prevention experts.
- Present project update to Fellowship participants.
- Obtain input about Fellowship projects.

4. Applied Epidemiology and Data Collection Methods: Distance-learning A

TBD dates in late Summer 2019 (July to September)

This module will provide an overview of concepts related to applied epidemiology and data collection methods. Learning outcomes: TBD.

5. Epidemiology Field Work: In-person #3

TBD dates in September or October, 2019; IHS Navajo Area.

This session is designed to enhance skills in conducting field work in injury prevention. Fellowship participants work in teams to address issues identified by the host Tribal Nation and IHS Area staff. Findings and recommendations will be presented to Tribal leaders and IHS Area staff. Learning outcomes include, but are not limited to:

- Describe major injury issues facing the host Area.
- Use digital photography to document injury hazards and programs.
- List the steps in organizing and conducting a focus group.
- Prepare and administer a structured questionnaire for key informant interviews.
- Prepare a group presentation and written report for Tribal members.

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6. **Funding and Proposal Development:** Distance-learning B

TBD dates in late 2019 (October to December)

This module will provide an overview of concepts related to funding sources and preparing funding applications. Learning outcomes include, but are not limited to:

- Locate sources of funding for injury prevention projects.
- Describe proposal development steps.
- Identify common errors in proposal writing.

7. **Continuing Education at Johns Hopkins University (Winter Institute):** In-person #4

Anticipated January 6 to 17, 2020; Baltimore, MD

Fellowship participants will attend 2-3 courses offered during the 2-week *Winter Institute* at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Graduate credit is awarded for participants completing all course requirements. Learning outcomes will vary based on courses selected.

8. **Scientific Writing and Presentations:** Distance-learning C

TBD dates in Winter 2020 (February to March)

This module will provide an overview of scientific writing and development of presentation slides. Tips for delivery of oral presentations and preparing a report or manuscript will be described. Learning outcomes include, but are not limited to:

- Prepare effective oral presentations using PowerPoint.
- Describe format and sections required in a project report.
- Create a written project abstract suitable for submission to conferences and publications.
- Identify the steps in submitting an article for publication.

9. **Social Marketing and Advocacy:** Distance-learning D

TBD dates in Spring 2020 (April to May)

This module will provide an overview of concepts related to social marketing and advocacy for injury and violence prevention efforts. Learning outcomes: TBD.

10. **Fellowship Symposium:** In-person #5

TBD dates in June 2020; Rockville, MD

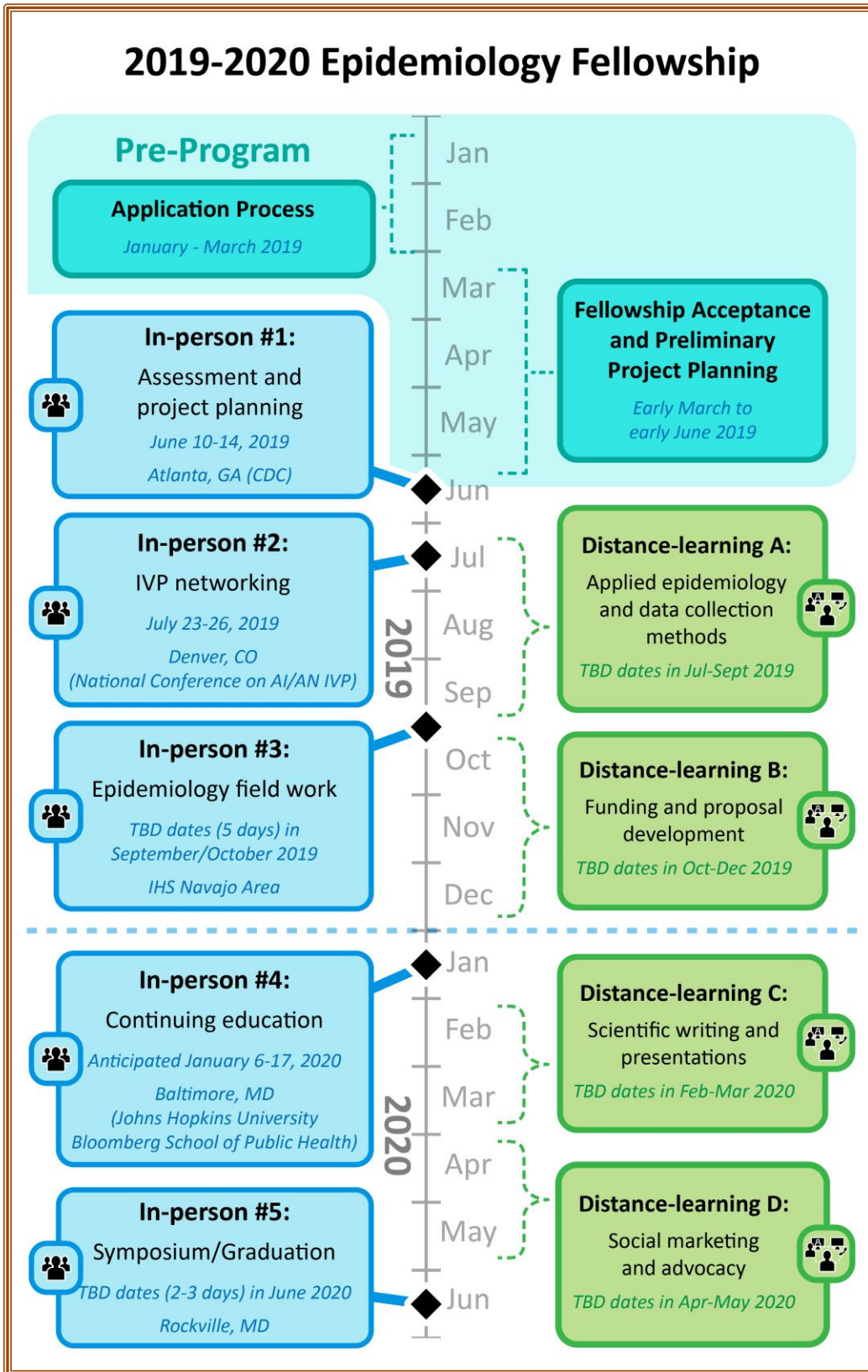
During this 2-day session, the class of 2019-2020 Fellowship participants will participate in a symposium practice session, where they will practice their presentation in front of their peers and IHS staff.

Participants will also present the results of their project to IHS Headquarters and Area staff, and Tribal leaders, at a formal symposium session. Learning outcomes include, but are not limited to:

- Identify strengths and weaknesses in oral scientific presentations.
- Present a 12-minute summary of their completed injury prevention projects before a national audience.

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Appendix C: Program Timeline



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Appendix D: Preview of Fellowship Application Questions

The [online application](#) for the 2019-2020 EPI Fellowship Program will require you to provide the following information, by category:

A. Background Information about You

1. First and Last Name
2. Preferred Mailing Address (include street/PO, city, state, zip)
3. Preferred Telephone Number
4. Email Address
5. Fax (if applicable)
6. If you are an enrolled member of a tribe, name the Tribe(s),

B. Background Information about Your Work and Training

1. Current job title/position
2. Length of time in this position
3. Name of the Tribe/Organization/Agency employing you
4. If you work for a tribe, please indicate if that tribe has compacted or contracted its Environmental Health services? (*Responses: Yes, No, Not Sure, Not applicable to me*)
5. Brief description of your primary job responsibilities
6. Description of your experiences to prevent injury or violence, including professional or volunteer work you have completed, and when you completed this work (e.g., years).
7. List of injury or violence prevention training you have obtained and dates completed.
Note: Examples include: IHS Injury Prevention Levels 1, 2, or 3; IHS Fellowship; grant-writing workshops; NHTSA child passenger safety technician or instructor; IHS Tribal IP Cooperative Agreements Program workshops.
8. Please upload a copy of your resume or CV.

C. Your Commitment and Motivations

1. Description of your commitment to participate in all components of the program (e.g., completing your project, attending all in-person sessions and distance-based modules).
Note: In addition to the approximate 5 weeks from work to travel to attend in-person academic sessions (refer to timeline in EPI Fellowship Program Summary), participation requires approximately 5-10 hours per week of work related to your project. This includes participation in several distance-based learning modules (which may include 'homework' assignments) throughout the program duration. You will also write a project report and prepare a project presentation. Time to complete these activities may be required while you are at work and/or at home.
2. Description of why you want to participate in the IHS EPI Fellowship.
Note: Consider describing the following in your response: why you believe this advanced training is important to you, your job, and your community; what you want to accomplish; how you might use this training in the future.

D. Description of Your Project

1. Project title.
2. Description of why the project is important (i.e., why you chose the topic).
3. Description of methods (i.e., steps, actions) necessary to complete your project.
4. List of people with whom have you discussed the project (names, titles)
5. Description of tribal approvals necessary for you to obtain to conduct your project (if unknown, indicate so). *Note: If unknown, determining this will be required prior to the first in-person session.*
6. Name and title of whom have you identified as your local project mentor.

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E. Letters of Support

Please upload electronic copies of letters of support from the following:

1. IHS Area, District, or Local injury prevention specialist (this can be your local mentor).
This letter should discuss the applicant's qualifications and ability to complete the Fellowship work, including completion of an individual project. The letter should state that the Specialist supports your applying to the Fellowship; supports your project idea; and will be available to assist you in working on your project.
2. Your supervisor.
This letter should state why the applicant is a good candidate for the Fellowship and why the training will be of value. The supervisor needs to state that she or he will allow the applicant to fully participate in all components of the fellowship, including a total of approximately 5 weeks of travel for in-person academic sessions, participation in several distance-based online learning modules, and approximately 5-10 hours per week for project-related activities. Letters for applicants from compacted tribes that have obtained their training shares from IHS should indicate agreement to bear the expenses associated with the Fellowship program (e.g., travel, registration, course credit).

F. Pre-requisite Supporting Documentation

Please upload an electronic copy of the following documents:

1. Proof of your Bachelor's Degree, or higher (e.g., diploma, final transcript).
2. Certificates of completion (or other similar proof of completion) for:
 - a. IHS Introduction to Injury Prevention (Level I) Course, or equivalent
 - b. IHS Intermediate Injury prevention (level II) Course or equivalent