

Ethnic and Cultural Minorities  
Infrastructure Grants:  
*Efforts to improve data  
collection*

# Ethnic and Cultural Minorities Infrastructure Grants

- Ch. 147, Art. 19, Sec. 3 Infrastructure grants for culturally competent services
- To help members of cultural and ethnic minorities become mental health professionals and practitioners
- To increase the availability of mental health services for children from these communities

# Ethnic and Cultural Minorities Infrastructure Grants

## BACKGROUND

- advocacy efforts by mental health consumers;
- culturally-specific provider organizations;
- and as a component of a DHS strategy to eliminate racial/ethnic disparities in mental health care access and outcomes.

# Ethnic and Cultural Minorities Infrastructure Grants

- DHS 2008-2009 priority to “reduce disparities in service access and outcomes for racial and ethnic populations. The department will identify disparities in service access and outcomes, set goals, and implement targeted and coordinated strategies. Consequently, disparities among the state’s racial and ethnic groups will decline...”

# State's Purposes:

- to encourage members of cultural and ethnic minority communities to obtain mental health professional licensure or complete qualifying requirements for a mental health practitioner;
- to provide mental health services to children of racial/ethnic minority cultures; and
- to build provider capacity to deliver such services.

# Ethnic and Cultural Minorities Infrastructure Grants – Eligible Responders

- Certified by the State to provide Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS), as provided in Minnesota Statutes, Section 256B.0943, or demonstrate a contractual partnership specific to this proposal with a CTSS provider.
- Nonprofit organizations, tribal entities, or independent mental health professionals

# Ethnic and Cultural Minorities Infrastructure Grants

- Mental Health Behavioral Aide I
- Mental Health Behavioral Aide II
- Mental Health Practitioner
- Licensed Mental Health  
Professional

# Grantees

- Amherst Wilder Foundation
- CLUES – Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio
- Guadalupe Alternative Programs
- Human Services, Inc.
- Volunteers of America of Minnesota
- Washburn Center for Children
- White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

# Data Collection

Select the race (s) or ethnicity that you identify with  
(check all that apply)

- Asian
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Black/ African Ancestry
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- White
- Latino/ Hispanic

# Do Clients Like To Describe Their Race/Ethnicity In Their Own Words?

- Clients asked to state race/ethnicity in terms of their choice.
  - Coded verbatim
  - Up to four terms allowed
- Asked standard two part R/E questions.
  - Latino/Hispanic?
  - What is your race? (seven options read)
- Asked preference between two methods.

(Nguyen-Kelly, 2008, personal communication)

## Wide Variation In Preferences for Using Own Words vs. Choosing From List

“Which approach do you like better, telling your race or ethnic background using your own words or choosing from a list of categories?” Would you say that you:

Strongly prefer own words	27%
Somewhat prefer own words	11%
Think they are about the same	30%
Somewhat prefer choosing from the list	15%
Strongly prefer choosing from the list	17%

(Nguyen-Kelly, 2008, personal communication)

# Multiracial/Ethnic Individuals (N=18) Strongly Preferred Using Own Words

“Which approach do you like better, telling your race or ethnic background using your own words or choosing from a list of categories?” Would you say that you:

Strongly prefer own words	56%
Somewhat prefer own words	6%
Think they are about the same	17%
Somewhat prefer choosing from the list	11%
Strongly prefer choosing from the list	11%

(Nguyen-Kelly, 2008, personal communication)

**Below, we would like to collect information about the racial or ethnic group (s) that you identify with. Please circle a category or write in a description in one or more of the groups listed. Include all that apply.**

*Asian:*

*American Indian or Alaskan Native:*

*Black/African Ancestry:*

*Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander :*

*White:*

*Latino/Hispanic:*

# Advantages of proposed format

- Self reporting: boxed options are often limiting
- Choice that is relevant to responder's worldview
- Responder is not influenced by constructed categories, they know their own cultural story
- Flexibility for one to define cultural and ethnic self
- Learning opportunity for grantees and community

# Concerns about proposed format:

- People will not complete it and we will not get consistent information
- People may have trouble understanding what ethnicity means and without categories there is less of a chance that they will complete it
- They may put things that may not be interpretable within our frame-- American, Jewish, etc

## Concerns, cont'd:

- People misspell words and this adds layer of data cleaning etc;
- Respondents may use different words for the same thing

# Learning Collaborative Process

- Meet twice during the year
- Exchange new learning
- Identify effective culturally competent approaches for working with cultural communities and disseminate them

# For More Information:

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