

**National Endowment for the Humanities**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**

**Northwest Indian College**  
**Health and Wellness Center**  
**2522 Kwina Rd,**  
**Bellingham, WA 98226**  
**CHA 286600**

**BACKGROUND**

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awards grants and cooperative agreements to support research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. The proposed activity is supported with financial assistance authorized under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965 (P.L. 89-209) to enable infrastructure development and capacity building, including through the design, purchase, construction, restoration, or renovation of facilities needed for humanities activities and historic landscapes.

**PROPOSED ACTION**

NEH has offered \$750,000 grant to Northwest Indian College (NWIC) in April 2022, to construct a 15,600 SF Health and Wellness Center. NWIC submitted a Condensed Environmental Assessment (EA) that documents the impacts of the proposed action. The EA for NWIC is incorporated by reference into this FONSI.

The proposed Health and Wellness Center will be an active cultural gathering place focused on programs and practices that promote Indigenous wellbeing. It will demonstrate NWIC's commitment to create an Indigenized institution by providing a sense of home for students from over 115 tribes as well as greater tribal and civic community.

The Health and Wellness Center includes a Multipurpose Space/Open Court; the Wellness Resource Classroom; and the Outdoor Covered Entry. The Center will provide the largest cultural gathering space on campus, a home for cultural ceremonies, symposiums and meetings, such as salmon night, pow wows, canoe family nights, cultural dance and drumming, and Weavers Teaching Weavers. Cultural sports such as archery and canoe pulling stations, competitive athletics, such as men's and women's basketball, and fitness and strengthening programs will be hosted here.

The Wellness Resource Classroom will be a welcoming destination that offers a culturally appropriate space for one-on-one coaching and small group Talking Circles. These programs will provide information and counseling related to traditional health and foods programming, healthy relationships and other social and family support services, continuing education as well as instruction on prevention of diabetes and blood pressure monitoring. This building will also include office and support spaces for staff and instructors. The Outdoor Covered Entry provides bonus activity space and access to a lobby/concession sales area, ADA restrooms, and utilities. This is a critical space during the ongoing transition through the COVID-19 pandemic.


**MITIGATION**

The mitigation is incorporated by reference and can be found in Part III of this Condensed EA.

**CONCLUSION**

NEH hereby adopts the Condensed EA prepared by NWIC without modification for the proposed action described above. After reviewing the assessment and the supporting materials provided by the grant applicant, NEH finds that the assessment properly documents the proposal's status of compliance with the environmental laws and requirements listed therein.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (44 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508) and the National Endowment for the Humanities NEPA Implementing Procedures, NEH determines, with the mitigation measures described in Part III, the proposed action will have no significant adverse impact on the quality of the human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

<i>Approvals:</i>	
	
_____	9/19/2022
Ann E. Piesen, MCP Federal Preservation and Environmental Officer National Endowment for the Humanities	Date