

WEBSITE LOGO

The website logo is a graphic depiction of the attributes of a successful community health system that optimally blends the health and social sciences. It is adapted from actual designs the hosts became familiar with while serving Native American communities.

The inverted triangle or pyramid illustrates that success requires that the characteristics and needs of thousands of unique communities (the broad base at the top) be collectively considered and integrated to drive any centralized policies and programs (the small point at the bottom). It was the philosophical approach incorporated by the Indian Health Service.

The elliptical collection of various Native American and Western European symbols represents the local merging of the physical and social sciences imperative to promote the success of any health care system,

It is a replica of a silver and turquoise belt buckle, National Leadership Award, presented to Jim Felsen by his peers in 1972. The nephew of a tribal leader, who first helped him appreciate the socio-cultural requirements for successful healing in any culture, designed it.

The four pieces of turquoise represent an important spiritual foundation of Native American communities, depicting the four directions and elements, i.e., earth, water, wind, and fire. The cross depicts the spiritual culture of missionaries who introduced Western medicine to Native American communities. The eagle feathers are a sacred symbol of Native American healing power and the caduceus a similar representation within Western medicine. The broken arrow depicts the ending of hostilities between two different cultures. The peace pipe illustrates the honor, mutual respect, and, most importantly, trust, which must exist to assure the success of any agreement and interaction.