



International Critical Incident Stress Foundation

3290 Pine Orchard Lane · Suite 106 · Ellicott City, MD 21042  
www.icisf.org · (410) 750-9600 · info@icisf.org

## HEALING WAYS:

### GROUP CRISIS INTERVENTIONS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Language and diversity, gender roles, spiritual beliefs and practices, cultural norms, family structure, past life experiences and historic cultural teachings all influence how Indigenous men and women are affected by trauma. The richness of historic traditional teachings resonate with Indigenous Peoples and are extremely important when providing guidance for wellness in crisis intervention work.

In this course, information on signs of distress, suggestions for wellness and healthy coping and even the teaching style of the course emphasize traditional healing practices and lessons of the Medicine Wheel. The curriculum and information in this course are presented in a way that is culturally focused and honors the history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and the United States. The Healing Ways Group Crisis Intervention skills provide a strategy for discussing the experience and some significant steps that can be taken for recovery from that experience that incorporates cultural teachings and the inclusion of Elders and Traditional Healers, prayer, smudging and other ceremonies as a natural part of the intervention practices.

Indigenous communities differ in their beliefs, cultural practices and history. This curriculum is intended to be broad enough to be used by any Indigenous community whose intention is to incorporate the cultural practices and beliefs of their own people in their healing practices after highly distressing or traumatic experiences.

#### **Program Highlights:**

- History and Challenges of Indigenous Peoples
- Resiliency and Strengths of Indigenous Peoples
- Definitions – Common Language
- Use of Elders, Talking Sticks, Feathers, Rocks & Medicine Wheel During Response
- Importance of a Good Introduction
- Interactive Group Intervention

Successful completion of the Approved Instructor Candidate Program will allow you to teach this curriculum to others. Continuing education will be required to maintain your instructor status.



International Critical Incident Stress Foundation

3290 Pine Orchard Lane · Suite 106 · Ellicott City, MD 21042  
www.icisf.org · (410) 750-9600 · info@icisf.org

**Prerequisites for Participation in “Healing Ways: Group Crisis Interventions for Indigenous Peoples” Approved Instructor Candidate Program:**

- Completion of the following ICISF courses as taught by ICISF or by an approved ICISF instructor. (Copies of certificates of completion are required to accompany the application).
  - Group Crisis Intervention OR Healing Ways: Group Crisis Interventions for Indigenous Peoples
  - Assisting Individuals in Crisis (formerly known Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support)
  - Best Practices for the CISM Instructor
- Certificate and/or at least a 2-year degree in the Human Services field
- A letter of recommendation that attests to your teaching ability.
- A letter of endorsement from a CISM coordinator.
- Minimum of 2 years working with or for an Indigenous Community on a CISM team.
- Proof of ICISF individual or team membership.
- A copy of a current CV or resume.
- Online application and application fee.
- A brief statement outlining:
  - Your crisis intervention/CISM experience.
  - Your instructional experience.
  - Reasons for applying for ICISF Approved Instructor Training.
  - Experience and explanation of your understanding of the culture and traditions of Indigenous Peoples
- Completion of the UMBC CISM Certification Exam: <https://ccism-cert.org/>  
Optional “CISM: A Practical Review” textbook can be purchased here: <https://icisf.directfrompublisher.com/catalog/book/critical-incident-stress-management-cism-practical-review>