CIEA’s Native Youth Environmental Leadership Program (NYELP) provides students and community members with valuable real world experience using traditional knowledge to address environmental toxins and provides pathways to academic development and careers in the environmental sciences, health sciences, public policy or law fields.

The Fellowship Program sends students back home for a paid summer internship with their Tribe working for Tribal government, fisheries environmental office and/or health clinics. Fellows must attend college in the Bay Area, have completed an internship and training with CIEA and be from a California Tribe. Placement is based on needs identified by the Tribe and the student’s area of study.

Our advocacy program provides tools for Tribal leadership to address mining toxins and advocate on their own behalf for the benefit of their own people. We hold annual strategy meetings with California Tribal representatives to guide our programs and the materials and information we provide. Materials include:

- CIEA E-news with reports, mercury and watershed related meeting dates and opportunities for addressing mercury and mining toxins
- Fish consumption advisories issued by state and federal agencies
- lists of safer fishing locations and fish sampling project contacts
- annual update of state agency mercury projects
- digital files of known mine sites and mining features
- Information on the following processes:
  - mercury Total Maximum Daily Loads
  - CA State Mercury Plan
  - Integrated Regional Watershed Management programs
  - Globally Binding Mercury Treaty

Our goal is that California Indian Nations are at the table whenever decisions are being made that affect traditional tribal lands, resources, tribal members and/or the Tribes themselves.
California Indian Environmental Alliance (CIEA) is a Native environmental health non-profit founded in 2006 to address mining toxins by increasing Tribal capacity to self-advocate and defend Native cultures and traditions from environmental contamination.

CIEA promotes policies and actions respectful of Tribal sovereignty and Tribal self-advocacy. Our constituents are California Tribal members, including the most at risk populations: pregnant women, their fetuses, and young children.

In all our programs we are respectful of the integral connection between California Indian cultures, traditional knowledge and the environment. The health of future generations is inseparable from the wellbeing of California’s lands, water and sky.

Our core programs address the toxic legacy of mercury left over from the California Gold Rush, which threatens the physical, cultural and spiritual health of California Indian communities.

Mercury Tribal Health

Our Mercury Tribal Health Program provides trainings for Tribal members and the health care providers and clinics who serve them on how to avoid mining toxins found in food eaten locally.

Eating Fish Safely: Mercury Health Trainings

We offer “Mercury Health: Information in the Environment and Human Body” for health care clinic, at community event and for Tribal leadership. Course provides an understanding of:

- Sources of Mercury
- Mercury in the Human Body – functions, symptoms, systems and effects
- Understanding the EPA Reference Dose
- US Dietary Guidelines for Fish
- National and Local Fish Advisories
- Tools to assist patients in making healthy choices
- Practice in identifying at-risk patients and communicating advice

All of our trainings include copies of our materials developed those most affected by mercury in the human body. Training materials include:

- “Eating Fish Safely” brochures with overview of safe eating practices and store-bought fish listed by mercury levels
- National and local fish consumption advisories issued by Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Public Health.
- “Mercury Health Toolkit” including how mercury functions in the human body, relevant studies, full medical journal articles and tools for patient communication

Making Healthy Fish Choices: WIC Curriculum & Program

Our Making Healthy Fish Choices” curriculum and program is available for integration into Women, Infants and Children (WIC) food voucher programs in order to:

- Empower Native families to eat fish while avoiding mercury and PCBs
- Educate those most at-risk about the health risks of these chemicals
- Increase awareness and understanding of local fish advisories through direct education for clients and GC 30 format nutrition courses
- Provide WIC staff trainings on fish consumption advice and program administration

Curriculum includes:

- Fish health benefits and serving sizes
- Sources of mercury and PCBs and harms to individual and children’s health
- Commercial and local fish advisories.
- Healthy fish options and fish that should be avoided
- Lower Mercury options for purchase with WIC vouchers
- Preparation techniques to reduce PCBs
- “Making Healthy Fish Choices” Pledge