

Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services in Indian Country



Everyone deserves equitable access to public health services.

Tribal public health systems are central to reducing health disparities across Indian Country. However, infrastructure challenges such as data access barriers, a diminished workforce, and limited partnership opportunities make it difficult to deliver the services needed. This cooperative agreement puts the power in the hands of tribal health authorities to invest in the people, services, and systems that can improve health and well-being in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.

Unique features

- ★ **Flexible.** Funding meets tribes where they are. Recipients can access resources to meet public health goals with a two-part spending option.
- ★ **Collaborative.** Recipients work with each other and with CDC. This positions them to share ideas and build partnerships that support health needs across Indian Country.
- ★ **Synergistic.** Funding from multiple CDC sources creates more opportunities. Recipients can apply for supplemental funds to prioritize public health issues that matter most to their communities.
- ★ **Culturally responsive.** The cooperative agreement acknowledges the sovereignty of tribes and cultural authority of tribal organizations to address health disparities in AI/AN communities.

Goals: Quality, performance, capacity

The 26 awarded AI/AN tribes and tribal organizations serve more than 550 communities. They use their funds to strengthen four elements of public health:



Foundational capabilities.

Essential skills and services like disease surveillance, emergency response, partnerships, and performance management.



Data systems. Data collection and analysis and systems modernization.



Programs and services.

Activities such as health education and promotion, policy evaluation, and evidence-based decision-making.



Workforce.

Recruitment and retention of diverse public health staff with cross-cutting skills.

Without this support, we leave people vulnerable to unnecessary illness, injury, and death. Let's give our frontline public health agencies the means to protect every community.





Impact on communities

Investing in tribal public health infrastructure benefits tribes, organizations, and communities across Indian Country.



Advances in health equity. Recipients can make culturally responsive public health programs and services more accessible, supporting the unique needs of their communities.



Local career opportunities. Funding aids efforts to train and diversify the workforce. Recipients can ensure their workforce best represents the people they serve, improving their ability to provide essential public health services.



Strong foundational capabilities. Recipients use funds to enhance skills such as collecting, analyzing, and sharing local health data, giving tribes more direct access to planning and decision-making.



A robust partner network. Recipients establish and enhance partnerships among CDC, tribal leaders, and each other. Partnerships strengthen tribal public health systems' ability to expand community outreach while increasing access to resources and expertise. Relationships with unfunded partners allow recipients to offer services beyond current funding areas.



Quality and performance improvement. Recipients can use funds to improve programs and services that can support accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board. Accreditation shows an organization's commitment to accountability, transformation, and excellence in serving communities.

More on the cooperative agreement here

www.cdc.gov/tribal-health/cooperative-agreements/strengthening-public-health-systems-and-services-in-indian-country.html



More about our division here

www.cdc.gov/infrastructure/divisions-offices/about-division-of-jurisdictional-support.html



A closer look: Southern Plains Tribal Health Board

Without accurate surveillance data that identify who, where, and what, tribes cannot efficiently respond to the needs of their communities. The Southern Plains Tribal Health Board is using CDC funding **to identify, evaluate, and implement best practices to collect race and ethnicity data.** Their goal is to collect more complete data for at least one notifiable condition reported to a state, local, or tribal public health surveillance system. With better health data, tribes can make informed decisions about how to direct their resources.

Funding Awarded as of October 2023



Nearly \$26 million reaches across Indian Country



26 Recipients:

14
tribal
nations

12
tribal
organizations



More than
550
AI/AN communities

11

Indian Health
Service regions