

Albuquerque Area Tribal Health Policy Newsletter



AASTEC CONTACT AAIHB EVENTS

Happy New Year!

As we enter 2026, we reflect on the meaningful progress made in expanding access to culturally grounded care, outreach, and engagement. This year, our organization remains energized by a shared purpose: to advance Tribal Sovereignty in health decision-making and invest in solutions created by and for Native people. Here at AAIHB, we will continue to elevate Tribal priorities and advocate for sustainable, culturally grounded policies that strengthen Tribal health systems.

From our health family to yours, we wish you a year of balance and harmony. May we embrace the strength of our roots, listen to the guidance of our Elders, and nurture our young ones. Together, we build a healthier, stronger nation, one step at a time.

In Health,
AAIHB Health Policy Team

Important Dates

January 14, 2026

Center for Medicaid & Medicare Services
Technical Tribal Advisory Group (CMS
TTAG)

Virtual

January 14-15, 2026

IHS Director's Workgroup on Improving
Purchased/Referred Care (PRC)

San Diego, CA

[PRC Registration](#)

[CMS TTAG Meeting Link](#)

January 20, 2026

Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act Executive Committee Meeting

Hybrid

[NM SB3 Executive Committee Meeting Link](#)

January 21, 2026

National Institutes of Health Tribal Advisory Committee Meeting (**NIH TAC**)

Virtual

[NIH TAC Meeting Agenda and Minutes](#)

January 21-22, 2026

FY 2028 Area Report Presentations Webinar - National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup

Virtual

[NTBFW Zoom Registration](#)

January 28, 2026

Public Health Day at the Roundhouse

Santa Fe, New Mexico

[Registration for NM Public Health Day](#)

February 9-12, 2026

National Congress of American Indian's (**NCAI**) 2026 Executive Council Winter Session

Washington, D.C.

[NCAI Registration and Agenda](#)

February 9, 2026

Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee (**DSTAC**) 2nd Quarter Meeting

Washington, D.C.

[DSTAC Webpage](#)

February 10-11, 2026

FY 2028 National Tribal Budget Formulation Work Sessions

Virtual

[NTBFW Meeting Link](#)

February 10-11, 2026

February 24-25, 2026

FY 2028 National Tribal
Budget Formulation Work
Sessions

Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC)

Hybrid/Arlington, VA

Washington, D.C.

TSGAC Website

March 10-12, 2026

IHS Clinical and Community
Workforce Summit

Denver, CO

IHS Summit
Registration

March 11, 2026

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Tribal Advisory Committee (CSC TAC)

Virtual

CDC TAC Website

March 16-19, 2026

2026 Native American Child and Family Conference at Isleta Resort

Albuquerque, NM

Child & Family Conference Registration

March 17-18, 2026

Tribal Leaders Diabetes
Committee (TLDC)

Hybrid/Tucson, AZ

TLDC Website

April 7-9, 2026

Tribal Public Health Conference

"The Vision for Generational Healing, Health, and
Wellness" is this year's theme at the 2026 Tribal
Public Health Conference.

Oklahoma City, OK

Tribal Public Health Conference
Registration

April 7-9, 2026

The Annual 2026 Tribal Self-Governance
Conference will be held April 7-9, 2026 at
the Gila River Wild Horse Pass in
Chandler, Arizona.

- General Rate (1/2/2026 - Until Sold
Out) | \$750

April 27-30, 2026

National Council of Urban Indian Health
(NCUIH) 2026 Annual Conference -
Registration Open! Space is limited

Washington, DC

Gila River Wild Horse Pass, Chandler,
AZ

NCUIH Registration &
Information

TSGAC Registration &
Information

IHS Realignment

It is important to AAIHB that Pueblos and Tribes have the opportunity to participate and submit consultation comments on important topics such as IHS Realignment.

On November 13, 2025, IHS Director initiated Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer on the **second phase** of the Proposed IHS Realignment. To help our service area, AAIHB has posted the comment letter of the first submission for your review and to use as a guideline or draft in submitting a letter for the next phase.

Links are provided down below for easy access:

- [June 13, 2025 Dear Tribal Leader Letter - IHS Proposed Realignment](#)
- [November 13, 2025 Dear Tribal Leader Letter - Next Phase IHS Proposed Realignment](#)
- [AAIHB Tribal Health Policy Page](#)

Comment Deadline:

February 6, 2026

Tribal Consultation Email:

consultation@ihs.gov

Urban Confer Email:

urbanconfer@ihs.gov

Subject line:

**IHS Proposed
Realignment**

Last Session

Urban Confer Session - Virtual

Date: Thursday, January 15, 2026

Time: 1:00 - 4:00PM Eastern Time

IHS Realignment Registration
Required

Federal Administrative & Legislative Updates

Federal Budget Update

On January 8, the House of Representatives passed a minibus bill that included appropriations for the Interior budget that funds the Indian Health Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Bureau of Indian Education. The Senate is expected to pass the legislation this week

[Read the Bill Text Here](#)



Schatz, Murray, Colleagues Demand Answers from ICE on Racial Profiling of Tribal Members - Indian Affairs Committee

December 17, 2025

Contact: Mike Inacay (202) 224-3123

Senators: "The disrespect and harassment of U.S.-born Tribal citizens by ICE is outrageous and inexcusable, and we request that you take immediate steps to put an end to it."

[Read More](#)



Congratulations Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina on Becoming the 575th Federally Recognized Tribe!

The National Congress of American Indians - acknowledges the Lumbee Tribe as the 575th federally recognized Tribe through the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) signed into law in December.

[Read More](#)

Colorado State Updates

Colorado Rural Health Transformation Program

Center for Medicaid & Medicare Services announced Colorado is to receive \$200,105,604 in RHTP grant funds for the first year of the 5-year program.

"Colorado's RHTP will serve all 52 rural and frontier counties and the two federally recognized tribes in Colorado. Across all provider types, approximately 13% of health care facilities are located in rural and frontier counties."

[Read More](#)

[Click Here for the Colorado RHTP Webpage for Timeline and information.](#)

New Mexico State Updates

New Mexico Rural Health Transformation Program

Center for Medicaid & Medicare Services announced New Mexico is to receive \$211,484,741 in RHTP grant funds for the first year of the 5-year program.

NM Health Care Authority and CMS will meet to discuss next steps for implementation, including implementation timelines, reporting expectations, allowable expenditures, technical assistance supports, and finalization of a revised budget aligned with New Mexico's award amount and organizations structure.

[Click here for the NM Rural Health Transformation website.](#)

Funding Opportunities for Nations, Pueblos, Tribes (NPTs) and tribal-serving entities

The New Mexico Indian Affairs Department is committed to assisting New Mexico's Nations, Pueblos, & Tribes and tribal-serving entities with access to resources and funding opportunities. At the link below, you will find a list of funding opportunities

State Funding Resources

New Mexico Senate Bill 3 (SB3) - Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act (BHRIA)

The January SB3 Monthly Report has just been shared. It highlights recent progress and upcoming region workshops.

The link below has been provided for you to review the past and upcoming Executive Committee Meetings, Monthly Reports, and who to contact for each BH Region.

Regional Milestone Tracking – SB3				
Region	Workshop (Status)	Workshop Date	Listening Sessions	Regional Plan Submission (Status)
Region 1	Complete	12/18/2025 - 12/19/2025	Scheduled	Not Started-Pending Report
Region 2	Complete	11/20/2025 - 11/21/2025	In Progress	In Progress
Region 3	Pending Youth E-SIM	2/26/2026 - 2/27/2026	Scheduled	Not Started-Pending Report
Region 4	Scheduled	4/14/2026-4/16/2026	Scheduled	Not Started Pending E-SIM Workshop
Region 5	Scheduled	5/05/2026-5/07/2026	In Progress	Not Started Pending E-SIM Workshop
Region 6	Scheduled	3/24/2026 - 3/26/2026	In Progress	Not Started Pending E-SIM Workshop
Region 7	Scheduled	3/18/2026 - 3/20/2026	Scheduled	Not Started Pending E-SIM Workshop
Region 8	Scheduled	3/11/2026 - 3/13/2026	Scheduled	Not Started Pending E-SIM Workshop
Region 9	Complete	12/02/2025 - 12/04/2025	Complete	In Progress
Region 10	Scheduled	4/21/2026 - 4/23/2026	Not Started	Not Started Pending E-SIM Workshop
Region 11	Complete	12/18/2025 - 12/19/2025	Scheduled	Not Started-Pending Report
Region 12	Scheduled	1/14/2026 - 1/16/2026	Scheduled	Not Started Pending E-SIM Workshop
Region 13	Scheduled	4/8/2026 – 4/10/2026	In Progress	Not Started Pending E-SIM Workshop

*Visit the Alliance of Health Councils for more information- <https://www.nmhealthcouncils.org/publichealthevents>

Workshop Timeline



2025	
Curry County – Region 9 12/02/2025 - 12/04/2025	Bernalillo County (Youth) – Region 2 11/20/2025 - 11/21/2025
	San Juan/McKinley – Region 11 12/9/2025 - 12/11/2025
Dona Ana County (Adult) – Region 3 12/16/2025	Santa Fe County (Youth) – Region 1 12/18/2025 - 12/19/2025
2026	
Lincoln County – Region 12 1/14/2026 - 1/16/2026	Dona Ana County (Youth) – Region 3 2/26/2026 - 2/27/2026
Taos County – Region 8 3/11/2026 - 3/13/2026	Socorro County – Region 7 3/18/2026 - 3/20/2026
Luna County – Region 6 3/24/2026 - 3/26/2026	Guadalupe County – Region 4 4/14/2026-4/16/2026
Cibola County – Region 13 4/8/2026 – 4/10/2026	Eastern Plain COG - Region 10 4/21/2026 - 4/23/2026
Eddy County – Region 5 5/05/2026-5/07/2026	
	Target Date for all Regional Plans 6/30/2026

SB3 Monthly Reports & Updates

New Mexico Senate Bill 42 (SB 42) - Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)

[Bill Text Here.](#)

During the 2025 New Mexico legislature regular session, the Governor signed into law on April 10, 2025, changes to State's implementation of the federal Comprehensive Addiction and recovery Act (CARA).

Changes coming to CARA will take place **July 1, 2026** and will move CARA from the Children, Youth & Families Department to the Health Care Authority.

Texas State Updates

Texas Rural Health Transformation Program

Center for Medicaid & Medicare Services announced that Texas is to receive \$281,319,361 in RHTP grant funds for the first year of the 5-year program.

Texas Health & Human Services Commission (HHCS) will issue public notices and announce procurement opportunities related to the Rural Texas Strong Program through GovDelivery.

Tribal Consultations, Listening Sessions, & Written Comments

NIHB Seeks Feedback on SAMHSA Grant Terminations

On January 14, NIHB has learned that multiple Tribal Nations, Tribal Organizations, and Urban Indian Organizations received grant termination letters from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), impacting critical mental health, behavioral health, and substance use programs.

NIHB needs your help to understand the scope and scale of these funding terminations and to support our ongoing advocacy to protect essential resources for Tribal communities. Your input is critical to ensure that decision-makers fully understand the real-world impacts of these actions.

[Please Fill Out This Survey](#)

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is initiating Tribal Consultation on the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program and the Digital Equity Act of 2021 set aside for Native Entities.

Who is NTIA: NTIA along with BroadbandUSA serve Tribal Governments, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Tribal Organizations, and Native Corporations that seek to expand broadband connectivity.

[NTIA Zoom Registration Link](#)

Dear Tribal Leader Letter

Date:

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Time:

11:00am - 3:00pm MST

Written Comments Due:

February 13, 2026

by 4:00 MST

Subject Line:

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant Program/Digital Equity Native Entities Program

Rescheduled:
**20th Annual
Government-to-
Government Violence
Against Women Tribal
Consultation**

Tribal Consultation:
January 21-23, 2026

Location:

- **Mystic Lake Casino
Hotel - Prior Lake,
Minnesota**
- **Virtual Option
Available**

National Congress of American Indians thanks the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and its Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) for rescheduling the postponed 20th Annual Government-to-Government Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation

The purpose of each consultation is to solicit recommendations from Tribal government leaders on the following topics:

- Administering Tribal funds and programs;
- Enhancing the safety of Indian women from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, homicide, stalking, and sex trafficking;
- Strengthening the federal response to such crimes, and;
- Improving access to local, regional, state, and federal crime information databases and criminal justice information systems.

Health & Human Services (HHS) Tribal Advisory Committee Albuquerque Area Vacancies

Vacant Seat: Alternate

HHS Secretaries Tribal Advisory Committee (**STAC**)

Next Meeting: April 23, 2026

[HHS STAC Charter and Information](#)

Vacant Seat: Primary and Alternate Delegate

Administration for Children & Families (**ACF TAC**)

Next Meeting: TBD

[ACF TAC Charter and Information](#)

Vacant Seat: Alternate

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service Technical Tribal Advisory Group (**CMS TTAG**)

Next Meeting: January 14, 2026

[CMS TTAG Charter](#)

Vacant Seat: Alternate

Human Resources & Services Administration (**HRSA TAC**)

Next Meeting: TBD

[HRSA TAC Charter and Information](#)

Vacant Seat: Alternate

National Institute of Health (**NIH TAC**)

Next Meeting: January 21, 2026

[NIH TAC Charter and Information](#)

Vacant Seat: Alternate

Veterans Administration Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs
(**VA/ACTIA**)

Next Meeting: TBD

[VA Charter and Information](#)

Indian Health Service (IHS) Tribal Advisory Committee Albuquerque Area Vacancies

Vacant Seat: Alternate

Facilities Appropriations Advisory Board (**FAAB**)

Next Meeting: TBD

[FAAB Charter and Information](#)

Vacant Seats: Primary and Alternate

Contract Support Cost Advisory Group (**CSCAG**)

Next Meeting: TBD

[CSCAG Charter and Information](#)

Vacant Seats: Primary and Alternate

National Tribal Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health (**NTAC**)

Next Meeting: December 15, 2025

[NTAC Charter and Information](#)

Vacant Seats: Alternate

Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (**TSGAC**)

Next Meeting: February 24-25, 2026; Washington, D.C.

[TSGAC Resources Page](#)

Vacant Seats: Primary and Alternate

Director's Workgroup on Improving Purchased/Referred Care (**PRC**)

Next Meeting: January 14-15, 2026

[PRC Charter and Information](#)

AAIHB would love to highlight the work You and Your Tribes are doing!
Stories will focus on Tribal Health Policy or Call-to-Health Action.

[Email AAIHB Health Policy Team Here](#)

Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board | 7001 Prospect Place NE | Albuquerque, NM 87110 US

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