

Albuquerque Area Tribal Health Policy Newsletter



AASTEC
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EVENTS

The Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board is a nonprofit organization committed to supporting health & wellness in Native American communities. Our newsletter serves as a platform to share important health updates, success stories, and initiatives that impact the lives of community members. By subscribing, you will receive timely information on upcoming events, deadlines, and resources tailored to your unique needs and interests. Our goal is to empower Native American communities with the knowledge and support necessary to thrive.

Important Dates

February 24, 2026

Special Session of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs (CCIA)

[CCIA Meeting Link](#)

February 24-25, 2026

Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC)

Washington, D.C.

[TSGAC Information](#)

March 10-12, 2026

IHS Clinical and Community Workforce Summit, Alzheimer's & Elder Care

Denver, CO

[Summit Registration](#)

March 11, 2026

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Tribal Advisory Committee

March 16-19, 2026

2026 Native American Child and Family Conference at Isleta Resort

Virtual

IHS Summit Registration

Child & Family Conference
Registration

March 17-18, 2026

Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee
(TLDC)

Hybrid/Tucson, AZ

TLDC Website

March 18, 2026

HHS Annual Tribal Budget Consultation
Planning Session

Washington, D.C.

HHS Annual Tribal Budget
Consultation - Registration

March 19, 2026

Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs
(CCIA) 3rd Quarterly Meeting

March 24, 2026

Medicare, Medicaid, and Health Reform
Policy Committee (MMPC) Face-to-Face
Meeting. RSVP by Wednesday, March
18, 2026.

Washington, D.C.

MMPC Registration

April 1, 2026

HHS Annual Tribal Budget Consultation
Planning Session - Focus on receiving
recommendations from tribal leaders for
the development of the agenda.

Washington, D.C.

HHS Annual Tribal Budget
Consultation - Registration

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

April 27-30, 2026

National Council of Urban Indian Health
(NCUIH) 2026 Annual Conference -

the Gila River Wild Horse Pass in
Chandler, Arizona.

**Gila River Wild Horse Pass, Chandler,
AZ**

**TSGAC Registration &
Information**

Registration Open! Space is limited

Washington, DC

**NCUIH 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 27, 2026

Tribal Consultation Email:
consultation@ihs.gov

Urban Confer Email:
urbanconfer@ihs.gov

Subject line:
IHS Proposed Realignment

IHS Realignment Webpage

Federal Administrative & Legislative Updates

[Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#) Shares Important News

With support from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (**HHS**), the Indian Health Service (**IHS**) is launching the largest hiring initiative in the Agency's history.

The currently available Indian Health Service hiring opportunities span a wide range of disciplines, including:

- Physicians, nurses, dentist, pharmacists, and behavioral health professionals;
- Public health, environmental health, and community health roles; and
- Health administration, information technology, and essential support services.

IHS Jobs

USA Jobs

H.R. 7148: Consolidated FY 2026 Appropriations Update

This bill provides appropriations to several departments and agencies for the remainder of FY 2026 and provides continuing FY 2026 appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through February 13, 2026.

The bill includes 5 of the 12 regular FY 2026 appropriations bills:

- Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2026;
- Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026;
- Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 2026;
- Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act 2026; and
- the National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2026

Many critical Tribal health programs at the Department of Health and Human Services to name a few:

- **Improving Native American Cancer Outcomes**, which received 9 million
- **Native Connection Program** is receiving \$26.66 million
- **American Indian and Alaska Native Zero Suicide** received \$4.4 million
- **Tribal Opioid Response Grant** - \$67.8 million
- **Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country** received \$27 million
- **Minority HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Tribal set aside** received \$6 million.

Congress also provided a substantial \$41 million increase for the **Special Diabetes Program for Indians**, receiving \$200 million for FY 2026.

Lastly, funding for the Indian Health Service (IHS):

- \$2.63 billion for **Hospitals and Health Clinics**.
- \$190.56 million for **Electronic Health Records (EHR)**.
- **IHS Facilities** received \$809.22 million
- \$133.69 million for **Mental Health**.
- \$267 million for **Alcohol and Substance Abuse**.
- \$1.82 Billion for **Contract Support Costs (CSC)**.
- **Urban Indian Health** received \$95.42 million
- \$2.99 million for **Direct Operations**
- **Self-Governance** will receive \$6.17 million.

NCUIH-Endorsed Bipartisan Legislation Aimed at Strengthening Tribal Public Safety Passes Senate - NCUIH

On December 12, 2025, the National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH)-endorsed legislation, the Bridging Agency Data Gaps & Ensuring Safety (BADGES) for Native Communities Act (S.390) unanimously passed the Senate and will now head to the House.



[Read More](#)

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services News: Community Engagement Implementation Support and Related Medicaid System Improvements

Several health technology companies have pledged to the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that they intend to help states successfully prepare for and implement Medicaid community engagement requirements enacted under Public Law 119-21, which CMS refers to as the [Working Families Tax Cut \(WFTC\)](#) legislation.

[CMS Fact Sheet](#)

Colorado State Updates

The Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) Advisory Committee Application is now open!

The RHTP Advisory Committee will advise the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing on the application process, funding priorities, and public-facing materials, provide input on program developments and CMS negotiations, and offer recommendations on eligible project types, while HCPF and a third-party facilitator manage and coordinate the committee's work.

[RHTP Advisory Committee Application Form](#)

New Mexico State Updates

The New Mexico Indian Affairs Department has published the 2026 events calendar. The calendar provides important state deadlines and important dates for Indian Country. Click the link below to download and print your copy.

[2026 NM Indian Affairs Department Calendar](#)



Health Department expands school-based health centers

SANTA FE - The New Mexico Department of Health is celebrating National School-Based Health Center Awareness Month this February by highlighting significant growth in school-based health services over the past year - improving access to health care for children and adolescents.

[Read More](#)

From Community to Contracted:

A Training Series to Strengthen New Mexico's Community-Based Health Workforce

Luminar Health is holding a **FREE** training series designed to equip **Community Health Workers, Doulas, and Lactation Providers** across New Mexico with the **knowledge, tools, and systems** required to become a **Medicaid-billable provider**.

Hosted by the **Blue Door Neighborhood Center**, Luminar Health will provide **culturally rooted sessions** that empower local providers to navigate credentialing, billing, compliance, and clinical integration so they can offer care to those who need them most.

LOCATION: All trainings will take place at the **Blue Door Neighborhood Center** (3925 Las Estancias Way, Building 9, Suite A, Albuquerque, NM 87121), or you may **attend virtually**.

Lunch and beverages will be provided for in-person attendees.

MONDAY
FEB 23RD
1 - 2:30PM

Get Ready to Contract

Gain a clear understanding of New Mexico Medicaid credentialing, setting up and maintaining a CAQH profile, and key provider requirements.



Virtual
bit.ly/4bFUYxK



In-Person
bit.ly/4a78Hmk

MONDAY
JUNE 22ND
1 - 2:30PM

Structure and Grow Your Practice

Understand how your practice structure and tax ID choices affect New Mexico Medicaid enrollment and MCO contracting.



Virtual
bit.ly/4jPnLlx



In-Person
bit.ly/4jUpRH9

MONDAY
SEP 21ST
1 - 2:30PM

Learn to Document for Dollars

Learn best practices for compliant documentation, accurate CPT coding, and successful billing submissions.



Virtual
bit.ly/4j0FD6q



In-Person
bit.ly/4pVgxnY

MONDAY
DEC 7TH
1 - 2:30PM

Integrate with Your Community

Explore ways to build stronger clinic and community partnerships that support effective referrals and meaningful client engagement.



Virtual
bit.ly/45iepPK



In-Person
bit.ly/3LY4Xub



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 from the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department. Please note that they will be updated periodically.

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 - 12/19/2035	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>



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.

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

Tribal Consultations, Listening Sessions, & Written Comments

28th U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Annual Tribal Budget Consultation (ATBC)

HHS will host two planning sessions to prepare for the 28th Annual Tribal Budget Consultation, taking place on April 21-22, 2026.

The first session will provide an overview of HHS and its Operating Divisions. This informative session will particularly be beneficial for tribal leaders and staff that are new to HHS or who would like a refresher on the Department and its budget process.

The second session will focus on receiving recommendations from tribal leaders for the development of the agenda for the 28th HHS Annual Tribal Budget Consultation

First Session: **March 18, 2026**

Second Session: **April 1, 2026**

ATBC Planning Session Registration

HHS Announces a Tribal Listening Session on Tribal Stockpiling

The listening session will inform how HHS can more effectively support Tribal preparedness efforts through its Strategic National Stockpile.

The listening session will consider the following discussion topics:

1. Whether and how stockpile planning is occurring within your Tribal nation, including key characteristics of your approach (e.g. populations served, self-managed versus vendor-managed inventory).
2. Successes and challenges experienced in establishing and sustaining stockpiles of MCMs.
3. Partnerships or collaborations that are critical to the success of your stockpiling efforts.
4. Tools, resources, or technical assistance that would be most helpful from the federal government to support Tribal stockpiling efforts.
5. How would Tribes/Tribal Leaders/Tribal Organizations prioritize the tools, resources, or technical assistance identified?

Date: **March 13, 2026**

Time: **12:00 MST**

HHS Stockpile Registration

Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services Indian Health Services, Tribal, and Urban Indian (ITU) Program Trainings

These important trainings help ITU programs maximize their ability to access third-party resources through Medicare, Medicaid, and the Health Insurance Marketplace, and are designed to strengthen Tribal health programs

Save the Date: **April 22-23, 2026**

Albuquerque, NM

Innovating Through Storytelling: Health Campaigns in the Digital Age

The National Council of Urban Indian Health is hosting a final learning opportunity in the Community of Learning Series: Navigating the Future of Health Care. This session explores how storytelling can be used to co-create health campaigns with community rather than delivering messages to them.

Date: **February 26, 2026**

Learning Objective:

- Use story mapping to co-create health campaigns with community members, centering lived experience and cultural values.
- Identify practical strategies for meaningfully involving community voices throughout the design and implementation of health campaigns.
- Select appropriate digital platforms and impact measures that reflect community engagement, trust, and real-world outcomes.

[Health Campaigns Registration](#)

Announcements

Congratulations Council Member Krystal Enjady, Mescalero Apache Tribe!

The Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) announced the appointment of eight (8) new delegates to the HRSA Tribal Advisory Council. The TAC provides guidance to HRSA on issues affecting Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities and helps ensure HRSA programs are responsive to Tribal health policies.

Stay Tuned for the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board's (AAIHB) Open House! Date coming soon.

It will be your opportunity to stop by and meet and greet AAIHB's staff and programming.

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](#)

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