

Albuquerque Area Tribal Health Policy Newsletter



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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



Hearing - American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Hearing (Day 2, Afternoon Session)

House Committee on Appropriations --led by Rep. Tom Cole (R-Oklahoma), a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation -- is hearing from Indian Country. Dozens of tribal

leaders, advocates and other American Indian and Alaska Native representatives are testifying about the funding needed to fulfill the federal government's trust and treaty obligations.

[Read More](#)

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

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

[TSGAC Registration & Information](#)

April 16, 2026

Health & Human Services Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (**HHS STAC**)

Virtual
Meeting Details Forthcoming

April 21-22, 2026

HHS Annual Tribal Budget Consultation

Washington, DC

[28th HHS Annual Tribal Budget Consultation Registration](#)

April 27-30, 2026

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

Washington, DC

[NCUIH Registration & Information](#)

May 5-7, 2026

2026 National Community Health Aide Program (**CHAP**) Symposium

Billings, MT

CHAP Registration

June 14-17, 2026

National Congress of American Indians (**NCAI**) 2026 Mid Year Convention & Marketplace

Memphis, TN

NCAI Mid Year Registration

Federal Administrative & Legislative Updates



Tribal Leaders Demand Action as Health Care Crisis Grips Indian Country - Native News Online

Dozens of tribal leaders and representatives testified last week before lawmakers, urging them to fully fund the long-neglected Indian Health Service. The United States government has a treaty and trust responsibility to uphold tribal sovereignty and provide services to Native nations, such as healthcare, public safety, education, and more.

Read More

GAO Highlights: Indian Affairs 2025 - Information on 2025 Workforce Reductions

"GAO was asked to review Indian Affairs' actions to downsize its workforce since January 2025. This report describes actions taken by Indian Affairs to reduce the size of the workforce, the number of staff reductions in 2025, initial observations from Tribes and Indian Affairs employees, and any Indian Affairs plans for additional workforce reductions. GAO reviewed workforce data from January 25, 2025, through July 31, 2025."

[GAO IHS Report - Read More](#)

IHS 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](#)

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](#)

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](#)



Indian Health Service is digging out of decades-old construction backlog for medical buildings - Native News Online

An empty lot between a fire station and a soccer field just outside Albuquerque soon will be the home of a federal medical center first promised to Native American patients more than 30 years ago.

[Read More](#)

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.

[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 the 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.

Tribal Consultations, Listening Sessions, & Written Comments

HHS Annual Tribal Budget Consultation (ATBC) One-on-One Tribal Meetings with Divisions

The survey is for the purposes of scheduling one-on-one meetings between interested tribes and HHS Divisions in conjunction with the 28th HHS Annual Tribal Budget consultation.

The deadline to submit requests for one-in-one is: **April 15, 2026**

[ATBC One-on-One Scheduling](#)

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

HHS 28th Annual Tribal Budget Consultation

Tribal Nations are encourage to submit written testimony to ensure their priorities are included in the formal consultation record.

Deadline: April 24, 2026, at 5:00pm ET

Email: consultation@hhs.gov

Subject Line: HHS Annual Tribal Budget Consultation

Announcements

Thank you Councilman Conrad Jacket for Your Testimony!

On March 17th, Councilman Conrad Jacket testified on the Indian Health Services FY 2027 Budget at the Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies of the House of Representatives American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Days.

Link:

[Testimony of Conrad Jacket, Board Member, Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board, INC.](#)

Stay Tuned for the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board's (AAIHB) Celebration 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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