

2025 Federal Public Health Priorities

Seattle Indian Health Board (SIHB) ensures the health and well-being of urban American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities by providing culturally attuned healthcare and human services; conducting data research through its research division, Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI); and collaborating with tribal, community, and local partners.

Urban Indian Health

Ensure Native people have access to healthcare regardless of their location.

- Indian Health Service (IHS) Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget requests:
 - \$53.85 billion for IHS with 3.29% for Indian Health Professions.
 - \$977.4 million for the Urban Indian Health line item.
 - \$474.4 million for the Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TEC) line item.
- Raise the level of the IHS Director to an Assistant Secretary.
- Support advanced appropriations for IHS until mandatory spending is permanently authorized.
- Support the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reimbursement of Traditional Health Services to uphold health practices for AI/AN populations.*
- Support H.R. 630/S. 460: Urban Indian Health Confer Act.
- Support H.R. 6533: Urban Indian Health Parity Act, endorsed by SIHB.
- Support S. 3130: Restoring Accountability in the IHS Act.
- Support H.R. 3791: Improving DATA in Public Health Act.
- Support H.R. 5378: Lower Costs, More Transparency Act.

Community Health Centers (CHC)

Protect programs and services delivered by CHCs.

- Protect the 340B Program and high-priced pharmaceutical drugs from being carved out of Medicaid Managed Care.
- Ensure Federally Qualified Health Centers are allowed to contract with a Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM).
- Support H.R. 4189/S. 2016: CONNECT for Health Act.
- Support H.R. 7623/S. 3967: Telehealth Modernization Act.
- Support H.R. 2559 to provide five years of funding for CHCs and the National Health Service Corps.
- Support H.R. 1072: Health Center Community Transformation Hub Act.
- Support H.R. 3850: Pride in Mental Health Act, endorsed by SIHB.
- Support S. 2308: Community Health Care Reauthorization Act.

Workforce Development

Invest in the public health workforce.

- Support dual certification and licensing of behavioral and mental health practitioners.
- Amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, Sec. 111 on Community Health Aide Program (CHAP), to include UIOs as eligible participants.
- Support S. 2840: Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act to improve primary care and expand the health workforce.
- Support H.R. 7307: Health Care Workforce Innovation Act.
- Support S. 3022: IHS Workforce Parity Act.
- Support H.R. 6205/S. 3211: Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act.
- Support H.R. 4933/S. 462: Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act

Supporting Priorities

Behavioral Health

- Support H.R. 5801/S. 2976: Preventing Overdoses with Test Strips Act.
- Support H.R. 4531/S. 2433: Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act.

Medicare/Health Care

- Support H.R. 1610: Chiropractic Medicare Coverage Modernization Act.
- Support H.R. 2861: Addressing Anti-Competitive Health Care Contract Clauses Act.
- Support H.R. 3008: Drug Shortage Prevention Act.

Infrastructure

- Invest \$42 million in UIO facilities to support construction, maintenance, equipment, and other facility needs.
- Invest \$250 million for the Data Modernization Initiative to improve public health surveillance programs and increase accessible data for TECs.
- Request a cost estimate and assessment on expansion of the UIOs with high densities of AI/AN people.
- Advocate for the creation of an interagency data council under HHS responsibility to establish a process for sharing public health data, create a longitudinal and sustainable program, and receive updates on federal data violations.
- Support S. 1995: Public Health Infrastructure Saves Lives Act.

*SIHB implemented a first-of-its-kind Traditional Indian Medicine reimbursement pilot.

