



# AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH COMMISSION

## MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT PROJECT

2017

### AIHC Mutual Aid Project

The American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) will facilitate a collaborative process to develop Mutual Aid Agreements (MAAs) between interested tribes and local health jurisdictions in Washington's Public Health Emergency Planning Regions 1 and 3. The project will also facilitate a process to revise the operational plan for Region 2's existing Tribal-Public Health Mutual Aid Agreement. Funding for the project comes from Tribal Reinvestment Funds from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and is set for completion by June 2017.

### Project Objectives

- 22 tribes will have had the opportunity to participate in a regional MAA
- Agreements and operational plans that reflect lessons learned by 7 tribes and 3 LHJs (in Region 2) will be in place in 3 Regions
- Training materials will be available online

### Region 1

Lummi Nation  
Nooksack Tribe  
Samish Tribe  
Sauk-Suiattle Tribe  
Stillaguamish Tribe  
Swinomish Tribe  
Upper Skagit Tribe  
Tulalip Tribe

### Region 2

Hoh Tribe  
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe  
Makah Nation  
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe  
Quileute Nation  
Suquamish Tribe

### Region 3

Chehalis Tribe  
Cowlitz Tribe  
Nisqually Tribe  
Quinault Nation  
Shoalwater Bay Tribe  
Skokomish Tribe  
Squaxin Island Tribe



Planned Coordination Saves Lives

**MUTUAL AID  
AGREEMENTS  
SAVE LIVES  
AND  
PROPERTY**

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# The MAA Project Will

- Facilitate a process with tribes and local health jurisdictions (LHJs) in Region 2 to revise their operational plan and develop training materials
- Facilitate a process with tribes and LHJs in Region 1 and Region 3 to develop MAAs, operational plans, and training materials

## Background

Mutual aid agreements (MAAs) facilitate rapid and effective processes for requesting and offering help, and play a key role in a government's legal preparedness. Since Local Health Officers have no jurisdiction on tribal lands, MAAs establish mechanisms for tribes to delegate or share authority—if they choose—during public health emergencies. MAAs are an important tool for tribal governments to maintain maximum control over who provides assistance and what assistance is provided, during community emergencies.

In 2010, the tribes and local health jurisdictions in Region 2 executed a MAA. Since then, the partners have exercised the agreement with test scenarios and activated it in response to real public health incidents. Through these experiences, the tribes and LHJs identified the need to revise the agreement's operational plan. They found the current plan needs to be simplified and made more “user friendly.” This project will facilitate a process to revise the plan.

This project will also provide tribes in other regions the opportunity to participate in a regional MAA. The AIHC will facilitate a process in Regions 1 and 3 for interested partners to develop MAAs. Future projects will support the remaining regions in the state, with the goal that all tribes and LHJs have the opportunity to develop regional MAAs.

## Project Activities

1. Conduct outreach and site visits to tribes to obtain tribal input
2. Facilitate in-person kick-off meetings with representatives from tribes and LHJs at each region
3. Facilitate ongoing webinar meetings with Region 2 to collaboratively revise operational plan
4. Facilitate ongoing webinar meetings with Regions 1 and 3 to collaboratively develop MAAs and operational plans
5. Develop, distribute, and post training materials for each MAA

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***“I have seen that in any great undertaking it is not enough for a man to depend simply upon himself.”***

***- Lone Man (Isna-la-wica)***

***Teton Sioux***

