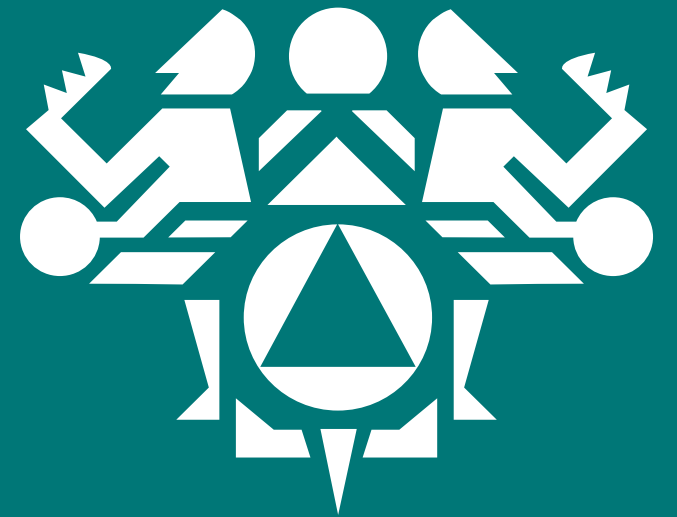


NPAIHB

Weekly Update

June 30, 2026





NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH BOARD
Indian Leadership for Indian Health

Agenda

- Welcome & Introduction: Victoria Warren-Mears
- NPAIHB Announcements, Events, & Resources
- NPAIHB Legislative and Policy Updates – Pakak Sophie Boerner
- Questions & Comments

Please sign in, using the chat box, with your full name and tribe or organization

NPAIHB QBM July 20 – 23 @ Siletz

Registration for the July Quarterly Board Meeting is open!

Hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Dates: July 20-23, 2026

Location: Chinook Winds Casino Resort, Lincoln City, OR

Registration: <https://npaihb.clickup.com/forms/9009195633/f/8cfuukh-51297/D5LARBYDO8N3968CIE>

Please register by July 6, 2026

Room Block: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/99805?groupID=4883563>

Reservations can also be made via phone at (888) 244-6665

When calling to book, please refer to the QBM 2026 group block

Room block closes 7/6/26



NPAIHB

Indian Leadership for Indian Health

Upcoming Indian Country ECHO Telehealth Opportunities

- **Hepatitis C ECHO** – 1st, 3rd & 4th Wednesday of every month at 11am PT
 - Wednesday, July 1st at 11am PT
 - Didactic Topic: *Hep C Elimination Program at Eastern Band Cherokee*
 - To join via Zoom: <https://echo.zoom.us/j/537117924?pwd=OEExbERmK2pSUFFsMzV1SmVpb3g3dz09>
- **Substance Use Disorder (SUD) ECHO** – 1st Thursday of every month at 11am PT
 - Thursday, July 2nd at 11am PT
 - To join via Zoom: <https://echo.zoom.us/j/806554798?pwd=WVQyUFJnYkR3SXBjcUdlemRnNmZ6Zz09>

The US as a whole, and Indian Country, in particular, are seeing surges in the 'syndemic' of interrelated disease states of sexually transmitted infections, hepatitis C virus, HIV and substance use disorder. We can reduce the incidence and impact of the syndemic via policy and practice modifications that fit the context of each community and health facility. These options include expanded screening, amplifying the roles of Tribal public health and clinic staff, and more. This two-day Tribal Disease Intervention (TDI) training strengthens the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to carry out disease investigation, linkage to care, and partner services for those impacted by the syndemic in ways that honor Tribal values, relationships, and community strengths.

Through practical tools and culturally responsive communication strategies, participants will deepen their ability to reduce stigma, protect confidentiality, and coordinate care with compassion and respect. Grounded in relational accountability, this training supports Tribal public health professionals in helping individuals access prevention and treatment services while strengthening the health and healing of the broader community.



[To View Agenda click here](#)

Dates: July 13th – July 15th

Where: [The Porter Portland](#), 1355 SW 2nd Ave, Portland, OR 97201

How to Join: [Click here to register](#)

Indian Country Ending the Syndemic Training Registration (August 2026)

Staff serving Alaska Native & American Indian people are invited to participate in the Ending the Syndemic ECHO program. The program provides comprehensive information to effectively address the evolving HCV, SUD, HIV, and Syphilis syndemic. The program offers a free 2-day in-person training with both a Clinical Track, a Community Health Professionals Track & subsequent telehealth clinics.

Agenda: [To view the draft agenda, click here.](#)

The Indigenous Syndemic Pathway for **Clinicians** track will provide an overview and present implementation options, and where requested, assist with implementation. The training is not only informational—technical and other support needed to put policy and practice into place is available and encouraged. Continuing Education will be provided.

The Indigenous Syndemic Pathway for **Community Health Professionals** (CHPs) track is designed to equip CHPs with the knowledge, confidence, and tools to respond to syndemic topics that can be hard to talk about with relatives. These sessions will cover individual diseases and broader topics. Many of these presentations will include group discussion and interaction. This track is focused to provide training for Community Health Representatives, Health Aides, Peer Navigators, Social Workers, and Case Managers.



Dates: August 11th (8am-5pm PT) and August 12th (8am-4:30pm PT)

Where: Fordson Hotel, 900 W Main St, Oklahoma City, OK 73106 (Hosted by the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board) & Virtually via Zoom

How to Join: [Click here to register](#)

NPAIHB Weekly Update Schedule

- July 7: WTDP Updates, State Partner Updates & Communicable Diseases Updates
- July 14: N CREW Research Topic focus (topic TBD)
- July 21: NO UPDATE - NPAIHB QBM



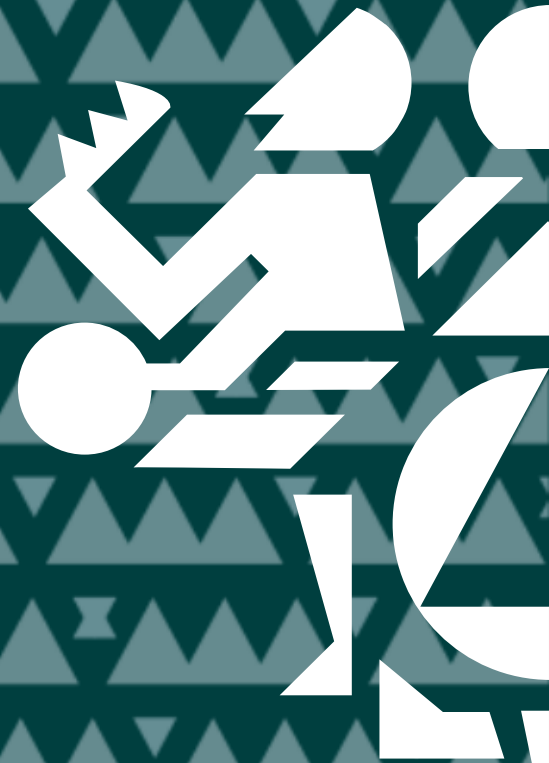
Legislative and Policy Updates

Pakak Sophie Boerner



Legislative & Policy Update

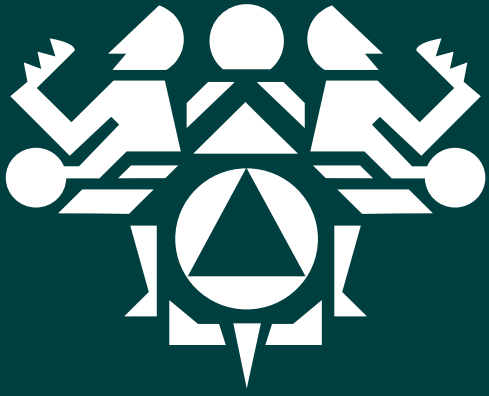
June 30, 2026



Agenda:



- Congressional Updates
- Federal Updates
- Dear Tribal Leader Letters
- NPAIHB Announcements
- National and Regional Meetings
- Policy Resources



Congressional Updates

Congressional Updates

- Congress is on recess until July 10, 2026
- Appropriations:
 - House:
 - The House has passed all 12 appropriation bills out of Committee
 - Two appropriation bills have passed on the House floor and are now with the Senate
 - **H.R.8646** - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency Appropriations Act
 - **H.R.8469** - Making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies
 - Some members from the House are pushing for a third budget reconciliation bill that would push the Administration's policies forwards
 - Senate:
 - The Senate has not set discretionary vs. non-discretionary funds and therefore has not begun the appropriation process

Indian Health Service Emergency Claims Parity Act

- The Indian Health Service Emergency Claims Parity Act:
 - Extends the notification window from 72 hours to 15 days for Indian Health Service (IHS) patients who receive emergency care from a non-IHS provider.
 - Gives patients and families more time to notify IHS after an emergency, when paperwork is often unrealistic and medical needs are the immediate priority.
 - Helps protect American Indian and Alaska Native patients from being left with medical bills or collections because of a short administrative deadline.
 - Maintains the existing 30-day notification window for elderly or disabled patients.

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Hearing on HHS Senior Advisor Mark Cruz Nomination to IHS Director

On June 24, 2026, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA) held a hearing on the HHS Senior Advisor, Mark Cruz's, nomination as the Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS) for a four-year term.

Topics discussed:

- HHS Senior Advisor and IHS Director
- Patient care is top priority for Tribal and urban Indian partners
- Cross-collaboration with HHS, OMB, Congress, and Tribal Leaders
- 1993 Grandfathered List:
 - Eight projects remain, ~ \$8B
 - Current annual construction appropriations, ~\$200M
- Support for advanced appropriations
- Indian Health Service Emergency Claims Parity Act

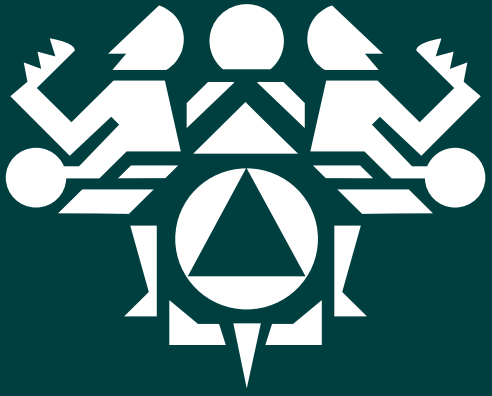
House Interior Appropriations FY27 Comparison to FY26

Indian Health Service Budget FY 2026 and FY 2027 House Appropriations Legislation
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Final Enacted FY 2026	House Appropriations Leg	House Change from FY 2026	House % Change from FY 2026
Clinical Services	\$ 4,555,362	\$ 4,813,515	\$ 258,153	5.7%
Preventative Health	\$ 206,119	\$ 230,035	\$ 23,916	11.6%
Other Services	\$ 292,952	\$ 322,784	\$ 29,832	10.2%
Facilities	\$ 809,222	\$ 871,074	\$ 61,852	7.6%
TOTAL, IHS WITHOUT CSC & LEASES	\$ 5,863,655	\$ 6,237,408	\$ 373,753	6.4%
Contract Support Costs (CSC)	\$ 1,708,000	\$ 1,731,000	\$ 23,000	1.3%
Section 105(I) Leases	\$ 413,000	\$ 720,000	\$ 307,000	74.3%
TOTAL, IHS WITH CSC & LEASES	\$ 7,984,655	\$ 8,688,408	\$ 703,753	8.8%

Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) President's Budget

- Health and Human Services – overall a **12.5% decrease** from FY 2026
- Overall decreases across Health and Human Services (HHS)
 - \$4 billion – cut from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
 - \$775 million – cut from Community Service Block Grants
 - Improving Native American Cancer Outcomes program eliminated (\$9 million)
- Significant Investments in Indian Country
 - \$80 million – implementing new prevention, treatment, and recovery programming
 - \$19 million – expanding access to nutrition services
- Administration for a Healthy America (AHA)



Federal Updates

Office of Management & Budget (OMB) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)

Office of Management and Budget Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (91FR103) [Docket No. OMB-2026-0034]

- The OMB issued a NPRM recommending changes to the OMB Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance located in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).
- The proposed changes:
 - have a significant impact on grant programs, and
 - apply a new, narrow standard when defining a “Tribal” program, and
 - require grant alignment with Administration objectives and priorities

CMS Announces New Budget Neutrality Guidance for Medicaid Section 1115 Demonstrations

- Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver Changes
- January 1, 2027, budget neutrality certifications required
- CMS Chief Actuary to certify:
 - Budget neutrality, and that there are
 - No increases in federal Medicaid spending beyond what would occur under traditional program operations.
- All Tribes Consultation Webinar Tuesday, **June 30** from **9 AM to 12 PM PST**
 - [Registration](#)

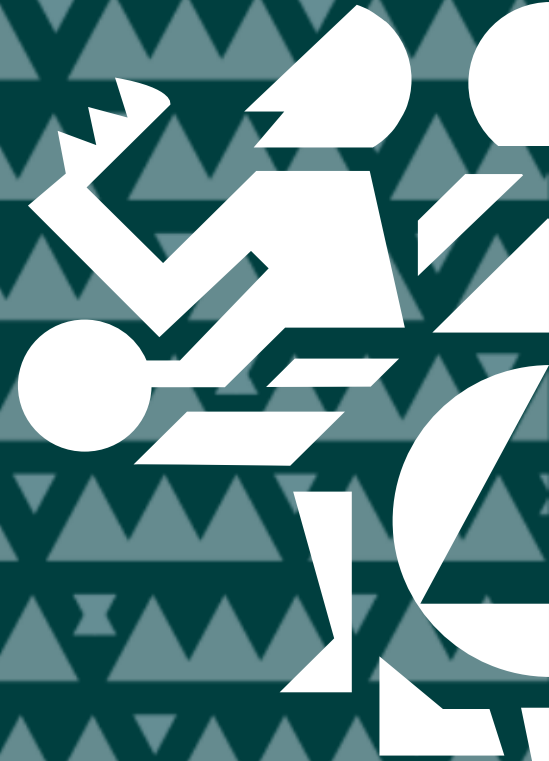
CMS Releases Guidance on Implementing Community Engagement Requirements

- Interim Final Rule released on the implementation of community engagement, or work requirements
- July 9, 2026, we will provide a review of the Interim Final Rule
- Pending questions:
 - No process for Tribal consultation
 - Data sharing requirements between States and Indian Health Care Providers
 - Two-part test for “medical frailty”, requires on-going documentation
 - Verification requirements for American Indians/Alaska Native Medicaid beneficiaries during enrollment.

HHS Office of Minority Health Funding Opportunity

- The HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) is soliciting applications to advance sustainable, culturally responsive solutions to address chronic disease burden and health care access gaps experienced by American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) populations.
- Funded projects should focus on the prevention and improvement of chronic disease outcomes within one identified Indigenous population of focus.
 - Obesity
 - Hypertension
 - diabetes
- Applications are **due July 15, 2026, 6 p.m. ET.**
- [Link](#)

Dear Tribal Leader Letters (DTLLs)



Portland Area – Change in Methodology for Purchased/Referred Care Fund Distribution

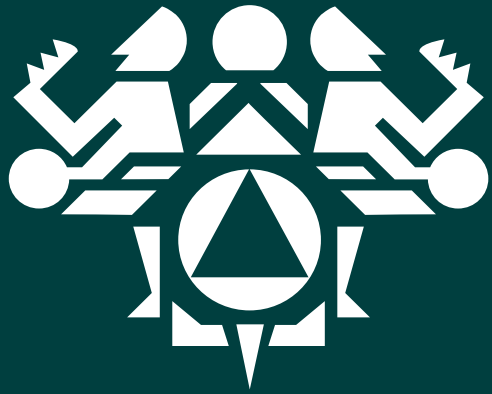
The Portland IHS issued a [DTLL](#) on May 22, 2026, announcing changes to the Purchased Referred Care Fund Distribution Methodology.

- Current methodology uses Purchased Referred Care Delivery Area (PRCDA) for calculation of users and includes a split of unaffiliated among Tribes with shared counties.
- Proposed methodology:
 - All assigned counties in reference to user population calculations, as they are today, remain the same.
 - Any Tribe who expands their PRCDA will not obtain any additional unaffiliated users from those expanded counties.
 - Any Tribe who expands their PRCDA will obtain their own Tribal members that live within those expanded counties as users.
- If you have questions, please contact Peggy Brickell, Director, Division of Business Operations at 503-414-5598 or peggy.brickell@ihs.gov

Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI)

The IHS issued a DTLL on May 21, 2026, announcing:

- Administrative supplements for all 310 current SDPI grantees
 - Supplements shall be 25% of current annual award
 - Distribution should occur within the next few weeks
- The IHS will be holding Tribal consultation on additional funding provided in the FY 2026 budget, dates to be determined



NPAIHB Announcements

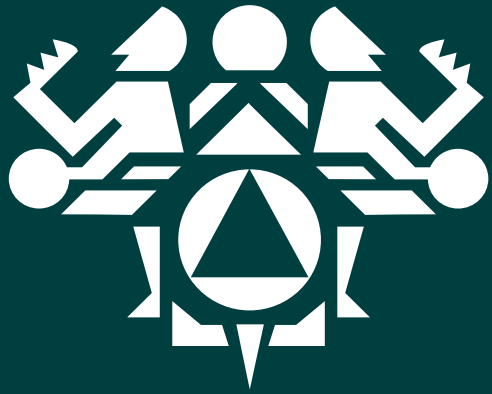
National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)

- NCAI Mid-Year conference was held June 15-19, 2026, in Memphis, Tennessee.
 - Attendees:
 - NPAIHB Executive Chair Aaron Hines
 - NPAIHB Director of Legal and Government Affairs Hilary Edwards
- Resolutions:
 - Three resolutions were elevated from the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) Mid-Year conference to the NCAI
 - The two resolutions were presented at the NCAI Mid-Year Conference and will be brought before the NCAI Executive Committee for review and adoption, as quorum was not established:
 - MEM-26-028 Protecting and increasing IHS sanitation facilities construction funds
 - MEM-26-030 Advocating for Congress to establish legislation for the reimbursement and financial support for Tribally-purchased electronic health record systems
 - The third resolution will be brought to the NCAI Annual Conference on October 18-22, 2026, in Palm Springs, California.

IHS Visit to NPAIHB Lovejoy Building

- June 16, 2026, NPAIHB had the privilege of hosting Indian Health Service (IHS) leadership at our Lovejoy Building
- Attendees:
 - **Ben Smith**, IHS Deputy Director
 - **Dr. Vijay Kannan**, Acting Director of the Office of Clinical and Preventive Services
 - **RADM Marcus Martinez**, Portland Area IHS Director
 - **Dr. Geniel Harrison**, Portland Area IHS Chief Medical Officer
 - **Gayle Jacques**, Special Assistant to the Executive Operations & Integration and Office of the Director.





Tribal Advisory Committees, National and Regional Meetings

Upcoming Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) Meetings

- HHS Tribal Technical Advisory Group (**CMS-TTAG**) – **July 8-9, 2026**
- IHS Facilities Appropriations Advisory Board (**FAAB**) – **July 14-15, 2026**
- IHS Tribal Self Governance Advisory Committee (**TSGAC**) – **July 29-30, 2026**

NPAIHB July Quarterly Board Meeting

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians has graciously offered to host the July QBM, **July 20-23, 2026**, in Lincoln City, OR at the Chinook Winds Casino Resort.

- Registration is open until **July 10, 2026** and can be accessed [here](#)
- The room block is open until **July 6, 2026**. Please use the link to book your stay: [Reservations](#)

Hotel Address:

Chinook Winds Casino Resort

1777 NW 44th St. Lincoln City, OR 97367

- Reservations can also be made via phone at **(888) 244-6665**
- When calling to book, please refer to the QBM 2026 group block.

QBM Website



Regional & National Meetings

- **NPAIHB Quarterly Board Meeting**
 - July 20-23
 - Hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians at Chinook Winds Casino Resort, Lincoln City, OR
- **2026 National Tribal Health Conference**
 - August 17-21, 2026
 - Gila River Wild Horse Pass, Chandler, AZ
- **NPAIHB Quarterly Board Meeting**
 - October to be determine
 - Hosted by the Snoqualmie Tribe at Snoqualmie Casino & Hotel, Snoqualmie, WA
- **ATNI: Sept 14-18**
 - Hosted by the Snoqualmie Tribe at Snoqualmie Casino & Hotel, Snoqualmie, WA
- **NCAI Oct 18-24**

Contact Us



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Questions & Comments