

Tribal Cooperative Agreement

Strengthening tribal public health systems to ensure health, safety, and security in Indian Country



About the Cooperative Agreement

This cooperative agreement—**Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services in Indian Country**—provides funding to tribal nations and regional tribally designated organizations to build stronger public health systems in their communities.

This funding helps recipients to:

- **Invest in the people, services, and systems** that improve health and well-being in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.
- **Overcome unique infrastructure challenges**, such as data access barriers, public health workforce shortages, remote locations, and limited partnership opportunities.
- **Deliver tailored public health services** that address tribal community-specific needs, including emergency response activities.

Unique Features: Funding Built for Communities

This funding enables tribal communities to address local public health priorities and respond to emerging needs. This cooperative agreement:

- **Respects tribal sovereignty and the authority of tribes and tribal organizations** to lead public health activities and promote healthy lifestyles in AI/AN communities.
- **Gives recipients the ability to direct resources** where communities need them most.
- **Encourages collaboration by connecting recipients with each other and to resources**, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public health strategies across Indian Country.
- **Combines funding from multiple CDC sources**, creating more opportunities for recipients to innovate and strengthen public health outcomes.



www.cdc.gov/tribal-health/cooperative-agreements/strengthening-public-health-systems-and-services-in-indian-country.html

Goals: Enhancing Quality, Performance, and Capacity

This funding helps tribal communities strengthen four elements of public health.

- **Foundational Capabilities:** Reinforcing essential skills and services, including disease surveillance, emergency response, partnership development, and performance management.
- **Data Systems:** Improving data collection, analysis, and systems to better track diseases.
- **Programs and Services:** Supporting activities such as disease testing and prevention, health education, and evidence-based decision-making.
- **Workforce:** Building a strong public health workforce through recruitment, training, and retention initiatives.

By the Numbers



Over **\$82.5 million** awarded since FY 2023.



34 Recipients

22

federally
recognized
AI/AN tribes

12

regional tribally
designated
organizations



More than **550 AI/AN communities** reached through this funding to build stronger public health systems

A Closer Look

CDC investments empower tribal leaders to improve health and well-being in tribal communities across the country. Recipients are using this funding to:



Prevent the spread of infectious disease. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma distributed tickborne disease prevention materials to more than 3,300 residents, providing clear, life-saving health information to reduce the risk of Rocky Mountain spotted fever.



Modernize data systems. The California Rural Indian Health Board collected data on more than 5,000 clinic patients. This enabled the Sonoma County Indian Health Project to make data-driven decisions, identify urgent health needs, and provide services for infectious diseases, dental and vision care, and cancer screenings.



Build the tribal public health workforce. Recipients have hired 147 full-time employees and increased training opportunities, expanding local career options and improving communities' ability to provide essential public health services.



Expand access to public health services through partnerships. The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians collaborated with six partner organizations to expand access to overdose prevention and mental health services. The tribe hosted eight wellness programs and launched a pilot mobile crisis response unit which reached more than 100 community members.



Improve program quality at four tribal health departments. These recipients are pursuing public health accreditation, demonstrating their commitment to accountability, performance, and excellence in community health.