

APRIL 2024 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As we stepped into the Capitol this April, the CCUIH Policy Team didn't just attend meetings; we sparked crucial conversations about collaboration, particularly with notable figures like Assembly Member Ramos, while continuing to closely watch 54 state bills that could significantly affect our UIOs and the AIAN community. On the federal front, our fight continues against the exclusion from the CMS Traditional Healers Framework, and we're pushing for substantial fiscal year 2025 funding—efforts underscored by NCUIH's compelling testimony at the House Appropriations Committee. Looking forward, the NCUIH Annual Conference and CMS Health Equity Conference stand as upcoming platforms to deepen our engagement and drive policy change that supports our community's health and well-being.

STATE UPDATES

- **California Primary Care Association Day at the Capitol**, Tuesday, April 16th
 - **Potential Impact on UIOs:** CCUIH Policy Team met with:
 - [Assembly Member Liz Ortega](#)
 - [Senator Angelique Ashby](#)
 - [Assembly Member James Ramos](#)
 - All Meetings included CCUIH Packets with our updated fact sheet, Letter of Intent, and Legislative Priorities.
 - **Note:** CCUIH will continue to work closely with AM Ramos on multiple Bills moving forward and will continue to be a resource for all legislators regarding ongoing and upcoming bills.

State Bills: This has been a busy legislative session with multiple bills presented. CCUIH is currently tracking 54 Bills that cover numerous topics that may impact our UIOs and AIAN Community. As of this calendar year, we have submitted 8 Position Letters and attended 2 Hearings. (Please let us know if you would like updates on any specific legislation, assistance with writing any position letters, or would like us to attend a hearing.)

April movement on select bills:

- AB 1863 California Emergency Services Act: notification systems: Feather Alert.
 - Status: Referred to Committee on Appropriations.
- AB 1955: Pupil health: school-based health services and school-based mental health services.
 - Status: To Consent Calendar, Do Pass.
- AB 1965: Public health. Office of Tribal Affairs.
 - Status: On 4/24/2024 From Committee. DO PASS
- AB 2108: Foster care: missing children and nonminor dependents.
 - Status: Referred to Suspense File.

- AB 2138: Peace officers: tribal police pilot project.
 - Status: Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.
- AB 2250 Social determinants of health: screening and outreach
 - Status: Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.
- AB 2711 Suspensions and expulsions: controlled substances: tobacco: alcohol: plans and protocols
 - Status: Re-referred to Committee on Education
- AB 2795: CalWORKs Indian Health Clinic Program.
 - Status: Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.
- SB 1067: Healing arts: expedited licensure process: medically underserved area or population
 - Status: Placed on Appropriations Suspense File.
- SB 1382: Community and rural health clinics: building standards.
 - Status: Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.

FEDERAL UPDATES

● **CMS Traditional Healers Framework Update**

- From [3/20 NCUIH Policy Workgroup](#): *March 27 - CMS Traditional Healing Framework*
 - *Comment response period was announced on 3/6 at TTAG.*
 - *CMS seeks feedback on a proposed Traditional Healing Framework for section 1115 demonstrations.*
 - *The presented Framework omitted UIOs as eligible facilities under the proposed framework.*
 - *CMS will have a second comment period with comments due May 3rd.*
 - *CCUIH staff met with DHCS State Medicaid Director Tyler Sadwith, DHCS Deputy Director Rene Mollow, and DHCS Office of Tribal Affairs Chief Andrea Zubiata. The DHCS State Medicaid director assured CCUIH that the California plans remain intact, with UIOs included, until they are told otherwise.*
- **Potential Impact on UIOs:** The impact is significant. All UIOs are encouraged to submit comment letters on this issue. Both NCUIH and CCUIH have template letters to facilitate these comments.

- **Urban Confer 5/1 on VA-UIO Reimbursement Agreement Program (RAP)** ○ [DUIOLL](#) for the [revised Direct Care Services Reimbursement Agreement DRAFT](#) ○ Written comments to tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov by May 10, 2024

● **Minority Veterans' Roundtable**

- On April 16, 2024, Sonya Tetnowski, CEO of IHCSCV and NCUIH Board President, attended a roundtable on minority veterans hosted by the House Committee on Veterans Affairs Democrats.

- Roundtable discussed issues facing Native veterans, equity in access to healthcare and benefits for minority veterans, and the state of cultural competency at the VA and community care providers.

- **Budget/Appropriations Updates**

- FY 2024 Appropriations Updates - Labor, Health, and Human Services (LHHS) ■
 - On March 22, Congress passed the remaining 6 appropriations bills to fund the government for FY24. The Labor-H appropriations bill is included in this package.
 - Resource: [FY 24 LHHS Bill Summary](#)
 - Some early highlights include:
 - UIOs were included in a \$6M Initiative to Improve Native American Cancer Outcomes. NCUIH worked with ACSCAN to add UIOs to the report language for this program.
 - Level funding for HIV funding, including maintaining \$5M for the Tribal Set-aside for the Minority HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment program.
 - \$600 earmark for NAL-Boston.
 - **Potential Impact on UIOs:** The recent passage of FY24 appropriations bills, including the Labor-H appropriations bill, holds significant implications. Notably, UIOs are included in a new \$6 million initiative to improve Native American cancer outcomes, which promises to boost resources for culturally tailored cancer prevention and treatment programs. Additionally, the appropriations maintain level funding for HIV programs, preserving \$5 million for the Tribal Set-aside in the Minority HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment program, which ensures ongoing support for HIV services within tribal communities. While the \$600,000 earmark for Native American Lifelines (NAL) in Boston doesn't directly impact California UIOs, it sets a precedent that California UIOs can leverage in advocating for earmarked funds to address specific health needs of urban Native American populations.
- **FY 2025 Appropriations Updates**
 - On May 7-8, 2024, Todd Wilson, Executive Director of Helena Indian Alliance-Leo Pocha Clinic and NCUIH Board Member, will be NCUIH's witness for the House Appropriations Committee's AI/AN Witness Day.
 - NCUIH helped draft the House Dear Colleague Letter requesting the Tribal Budget Formulation Work Group (TBFWG) FY25 requests for the Urban Indian Health line item (\$965.3M) and IHS (\$53.85B).
 - **Potential Impact on UIOs:** This involvement highlights a significant advocacy effort poised to significantly boost the resources available to

UIOs, enhancing their capacity to provide comprehensive healthcare services. UIOs are encouraged to [contact your Members of Congress](#) to support this vital funding initiative.

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IHS UPDATES

- Sanitation Facilities and Construction Needs
 - [The IHS Director announces FY 2024 allocation decisions for \\$700 million to address sanitation facilities and construction needs in American Indian and Alaska Native communities from the funding authorized in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, or Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation Posted April 23, 2024](#)
 - **Potential Impact on UIOs:** regional tribal health infrastructure could enhance health outcomes for urban AIAN populations connected to these communities. Additionally, focusing on funding economically infeasible projects may influence future urban-specific health infrastructure funding, benefiting UIOs.

Legislative Report prepared by CCUIH Health Policy Analyst Arianna Antone-Ramirez arianna@ccuih.org and CCUIH Director of Policy & Planning Nanette Star nanette@ccuih.org If you have questions or comments, please email the policy team.

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