



California Consortium for Urban Indian Health

CCUIH Strengthening The Organizations That Strengthen Our Communities

JUNE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Hello everyone! We've had a busy year with significant developments at both the federal and state levels. While there has yet to be movement on our key supported federal bills, we're keeping a close watch and will share updates as they happen. Governor Newsom and Legislators are finalizing California's budget to address a \$56 billion deficit, which could impact UIO funding for essential services. The DHCS webinar on June 24th will discuss authorizing traditional healer services under Medi-Cal, enhancing UIO healthcare offerings. A Supreme Court ruling now requires IHS to cover contract support costs for tribal health programs funded by third-party revenue, potentially increasing UIO funding. We also advocate for an inclusive interpretation of the SSA's IHS definition. IHS seeks input on funding methodologies for behavioral health initiatives to make funds more accessible and equitable for UIOs. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our communities. Let's keep pushing forward together!

STATE UPDATES

- **CALIFORNIA BUDGET PENDING FINALIZATION** Governor Gavin Newsom and top Democrats are negotiating California's state budget behind closed doors following the Legislature's passage of a placeholder budget to meet a mandatory deadline. Key issues include addressing a projected \$56 billion deficit over the next two years, with proposals involving dipping into reserves, deferring school funding, and cutting government jobs. The Legislature's counterproposal seeks deeper cuts to prison funding to protect other programs. Ongoing negotiations must finalize the budget by July 1, 2024.
 - **Potential Impact to UIOs:** UIOs could face funding reductions for critical health and social services they provide to their populations. Potential cuts to public health programs, subsidized childcare slots, and housing development could disproportionately affect these communities, which rely heavily on such support. Additionally, changes in funding allocation and prioritization may limit the capacity of UIOs to deliver essential services, thereby exacerbating existing health disparities and challenges faced by urban Indian populations. We all must remain **engaged** in advocating for the preservation of funds and programs vital to their communities' well-being.
 - **Note:** A special CCUIH Impact Report on the New Budget will be sent out the first week of July!
 - [Contact your Legislators](#)
 - Write Letters: Contact us for Templates to the Governor
 - Use Social Media: See our Press Release [Here](#)
 - Share with your Patients for more involvement

- **Tribes and Designees of Indian Health Programs Meeting on Traditional Healers and Natural Helpers Webinar 6/24/2024** The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is hosting a Medi-Cal Tribal and Designee Webinar to discuss California's Section 1115 demonstration request, which aims to authorize traditional healer and natural helper services. California submitted this request to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in June 2021, and CMS is now considering the proposal. The webinar will provide information about the proposed approach and seek feedback from participants, with time allotted at the end for questions and comments.
 - **Potential Impact on UIOs:** Enhancing healthcare's cultural relevance and effectiveness for urban Indian populations. This initiative would allow UIOs to offer a broader range of holistic services, integrating traditional practices with conventional medical care, thus improving health outcomes. Additionally, including these services under Medi-Cal could provide UIOs with increased funding opportunities, supporting the sustainability and expansion of their programs. The proposal could foster greater community trust and engagement by officially recognizing and supporting culturally familiar practices.

FEDERAL UPDATES

- **Request for Inclusive Interpretation of Indian Health Service Definition** A formal letter was sent to Dr. Reynosa, Director of HHS Region 9, requesting assistance in advocating for an inclusive interpretation of the Social Security Act's (SSAs) definition of the Indian Health Service (IHS) to encompass UIOs as defined in Title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA).
 - **Response:** Dr. Reynosa responded that HHS will work internally with colleagues on this issue and get back to CCUIH.
- **[FY 2025 Appropriations Update Watch](#)**
 - The appropriations process for FY 2025, initiated in both the House and Senate, follows the Fiscal Responsibility Act, which caps base discretionary spending at \$1.606 trillion, including \$895 billion for defense and \$711 billion for nondefense. The House has advanced various appropriations bills, with notable progress on defense and other key areas, setting interim 302(b) allocations for subcommittees. This process is crucial for UIOs and health funding, as it will determine the allocation of federal resources impacting health programs and services. Lawmakers are urged to avoid budget gimmicks and consider the long-term trajectory of discretionary spending to ensure sustained support for essential health services.
 - **Note:** At the Senate Interior Appropriations Committee, Sen. Van Hollen asked NCUIH what can be done to address underfunding of UIOs. NCUIH drafted a letter and also provided testimony. [More here](#)

IHS UPDATES

- **[Supreme Court Ruling on Contract Support Costs](#)** On June 7, 2024, Indian Health Service (IHS) Director Roselyn Tso stated the U.S. Supreme Court's decision requiring IHS to pay contract support costs on portions of tribal health programs funded by

third-party revenue like Medicare and Medicaid. IHS has been preparing for this transition to minimize service disruption and urges Congress to shift the IHS budget from discretionary to mandatory funding to ensure stable future funding. The IHS remains committed to supporting tribal self-determination and looks forward to continued partnership with tribal nations. For more information, visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website.

- **Potential Impact on UIOs:** This decision could significantly benefit UIOs by providing increased funding for administrative and operational costs, improving service quality, and enhancing financial stability. If Congress shifts IHS funding from discretionary to mandatory, UIOs will gain more predictable funding, aiding in long-term planning and sustainability. However, UIOs may need to adapt to new administrative systems. This decision emphasizes the importance of continued advocacy and collaboration between UIOs, tribal organizations, and federal agencies.
- **[IHS Behavioral Health Initiative Funding](#)** The Indian Health Service (IHS) is seeking guidance from Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leaders on funding methodologies for seven behavioral health initiatives, currently distributed through grants, in line with President Biden's Executive Order 14112. This order aims to reform federal funding to be more accessible and equitable. In fiscal year 2024, IHS administers over \$59 million for programs including Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention, Domestic Violence Prevention, Behavioral Health Integration, Zero Suicide Initiative, and Youth Regional Treatment Centers Aftercare.
 - Virtual consultation sessions are scheduled for June 18 and June 20, 2024, with a comment submission deadline of July 22, 2024. For questions, contact Dr. Glorinda Segay at glorinda.segay@ihs.gov.
 - **Potential Impact on UIOs:** The proposed changes to the funding methodologies for behavioral health initiatives could positively impact UIOs by increasing flexibility and accessibility of funds, making the allocation more equitable, and enhancing program support. These reforms aim to reduce administrative burdens, streamline application processes, and ensure UIOs receive adequate funding proportional to their needs.
- **Alzheimer's Grant Program to Address Dementia in Tribal and Urban Indian Communities for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 [DUIOLL](#)**
 - IHS has announced funding decisions for the Alzheimer's Grant Program to Address Dementia in Tribal and Urban Indian Communities for FY 2024 and 2025. This aligns with President Biden's Executive Order 14112, promoting Tribal Self-Determination in healthcare. Following consultations with Tribal and Urban Indian Organization leaders, IHS has allocated over 50% of the program's budget to grants, small program awards, and pilot development. A new three-year funding opportunity will support up to six new Alzheimer's program awards, focusing on expansion and sustainability, with a total of \$1.2 million annually. Additionally, IHS will continue funding eight existing awardees and has enhanced

technical assistance to improve collaboration and best practices among programs.

- **Potential Impact to UIOs:** This funding has the potential to provide essential financial support for addressing dementia. The allocation includes over 50% of the program's budget for grants, small program awards, and pilot development, focusing on sustainability and expansion planning. This funding will enable UIOs to develop and refine culturally informed care models, improve collaboration with other IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian programs, and explore new billing opportunities through CMS. These measures may enhance UIOs' capacity to deliver effective dementia care and support long-term program viability.

POLICY ENGAGEMENTS IN JUNE

- CalWellness
- CPG
- CDSS Tribal Advisory Committee
- CDPH Tribal Data Workgroup
- CPEHN Board Meeting
- Testify on SB 1065. Healing Arts Expedited Licensing
- CPCA Biweekly Member
- RAC Monthly Directors
- Pathway to Healing - The California Endowment
- Native Health Data UCSF
- CPCA CEO Peer Network
- NCUIH Policy Workgroup
- UIO Site Visit NAIC
- IHS Urban Confer Behavioral Health
- OUIHP Urban Programs
- CDPH Tribal Advisory
- Health Career Connect Regional Health
- CPCA Legislative and Regulatory
- IHS, NCUIH, CCUIH All Inclusive Rate
- DHCS Traditional Healers and Helpers
- Training MCO Ballot Initiative
- Dental Therapy Allies
- California Racial Equity Coalition: Department and Agency Accountability

UPCOMING

- CA Budget Finalized June 30, 2024
- State Leg Session on Recess July - Aug

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