



California Consortium for Urban Indian Health

CCUIH Strengthening The Organizations That Strengthen Our Communities

JULY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The California Budget for 2024-25 includes significant cuts in affordable housing and healthcare workforce programs, impacting Urban AIAN populations. Despite reductions, funding for the State Indian Health Program continues. New employment laws require policy revisions for employee rights and accommodations. Key legislative actions involve bills on child abuse reporting, emergency notifications, and public health. The Supreme Court's decision on San Carlos Apache v. Becerra affects IHS financial planning. Federal updates highlight increased funding for Urban Indian Health, syphilis outbreak consultations, and behavioral health initiatives. The state legislature reconvenes on August 5, 2024.

STATE UPDATES

- **CALIFORNIA BUDGET 2024-2025** The California State Budget for 2024-25 addresses financial challenges while striving to maintain essential services, significantly impacting Urban AIAN populations. Major reductions include \$1.1 billion in affordable housing and \$746.1 million in healthcare workforce programs, affecting housing stability and healthcare access for AIAN communities. Despite these cuts, key programs like the State Indian Health Program remain funded. Advocacy and partnerships are crucial to ensure AIAN voices are heard. Continued funding for CalWORKs and SSI/SSP offers critical support, though education and housing program cuts present ongoing challenges.
 - **Potential Impact on UIOs Summary document [HERE](#)**
- **Employment Law Updates:** New employment laws affecting workplace policies have taken effect. Employers are now required to review and potentially revise their policies related to employee rights under the National Labor Relations Act, as well as ensuring compliance with the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, which mandates reasonable accommodations for pregnant employees.
- **Department of Health Care Services:**
 - July 17th, Traditional Healers and Natural Helpers (TH/NH) Letter Submitted
 - July 22nd, Tribes and Indian Health Program Representatives TH/NH meeting
- **The California State Legislature** is currently on its summer recess. The Assembly and Senate adjourned for this recess on July 3, 2024, and will reconvene on August 5, 2024. During this time, no committee hearings or floor sessions are scheduled. If there are bills you would like updates on please contact the policy team. Below are **current results of selected bills:**
 - AB 1799: Child abuse: reporting
 - Status: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 4. Noes 0.) (July 2). Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.

- AB 1863 California Emergency Services Act: notification systems: Feather Alert.
 - Status: Referred to Committee on Appropriations. **Hearing August 5th, 10am**
- AB 1955: Support Academic Futures and Educators for Today's Youth Act.
 - Status: **Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 95, Statutes of 2024**
- AB 1965: Public health. Office of Tribal Affairs.
 - Status: Referred to suspense file.
- AB 2108: Foster care: missing children and nonminor dependents.
 - Status: Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations. To Consent Calendar. **Hearing August 5th, 10am**
- AB 2138: Peace officers: tribal police pilot project.
 - Status: Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations **Hearing August 5th, 10am**
- AB 2250 Social determinants of health: screening and outreach
 - Status: Referred to suspense file.
- AB 2711 Suspensions and expulsions: voluntary disclosures.
 - Status: Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.
- AB 2795: CalWORKs Indian Health Clinic Program.
 - Status: Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations. **Hearing August 5th, 10am**
- ACR-166: The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924
 - Status: Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling. These steps are part of the legislative process that ensures the resolution is finalized and ready for official enactment or recognition. This process confirms that ACR 166, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, is set to be formally recognized and recorded.
- SB 1067: Healing arts: expedited licensure process: medically underserved area or population
 - Status: Do pass (July 2). Ordered to consent calendar.
- SB 1382: Community and rural health clinics: building standards.
 - Status: Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.

FEDERAL UPDATES

- [**San Carlos Apache v. Beerra Supreme Court Decision**](#) The Supreme Court's decision in San Carlos Apache v. Beerra ruled that under the Indian Self-Determination Act (ISDA), the Indian Health Service (IHS) must reimburse Tribes for contract support costs (CSCs) incurred when collecting and spending program income from third-party payers like Medicare and Medicaid. This ruling implies increased financial responsibilities for IHS and potential adjustments in its budget to accommodate these costs, impacting fiscal planning for FY2025 and beyond.

- **Potential Impact to UIOs:** The impact of increased contract support costs (CSCs) on UIOs remains uncertain. If UIOs are affected, their funding could be reduced to accommodate the additional CSCs, as UIO funds are discretionary and the IHS budget has limited allocations. Since CSCs are paid first from the IHS budget, other areas, including UIO funding, might see decreases. However, given that UIO funding historically represents a small portion of the IHS budget, it might remain unaffected, with adjustments made elsewhere. The National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) will monitor the situation and provide updates, with potential impacts expected to begin in FY2025.
- **[FY 2025 House Interior Appropriations Update](#)** On July 9, 2024, the House Appropriations Full Committee passed the FY 2025 appropriations bill for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, including \$8.56 billion for the Indian Health Service (IHS) and **\$99.99 million for Urban Indian Health**. This bill represents an increase from FY24 levels and exceeds the President's budget request. It also includes provisions for advance appropriations for IHS, funding for generators, a produce prescription pilot program, and increased support for Tribal Epidemiology Centers. The bill emphasizes the federal trust responsibility to Native people, including those in urban areas, and has received bipartisan support. The House is scheduled to vote on this bill the week of July 22, with negotiations expected with the Senate to finalize the legislation.
 - **Potential Impact to UIOs:** This boost in funding may enhance healthcare services and program expansion for UIOs in California, improve nutrition through the Produce Prescription Pilot Program, and may further improve infrastructure resilience with funding for generators.
- **[H.R. 6533 Urban Indian Health Parity Act](#)** This bill applies a Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (i.e., the federal matching rate under Medicaid) of 100% with respect to amounts expended as medical assistance for services received through an Urban Indian organization under a grant or contract with the Indian Health Service.
 - **Potential Impacts to UIOs:** This change would ensure full federal funding for Medicaid services received by Urban AIAN populations, significantly increasing the financial support for UIOs. This would enhance healthcare delivery, reduce financial burdens on UIOs, and potentially expand the range of services offered to urban Indian communities.
- **[Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis Outbreak Tribal Consultation August 5, 2024](#)** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) will hold a Tribal consultation, to address the syphilis and congenital syphilis outbreak among Tribal citizens. HHS has established the National Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis Syndemic Federal Task Force, involving multiple federal agencies, to optimize screening, expand access to testing and treatment, and increase awareness. The consultation aims to gather input from Tribal leaders to inform Task Force initiatives and identify priorities and successful models for addressing the epidemic. **Written comments are accepted until September 5, 2024.**
- **[Tribal Consultation and URban Confer Health IT Modernization Program: Multi-Tenant Domain Considerations August 8, 2024](#)** These sessions aim to gather feedback on various aspects of the modernization program, including system

configuration, deployment planning, and site readiness. The first session is on February 8, with subsequent sessions in May, August, and November. Participants can register online, and written comments are encouraged within 30 days of each session.

- **[IHS Behavioral Health Initiative Funding](#)** 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.
 - Comments were submitted by July 22, 2024 by CCUIH.
 - **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.

POLICY ENGAGEMENTS IN JULY

- Traditional Indian Health Advisory Committee
- Tribal Fentanyl Summit Chat
- DHCS Harm Reduction Summit
- CPEHN Board Meeting
- CPCA Biweekly Member
- RAC Monthly Directors
- NCUIH Policy Workgroup
- OUIHP Urban Program Executive Directors
- ITUP Policy Group
- Behavioral Health Equity Collaboration
- Indian Health Cal-AIM Collaborative
- Racial Equity Commission
- CPCA Legislative and Regulatory
- DHCS Traditional Healers and Helpers
- Training MCO Ballot Initiative
- California Racial Equity Coalition: Department and Agency Accountability
- AB 2795 Asm. Aramburo

UPCOMING

- State Legislature resume 8/5
- CA Native American Legislative Caucus 8/5
- DHCS SUD Conference 8/13-15
- [Policy Link Annual Conference Equity Summit 8/26-28](#)

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