



California Consortium for Urban Indian Health

CCUIH Strengthening The Organizations That Strengthen Our Communities

DECEMBER LEGISLATIVE REPORT - 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2024, the California Consortium for Urban Indian Health (CCUIH) amplified the voice of Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) with bold advocacy and strategic partnerships, achieving significant wins that will shape the future of AI/AN health services. This report provides a detailed look at the milestones, policy shifts, and challenges that defined the year—and how they impact our shared mission to advance health equity for urban Native communities.

Executive Summary

From tackling a \$56 billion budget deficit to securing funding for critical health programs, 2024 was a transformative year for UIOs in California. Among the highlights:

- **Securing Vital Funding:** Against fiscal challenges, CCUIH, in collaboration with multiple UIOs, NCUIH, tribes, CRIHB, many allies outside of Indian Country, and with support from legislative partners, safeguarded \$23 million in annual ongoing funding for the Indian Health Program and influenced state budget decisions to protect healthcare services for urban Native populations.
- **Legislative Triumphs:** Landmark legislation, including Traditional Healing Demonstrations in Medi-Cal, expanded the scope of culturally tailored healthcare services.
- **Elevating Public Health Responses:** CCUIH spearheaded initiatives to address critical health crises, including the syphilis outbreak, and advanced behavioral health reforms to ensure equitable care.

This year, CCUIH's advocacy influenced over 60 state and federal bills, engaged with legislators on both sides of the aisle, and forged alliances that strengthened the policy landscape for UIOs. The collective effort of our organization and partners has set the stage for a more equitable healthcare system.

Advocacy for Funding and Resources CCUIH worked tirelessly to secure funding amidst California's \$56 billion budget deficit. Despite these challenges, the Indian Health Program's funding was preserved, and advocacy efforts influenced critical budget decisions, including:

- Engagement in the May Revise Budget process to protect healthcare services.
- Monitoring of over 60 bills impacting UIOs and AI/AN communities.
- Joint press releases and hearings amplifying the need for Indian Health Program funding.

Legislative and Policy Wins Throughout 2024, CCUIH actively tracked and influenced state and federal legislation:

- Supported bills addressing healthcare access, workforce development, and public health.
- Successfully advocated for the inclusion of Traditional Healing Demonstrations in California's Medicaid program, a landmark achievement benefiting UIOs.
- Engaged with federal policymakers to ensure bipartisan support for the Indian Health Service (IHS), resulting in significant appropriations for Urban Indian Health programs.

Health Equity and System Reforms Promoting health equity remained a cornerstone of CCUIH's efforts:

- Supported State Plan Amendments for expanded roles of Community Health Workers and culturally competent care.
- Participated in syphilis outbreak consultations to strengthen public health responses.
- Advocated for federal reforms to stabilize IHS funding and protect the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA).

Key Events and Engagements CCUIH's leadership and collaboration were evident in events such as:

- In February, the MMIP Summit & Day of Action advocates for public health solutions to the MMIP epidemic.
- The California Native American Legislative Caucus meeting in August emphasized partnership development.
- A post-election webinar analyzing the implications of federal and state elections on UIOs and health equity.

Election Impacts and Future Outlook The 2024 elections brought opportunities and challenges for AI/AN communities:

- Key California ballot propositions passed, including Proposition 35, directing funds to Community Health Centers.
- Federal shifts, including a Republican-led Congress, highlighted the need for robust advocacy to protect health programs.

Looking Ahead As CCUIH reflects on 2024, we remain steadfast in our mission to advance health equity, foster collaboration, and build sustainable systems for Urban Indian communities. In alignment with our tactical planning, CCUIH will focus on the following priority areas:

- **Workforce Recruitment and Retention:** Implement training and technical assistance to support culturally and linguistically competent care, ensuring a resilient and well-equipped healthcare workforce.
- **Expanding Partnerships:** Strengthen relationships with stakeholders both within and outside Indian Country to amplify impact and foster collaborative solutions.
- **Enhancing Advocacy Efforts:** Advocate for policies and resources that address systemic barriers and promote equitable healthcare access for UIOs.

- **Data-Driven Approaches:** Leverage data to inform decision-making, track progress, and ensure accountability in addressing health disparities.
- **Community Engagement:** Deepen connections with AI/AN communities to co-create culturally informed solutions that are responsive to local needs.
- **Strategic Positioning:** Position CCUIH to build new relationships, foster a bipartisan approach to collaboration, and proactively mitigate anticipated changes in the federal policy landscape that may impact UIOs. This includes strengthening educational outreach and advocacy efforts to ensure the resilience of vital health programs and services.

CCUIH aims to address systemic challenges and create lasting change by leveraging partnerships, advocacy, and culturally informed practices.

For questions or more information, contact:

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