



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### California Consortium for Urban Indian Health Announces Incoming Executive Director

**Sacramento, CA-** The Board of Directors of the **California Consortium for Urban Indian Health (CCUIH)** is pleased to announce the appointment of **Jennifer Ruiz, MBA**, as the organization's next Executive Director, effective **February 23, 2026**.

Jennifer Ruiz brings nearly two decades of experience advancing the health and well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native communities, with deep expertise in urban Indian health systems, tribal governance, and public administration. An enrolled member of the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians, Jennifer has dedicated her career to strengthening Native-led organizations and expanding access to culturally grounded, community-driven health services.

Jennifer has held senior leadership roles across tribal, urban Indian, and municipal settings, including serving as Chief Executive of the Fresno American Indian Health Project and Interim Director of the Bakersfield American Indian Health Project. Most recently, she served as Deputy City Manager for the City of Fresno, where she worked closely with City Council and executive leadership to advance priority initiatives and strengthen cross-sector collaboration.

Her leadership experience also includes elected service as Tribal Council Chairperson for the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians, where she championed health initiatives and supported long-term community governance efforts. Jennifer brings extensive expertise in grant development and management, fiscal oversight, personnel leadership, and audit and compliance processes across federal, state, and local funding environments.

Jennifer holds a Master of Business Administration from California State University, Fresno, along with Bachelor of Arts degrees in History and Anthropology.

The Board of Directors extends its deep appreciation to Interim Executive Director Jackie Pierson for her steady leadership during this transition and for her longstanding dedication to CCUIH and the Urban Indian communities it serves. The Board looks forward to continued collaboration as CCUIH enters its 20th year of service.

#### **About CCUIH**

The California Consortium for Urban Indian Health is a statewide association of urban Indian organizations working to support the health and well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native communities through advocacy, policy, training, and systems change.