

House Releases Indian Health Draft COVID-19 Bills

Category: Policy Blog

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The bill draft includes \$84 million for urban Indian health and 2 years of 100% FMAP for UIOs.

On February 9, the House Energy and Commerce Committee released their draft bill text for the budget reconciliation package on COVID-19 relief. The markup of these drafts will happen by the Full Committee on February 11. The drafts include \$6.1 billion for Indian health programs with \$84 million for urban Indian health and two years of 100% FMAP to Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) for Medicaid services for IHS-beneficiaries.

100% FMAP for UIOs has been a long-standing priority for NCUIH. In recent weeks, NCUIH has worked closely with key Congressional leaders to push for the inclusion of 100% FMAP for UIOs. Last week, three Senators spoke on the Senate floor about prioritizing Indian health and ensuring that UIOs would be eligible for full FMAP. Rep. Ruiz also [led a letter](#) signed by over 2 dozen House Representatives to request full FMAP for UIOs in the budget reconciliation package.

The Indian health provisions reflect many recommendations in the tribal inter-organization [letter](#) sent on February 2. These investments for Indian health will be critical for shoring up necessary resources to combat COVID-19 as January [“was the deadliest so far in the US, with 958 recorded Native deaths – a 35% increase since December, a bigger rise than for any other group”](#).

Next Steps

The Committee will host a markup and the House plans to vote on the full package the week of February 22. NCUIH will continue to push for long-term 100% FMAP for UIOs and urge Congressional leaders to support inclusion of the many Indian health wins in the budget reconciliation package.

Overview of Indian Health Provisions

- \$6.094 billion in funding for Indian health programs
- \$2 billion for lost revenue
- \$500 million for Purchased/Referred Care
- \$140 million for information technologies, telehealth, and electronic health records infrastructure
- \$84 million for urban Indian health programs
- \$600 million for vaccine-related activities
- \$1.5 billion for testing, tracing, and mitigating COVID-19
- \$240 million for public health workforce
- \$420 million for mental and behavioral health prevention and treatment services among Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations
- \$600 million for funding support of tribal health care facilities and infrastructure
- \$10 million for potable water delivery.

Legislation Recommendations and Memorandum

- [Subtitle A: Budget Reconciliation Legislation Recommendations Relating to Public Health](#)
- [Subtitle B: Budget Reconciliation Legislation Recommendations Relating to Medicaid](#)
- [Subtitle C: Budget Reconciliation Legislation Recommendations Relating to CHIP](#)
- [Subtitle D: Budget Reconciliation Legislation Recommendations Relating to Other Provisions](#)
- [Committee’s Memorandum](#)