

# [NCUIH 2022 Policy Priorities Released](#)

Category: Advance Appropriations, Policy Blog  
written by Meredith Raimondi | May 10, 2022

**The 2022 policy priorities were informed by NCUIH's 2021 Annual Policy Assessment containing information collected from a series of focus groups held with urban Indian organization (UIO) leaders and a questionnaire to UIOs.**



NCUIH is pleased to announce the release of its 2022 Policy Priorities, which outlines the most pressing Congressional and Federal issues for UIOs. These priorities were informed by NCUIH's [2021 Policy Assessment](#).

Last year, NCUIH hosted five focus groups to identify UIO policy priorities for 2022, as they relate to Indian Health Service (IHS)-designated facility types (full ambulatory, limited ambulatory, outreach and referral, and outpatient and residential). Information was also collected from UIOs via a questionnaire. This is the second year that NCUIH has conducted focus groups and sent a questionnaire to UIOs to formulate key legislative priorities for the following year.

## **Overview**

Upholding the highest health status for all American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/ANs), parity in the Indian health system, and improving IHS are the overall themes for the 2022 priorities. New priorities were identified, such as achieving **full funding** for IHS and urban Indian health, advancing HIV efforts in AI/AN communities, improving data in Indian health, and improving IHS area office consistency. Existing priorities also remain a key focus across the UIOs, especially funding flexibility, improving federal dialogue with all AI/ANs through urban confer policies, and parity issues such as permanent 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP).

## **2022 Policy Priorities:**

### ***Upholding the Highest Health Status for All American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs)***

- Fully Fund the Indian Health Service (IHS) and Urban Indian Health at the Amounts Requested by Tribes
  - FY 2023 Request for IHS: \$49.8 billion.
  - FY 2023 Request for the Urban Indian Line Item: \$949.9 million.
- Improving Behavioral Health for All American Indians and Alaska Natives
  - Enact the Native Behavioral Health Access Improvement Act (H.R. 4251/S. 2226) to Provide at Least \$200 million Annually to Indian Health Care Providers.
  - Enact the State Opioid Response Grant Authorization Act of 2021 (H.R. 2379) to Provide Critical Investments to Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and UIOs to Fight the Opioid Epidemic.
- Attain Advance Appropriations for Indian Health and Improve Funding Certainty
  - Enact the Indian Programs Advance Appropriations Act (H.R. 5567/S. 2985) and Indian Health Service Advance Appropriations Act (H.R. 5549) to Insulate Indian Health Care Providers from Shutdowns.
  - Allow UIOs to Receive all Funds at the Start of a Continuing Resolution (Exception Apportionment)
- “Nothing About Us Without Us”: Improving Health Outcomes Through Dialogue
  - Enact the Urban Indian Health Confer Act (H.R. 5221) to Establish an Urban Confer for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
  - Include UIOs in Advisory Committees that Focus on Indian Health.
  - Establish an Urban Indian Interagency Work Group to Identify the Needs and Develop Strategies to Better Serve Urban AI/AN Populations.
- Improving Native Veteran Health Outcomes
  - Establish an Urban Confer for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
  - Enact the STRONG Veterans Act of 2022 (H.R.6411).
- Special Diabetes Program for Indians: A Proven Case of Decreased Diabetes Prevalence and Improved Health Outcomes for AI/AN People
  - Permanently Reauthorize Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) at a Minimum of \$250 Million Annually.
- Healing from Federal Boarding Schools
  - Enact the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act (H.R.5444/S.2907).
- Ending the Pandemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP)
  - Enact the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (S. 3623).
- Improving Data in Indian Health
  - Enact the Tribal Health Data Improvement Act (H.R. 3841).
- Improving the Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic for AI/ANs
  - Enact the Tribal Medical Supplies Stockpile Access Act of 2022 (H.R. 6372/S. 3444).
- Tackling the Stigma and Advancing HIV Efforts in AI/AN Communities
  - Increase Innovative Resources to Reduce Stigma and Fear Around HIV in AI/AN Communities.
  - Increase Behavioral Health Support Resources at UIOs for AI/ANs Living with HIV.

## ***Parity in the Indian Health System***

- Increasing Resources Supporting Medicaid-IHS Beneficiaries
  - Enact the Urban Indian Health Parity Act (H.R. 1373 or H.R. 1888) to Ensure Permanent Full (100%) Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for Services Provided at UIOs.
- Improving the Indian Health Workforce
  - Inclusion of UIOs in National Community Health Aide Program (CHAP).

## ***Improving the Indian Health Service***

- Data is Dollars: Ensuring Accurate Data Collection in the Indian Health System
  - Health IT/Electronic Health Record (EHR) Improvement and IHS National Data Warehouse Reporting
- Continuity in the Indian Health System
  - Improve Area Office Consistency.
- Elevate the Health Care Needs of Native Americans Within the Federal Government
  - Enact the Stronger Engagement for Indian Health Needs Act (H.R. 6406) to elevate the IHS Director to Assistant Secretary for Indian Health.

[Read the 2022 Policy Priorities](#)

[Read the 2021 Policy Assessment](#)