NCUIH Recognized at IHS 70th Anniversary Tribal Summit for Exceptional Partnership

Category: Policy Blog
written by River Carroll | March 28, 2026

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 30, 2026) – During the Indian Health Service (IHS) 70th Anniversary Tribal Summit on February 13, 2026, the National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) was recognized as one of four exceptional partners whose leadership, advocacy, and collaboration strengthen the Indian health system.

> "The success of the Indian health system depends on the strong, interwoven relationship between the IHS, Tribal governments, and urban Indian organizations." — the Indian Health Service



Clayton Fulton (Cherokee) Chief of Staff for IHS and Walter Murillo (Choctaw), NCUIH Board President and Native Health CEO

Walter Murillo (Choctaw), NCUIH Board President and Chief Executive Officer of Native Health in Phoenix, accepted the recognition on behalf of NCUIH. The recognition highlights the vital role of NCUIH's work with urban Indian organizations within the broader Indian health system and affirms the importance of strong partnerships between IHS, Tribal governments, and urban Indian organizations. As IHS marks 70 years of service, this recognition reflects both progress and the ongoing responsibility to support Native health systems that are responsive, coordinated, and rooted in community priorities.

NCUIH remains committed to advancing policies and partnerships that improve health outcomes and strengthen care for all Native people nationwide.