

Urban Indian Health Hill Day 2026: Urban Indian Leaders Make Their Voices Heard

Category: Policy Blog

written by River Carroll | June 8, 2026

2026 Indian Health Hill Day: Urban Indian Advocates Make Their Voices Heard

160+

Advocates
Trained

60

Congressional Meetings
(10 with Members themselves)

70+

Advocates
joined on
the Hill

On April 30, 2026, NCUIH and Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) leaders from across the country gathered in Washington, D.C. for a Capitol Hill Day. UIO leaders, staff, and members of the community participated in NCUIH's in-person Training ahead of Hill Day, arriving prepared and equipped to increase awareness of urban Indian health needs and carried those messages directly to Capitol Hill.

Top Priorities to Improve Urban Indian Health

In each meeting, advocates delivered a clear, urgent message: the federal government must fulfill its trust responsibility to Native people no matter where they live. We carried our **2026 Policy Priorities**¹ to the Hill.

Key policy recommendations included:



Protecting and increasing funding for the Indian Health Service (IHS) and Urban Indian Health.



Maintaining advance appropriations for IHS to ensure uninterrupted care during government shutdowns or continuing resolutions.



Pass permanent 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for UIOs and allow UIOs to sustainably plan and expand services.



Protecting behavioral health and public health grant programs, including a youth suicide prevention program administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, which faces elimination under proposed federal restructuring.



Implementation of congressional intent under H.R. 1, ensuring American Indian and Alaska Native patient exemptions are fully included in Medicaid changes.

This year's Hill Day came at a critical moment. Budget conversations are actively underway in Congress, making the timing of these meetings essential to ensuring that the health needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people living in urban areas are not overlooked in policy discussions. As Congress moves forward with the appropriations process, NCUIH will build on the momentum of Hill Day by continuing to educate policymakers and raise awareness about urban

Indian health needs.