NATIONAL COUNCIL OF URBAN INDIAN HEALTH

YEAR IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 – AUGUST 31, 2021
This past year has been met with many significant events for the National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) and Indian Country alike. On behalf of NCUIH, I would like to first acknowledge that Indian Country has been hurting—I see, hear, and feel your cries.

Many of us have lost relatives and loved ones due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. NCUIH continues to be at the forefront of advocating for Indian health care, working to ensure the stability of Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) and equipping them to face this and future crises head-on.

Over the past year we have testified before Congress on COVID-19 impacts in Indian Country, have written testimony to Congress with budget requests for UIOs, and testified before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on COVID-19.

Our advocacy has not stopped there.

We have been tirelessly working behind-the-scenes to ensure that UIOs are included in discussions, have their voices heard, and are adequately funded—all for the unifying purpose of providing desperately-needed health care services to our relatives in urban areas.

As we look back on this year at NCUIH, the adversity and loss urban Indians have faced, and accomplishments in Indian Country—we see that our work is only just beginning and is needed now more than ever. We are dedicated to continuing this fight against COVID-19, and other health crises that disproportionately impact our people, and will ceaselessly work for equitable, accessible, and culturally-competent health services for all urban Indians.

Sincerely,

Francys Crevier, JD
Chief Executive Officer
National Council of Urban Indian Health
ABOUT NCUIH

Mission
NCUIH is a National 501(c)(3) organization devoted to the support and development of quality, accessible, and culturally-competent health services for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) living in urban settings.

Vision
NCUIH envisions a nation where comprehensive, culturally competent personal and public health services are available and accessible to American Indians and Alaska Natives living in urban communities throughout the United States.

Our Impact
NCUIH is at the forefront of protecting and advocating for Indian health to ensure the sustainability of Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs). Because of NCUIH’s deep collaborative relationships with UIOs, our team is strategically positioned to advocate for health equity for the urban AI/AN population. NCUIH regularly works with federal agencies, policymakers, and the general public to provide critically needed information on health disparities and needs among urban AI/AN. NCUIH’s critical work accomplishes the following unmet needs:

- Brings Urban and Tribal leaders together to establish a continuous flow of communication and collaboration
- Cultivates and coordinates relationships between UIOs and major mainstream health research centers and universities
- Creates awareness among mainstream media outlets
- Fosters political and managerial leadership among urban AI/AN youth
- Establishes connections between the urban AI/AN population and private foundations, corporations, and donors

Urban Indian Organizations by Service Area

**PORTLAND**
- Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest
  Portland, OR
- The NATIVE Project
  Spokane, WA
- Seattle Indian Health Board
  Seattle, WA

**PHOENIX**
- Native Health Center
  Phoenix, AZ
- Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake City
  Salt Lake City, UT
- Nevada Urban Indians, Inc.
  Reno, NV
- Native American Connections
  Phoenix, AZ

**BILLINGS**
- Helena Indian Alliance – Leo Pocha Clinic
  Helena, MT
- Indian Family Health Clinic
  Great Falls, MT
- North American Indian Alliance
  Butte, MT
- Missoula Urban Indian Health Center
  Missoula, MT
- Native American Development Corporation
  Billings, MT

**GREAT PLAINS**
- Nebraska Indian Health Coalition
  Omaha, NE
- South Dakota Urban Indian Health, Inc.
  Sioux Falls, SD

**REMIDJI**
- American Indian Council on Alcoholism, Inc.
  Greenfield, WI
- American Indian Health & Family Services S.E.
  Michigan, Detroit, MI
- Gerald L Ignace Indian Health Center
  Milwaukee, WI
- Indian Health Board of Minneapolis
  Minneapolis, MN
- American Indian Health Services of Chicago
  Chicago, IL
- Joel Fairbanks Chemical Dependency Services
  St. Paul, MN

**CALIFORNIA**
- American Indian Health & Services
  Santa Barbara, CA
- Bakersfield American Indian Health
  Bakersfield, CA
- Fresno American Indian Health Project
  Fresno, CA
- Friendship House Association of American Indians
  San Francisco, CA
- Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley
  San Jose, CA
- Native American Health Center
  Oakland, CA
- Sacramento Native American Health Center
  Sacramento, CA
- San Diego American Indian Health Center
  San Diego, CA
- Native Directions, Inc./Three Rivers Indian Lodge
  Manteo, CA
- United American Indian Involvement, Inc.
  Los Angeles, CA

**ALBUQUERQUE**
- First Nations Community Healthsource
  Albuquerque, NM
- Denver Indian Health & Family Services
  Denver, CO

**OKLAHOMA CITY**
- Hunter Health Clinic
  Muskogee, OK
- Indian Health Care Resource Center
  Tulsa, OK
- Oklahoma City Indian Clinic
  Oklahoma City, OK
- Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas
  Dallas, TX
- Kansas City Indian Center
  Kansas City, MO

**NASHVILLE**
- New York Indian Council
  Long Island City, NY
- Native American Lifelines of Baltimore
  Baltimore, MD
- Native American Lifelines of Boston
  West Roxbury, MA
HIGHLIGHTS

Awards
• National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) Vice President of Public Policy, Julia Dreyer, JD, was a nominee at the Excellence in Advocacy Awards for the Federal Issue Campaign Award from the Women in Government Relations.

Key Events
• NCUIH Testifies at House and Senate Hearings Highlighting Need for Urban Indian Health Infrastructure Fix.
• NCUIH Testified Before House on COVID-19 Impacts in Indian Country
• NCUIH to Testify before House on Urban Confer Bill This Week
• NCUIH Submits Written Testimony to Senate Interior Appropriations with FY22 Budget Requests for UIOs
• NCUIH Efforts on MMIP Lead to Congressional and Administrative Action
• NCUIH Submits Written Testimony to House Interior Appropriations with FY22 Budget Requests for UIOs
• Senators Smith and Murkowski Re-introduced Tribal Health Data Improvement Act
• National Native Organizations Call for Bold Action, Inclusion of Urban Indians in Infrastructure Package
• NCUIH Testifying Before Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on COVID-19
• House Energy and Commerce Holds Legislative Hearing on ACA including NCUIH’s Bill on 100% FMAP for UIOs
• NCUIH Submits Testimony to House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees
• NCUIH Submits Testimony to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
• NCUIH Secures Huge Wins for Urban Indians in Final Enacted COVID-19 and Omnibus Bills
• House Passed NCUIH IHS - VA Bill
• House Passes NCUIH Bill to Extend FTCA Coverage to Urban Indian Health Workers
• NCUIH Signs Three Joint Letters Urging Congressional Action Before the End of the Year

COVID-19 Continuing Response
Viewed resources on COVID-19 Resource Center: 1,650+
https://www.ncuih.org/coronavirus

- 345+ Hours of Technical Assistance Provided to UIOs in 2020
- $8M+ Total Grants Given to UIOs
- ~$500M COVID-19 Funding for UIOs Through NCUIH Advocacy
Partnership with NAL Baltimore, UMB, Uber

The Power of Partnership: Vaccine Access for DMV Natives

April 28, 2021
3-4 p.m. EST
Join: bit.ly/dmv-vaccine-access

After months of tireless advocacy, the National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) partnered with Native American Lifelines (NAL), the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and the Indian Health Service (IHS) to bring the COVID-19 vaccine to the 65,000 urban Indians in the Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia metropolitan area beginning April 14, 2021.

Vaccine appointments were held at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, could be scheduled online, and were open to DMV metropolitan Natives (ages 16+) as well as non-Native individuals who work in organizations serving the Native community.

After months of barriers, urban Indians in the DMV were finally able to get vaccinated.

Since fall of 2020, NCUIH and NAL have pushed for inclusion of the 65,000 Natives in the Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia Metropolitan Area. As Natives are dying from COVID-19 at the highest rates worldwide, NCUIH has advocated to the federal government to prioritize this population for vaccines.
The success of National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) member organizations hinges on impacting federal legislation and Indian Health Service (IHS) policy and budgetary decisions.

NCUIH’s Policy Division establishes legislative priorities, tracks development and implementation of federal legislation and regulations, and works to protect the interests of urban Indian populations. NCUIH also educates other audiences such as research institutes, foundations, and federal and local agencies on the impact of federal policy decisions.

Temporary 100% FMAP for UIOs
A provision within the American Rescue Plan Act extended the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) to 100% for services to medicare beneficiaries through UIOs. This is a major win for UIO parity with the rest of the ITU system, as both IHS and Tribal facilities already receive 100% FMAP. The extension through ARPA is set for 8 fiscal quarters, starting April 2021.

FTCA
In December of 2020, the Federal Tort Claims Act was amended through legislation to cover UIOs as well. This allows UIOs to redirect funds from medical malpractice insurance to more pressing operational matters that would directly impact their patients.

Facilities Amendment
Currently, IHS interprets IHCIA in a way that only allows UIOs to use their annual appropriations from IHS on facilities issues if those renovations and changes allow them to be accredited by The Joint Commission. This accrediting body is not ideal for outpatient or ambulatory facilities, as most UIOs are, but is also only currently used by 1 of 41 UIOs. The Facilities fix bill was introduced as a standalone bill, but was also introduced as the first amendment heard on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Package. The amendment was included in the final bill, with a vote of 90-7

Highlights

- House And Senate Hearings With UIOs Represented Through Testimony And Witnesses
- Bills And Committee Reports In Congress Introduced Impacting UIOs
- Advisory Committee, Federal Agency, Independent And Other Meetings With UiO Advocacy
- Letters Submitted On Behalf Of UIOs Regarding Rules and Other Policy Proposals
As part of its core mission, the National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) is devoted to providing Technical Assistance (TA) for our member programs across Indian Country. Technical Assistance is a term used in Public Health to describe topic-specific guidance tailored based on needs and coupled with the use of innovative technology to facilitate capacity building of organizations. NCUIH strongly believes that providing customized and culturally sound capacity building and knowledge tools is essential to foster and trigger changes necessary to advance our community in the optimal direction.

In 2008, NCUIH founded the Technical Assistance and Research Center (TARC) to become the organization’s implementing agent to assist the Urban Indian Health Programs to attain their own goals in diverse areas such as Management, Health Information Technology, Finance and Operations, Board Education, Evaluation, Outreach, Quality Care and Technology, among other topics. As such, TARC has been designed to operate under a holistic approach that is both in seamless coordination with NCUIH’s Executive Office, the Policy and Legislation Center (PLC), and the Communications Division.

**Highlights**

- **345+** TA HOURS
- **68+** EVENTS
- **5** YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Number of Technical Assistance Hours Provided

Number of Events, Webinars, Trainings, COLs, ECHOs

Number of NCUIH Youth Council Members
NCUIH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are collaborating on infection prevention and control (IPC) training initiatives for frontline healthcare personnel.

CDC’s Project Firstline is a collaborative of diverse healthcare and public health partners that aims to provide engaging, innovative, and effective infection control training to more than 6 million healthcare personnel in the United States. Project Firstline will provide every person working in a U.S. healthcare facility a foundational understanding of infection control to protect the nation from infectious disease threats such as COVID-19. The project provides core training, engagement, mentorship, public health capacity building, and educational innovation in infection prevention & control training.

Research and Public Health
The Research and Public Health Programs Division is a collaborative unit across NCUIH that specializes in knowledge management, public health expertise, and deploying qualitative and quantitative methods in Indian Country.

Additionally, the Research Center at NCUIH is devoted to ensuring that Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) have access to the most recent, useful, and culturally competent data, research, and public health programming available.

**27 RESOURCES**
Data resources developed and published

**4 INFOGRAPHICS**
Data infographics about COVID-19

**3 ARTICLES**
Peer-reviewed journal articles reflecting NCUIH data

**2 BLOGPOSTS**
Blogposts published

**18 REPORTS**
Bi-weekly COVID-19 reports
PROGRAMS, DEVELOPMENT, AND COMMUNICATIONS

Media Mentions

Key Reports, Products, and Featured Campaigns
- Be a Good Relative - We have developed a campaign toolkit for Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) to help encourage COVID-19 vaccination among urban Indians in our communities.
- GOTV Resource Guide
- IndigiMedicine Social Toolkit
- Black History Month
- Native American Heritage Month Virtual Powwow 2020

Collaborations with national Organizations and Stakeholders
- NCUIH Partners with Native American Lifelines to Provide COVID-19 Vaccine
- CDC Project Firstline
- Morehouse School of Medicine
- GOTV-IVE (NUIFC)

Webview and Social Statistics
- Total user and site visits increased by 63%
- ncuih.org
- 146,384 post impressions
- 376,487 impressions
- 7,600 video views
Development Highlights

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

Major Contributors

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Indian Health Service (IHS)
- Administration for Native Americans (ANA)
- University of Chicago
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Morehouse School of Medicine
- Kresge Foundation
- University of North Dakota

NCUIH is sincerely grateful for ALL our generous supporters.

This year we were rated by Charity Navigator, which indicates to our donors that they can give with confidence due to our financial health, transparency, and accountability.
The 2020 Annual Conference, Circle of Resilience: Empowering Indian Country in a Virtual World, featured high priority issues such as COVID-19, mental health disparities, community outreach, Missing and Murdered Native Americans (MMNA), and policy directly affecting American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations in urban areas. This was a space to learn best practices and hear lessons learned on providing care during the COVID-19 pandemic, how to support community engagement and sustain partnerships virtually, and staying connected.

A key component of our conference was the level of engagement we promoted with our government partners to increase our understanding of existing programs and to identify future opportunities. Whether it was Indian Health Service (IHS), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), or Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in our Meet & Greet with Agencies or during one of the Coffee Breaks, there were plenty of opportunities to have participant’s voices heard to elevate Urban Indian Organization (UIO) issues.

Joining Breakout Sessions and General Sessions were encouraged to learn from one other, as well as the networking opportunities to discuss the priorities of urban Indian health. Overall, just embracing this year’s theme by empowering Indian Country in a virtual world.

We are thankful for our attendees and being committed to making a positive difference, not only in their communities, but throughout their state and country.

- **275** Registrants
- **Session Topics Included:**
  - Meet & Greet with Agencies (IHS, VA, CDC, CMS, SAMHSA)
  - Mental Health Presentation: Telling Tales- Stories That Can Transform Your Work Life
  - Healing the Healers: Culturally Relevant Employee Wellness Initiatives
  - Building a Gathering of Native Americans (GONA) for a Virtual World
  - Listening Session: Missing and Murdered Native Americans: A Virtual Dialogue
  - Project Firstline Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) UIO Champions Panel
  - NCUIH Youth Council Cohort 3 Presentation
  - Listening Session: Indian Health Service Update Division of Behavioral Health Forum on Behavioral Health Concerns
  - NCUIH Advocacy Training

**Keynote: Recognizing 2021 Urban Indian Health Champions**

2021 Urban Indian Health Congressional Champion Award Recipients

- Senator James Lankford (R-OK)
- Senator Tina Smith (D-MN)
- Representative Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)
- Representative Don Young (R-AK)
URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS

All Nations Health Center
(formerly Missoula Urban Indian Health Center Inc.)

American Indian Council on Alcoholism

American Indian Health & Family Services

American Indian Health & Services, Inc.

American Indian Health Services of Chicago

Bakersfield American Indian Health Project

Butte Native Wellness Center

First Nations Community Healthsource

Fresno American Indian Health Project

Friendship House Association of American Indians

Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center

Helena Indian Alliance-Leo Pocha Clinic

Hunter Health Clinic

Indian Family Health Clinic

Indian Health Board of Minneapolis

Indian Health Care Resource Center

Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley

Juel Fairbanks Chemical Dependency Services

Kansas City Indian Center
(formerly Morning Star Outreach Program)

NARA of the Northwest

Native American Connections

Native American Development Corporation
(formerly Billings Urban Indian Health & Wellness Center)

Native American Health Center

Native American Lifelines of Baltimore

Native American Lifelines-Boston

Native Americans for Community Action

Native Directions, Inc.

Native Health Center

NATIVE Project

Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition, Inc.

Nevada Urban Indians

New York Indian Council, Inc

North American Indian Alliance

Oklahoma City Indian Clinic

Sacramento Native American Health Center

San Diego American Indian Health Center

Seattle Indian Health Board

South Dakota Urban Indian Health

Tucson Indian Center/American Indian Association Of Tucson

United American Indian Involvement, Inc-Los Angeles

Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake City

Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas
NCUIH LEADERSHIP

Francys Crevier, JD
Chief Executive Officer

Alejandro Bermudez Del-Villar, MA/IBDD
Vice President, Programs and Operations,
Development and Communications

Kimberly Fowler, Ph.D.
Vice President, Technical Assistance and Research Center (TARC)

Julia Dreyer, JD
Vice President, Public Policy

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Linda Son Stone
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Scott Black
Descendant of Miami of Ohio and Mohican of Ohio
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Descendant of Absentee Shawnee
Executive Director
Native American Lifelines of Baltimore

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Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
Executive Director
American Indian Health Service of Chicago

Region 3
Vacant

Region 4
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Helena Indian Alliance-Leo Pocha Clinic

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Descendant of Miami of Ohio and Mohican of Ohio
Executive Director
American Indian Health Services

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Board Secretary
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Native Health Center

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Denver Indian Health and Family Services