ANNUAL REPORT

NATIONAL COUNCIL *of*
URBAN INDIAN HEALTH

YEAR IN REVIEW

OCTOBER 1, 2025 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

NCUIH

NATIONAL COUNCIL *of* URBAN INDIAN HEALTH

ABOUT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF URBAN INDIAN HEALTH

Mission

The National Council of Urban Indian Health is a national 501(c)(3) organization devoted to the support and development of quality, accessible, and culturally competent health services for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people living in urban settings.

Vision

NCUIH envisions a nation where comprehensive, culturally competent personal and public health services are available and accessible to AI/AN people 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) for Native patients. Because of NCUIH's deep collaborative relationships with UIOs, our team is strategically positioned to advocate for health issues related to AI/AN people in urban settings. NCUIH regularly works with federal agencies, policymakers, and the general public to provide critically needed information on health disparities and needs among AI/AN people in urban areas.

How NCUIH's Critical Work Accomplishes Unmet Needs

- Providing UIO policy expertise and support to decision-makers, stakeholders, technical advisors, and partners to educate on the plight of UIOs and elevate the health needs of AI/AN people
- Conducting state-of-the-art trainings and technical assistance specific to the needs of UIOs and Indian Health Care Providers across the country
- Creates awareness of the large AI/AN population that lives in urban settings and their unmet needs to further health equity for generations to come
- Strengthen Congress, Agencies, and the White House's understanding of UIOs and the health needs of AI/AN people in urban areas
- Provide technical assistance to Tribal leaders and organizations on how to incorporate UIO issues into their advocacy and fully realize the trust and treaty obligation
- Develops relevant and impactful research that decisionmakers need to develop policy and law with all of Indian Country in mind
- Develops and mentors Native youth in college through our internships, fellowships and Youth Council to develop the next seven generations of leaders
- Creates culturally competent public health materials, videos, podcasts, and social media to reach our audiences with various modalities
- Establishing connections between UIOs and universities, research centers, media, foundations, corporations, and donors

HIGHLIGHTS

CELEBRATING INDIAN HEALTH MILESTONES

Celebrating 50 years of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act

2026 marked the 50th anniversary of the *Indian Health Care Improvement Act*, a landmark law that recognized the federal responsibility for providing health care to AI/AN people and formally authorized UIOs within the Indian Health System. NCUIH commemorated this milestone by bringing together health leaders, policymakers, and advocates to reflect on five decades of progress and chart a path forward.

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

ENGAGING PARTNERS

NCUIH CEO, Francys Crevier *(Algonquin)* partnered with the Rx Foundation in a news feature to share her vision for health, sovereignty, and culturally grounded care for AI/AN communities. Together, NCUIH and the Rx Foundation are uplifting why UIOs are essential infrastructure for improving health and wellbeing in AI/AN communities.

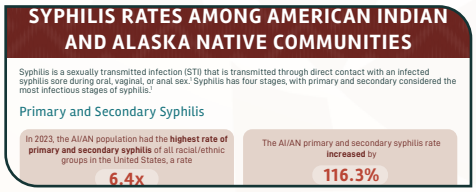
NCUIH stood alongside Grantmakers in Health this past year to lift up urban AI/AN health priorities and underscore the importance of protecting resources that support AI/AN communities.

FEATURED REPORTS AND RESOURCES

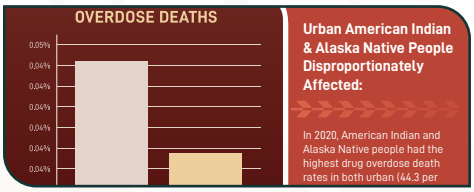
How-To Toolkit for Inviting Members of Congress to Visit Your UIO

Overview of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act Exemptions for AI/AN People

Campaign Materials to Raise Community Awareness about RSV



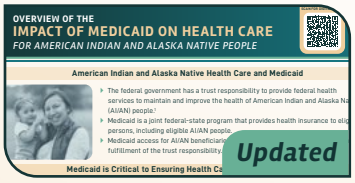
Syphilis Rates Among AI/AN Communities



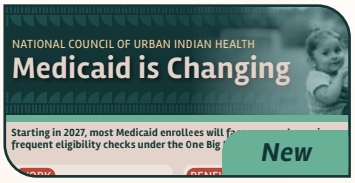
Substance Use Disorder and Overdose in AI/AN Communities

NCUIH 2026-2027 Policy Priorities

Medicaid Implementation Resources | NCUIH has developed resources to help UIOs and patients prepare for Medicaid implementation and respond when applicable AI/AN protections may not be recognized correctly.

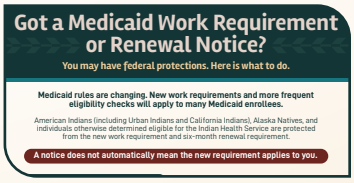


Impact of Medicaid on Health Care for AI/AN People



Medicaid Work Requirements and the AI/AN Exemption

Implementation Guide for UIOs



Patient Handout

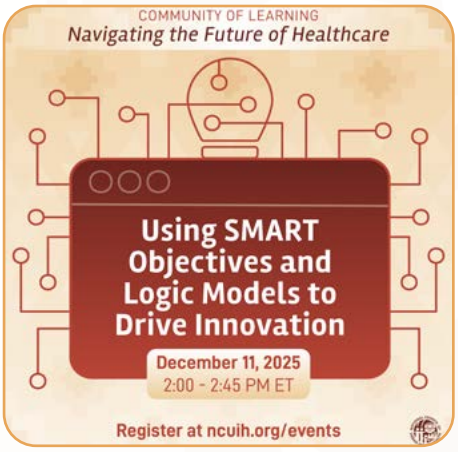
EVENTS

NCUIH events offer a dynamic platform for engaging with key issues impacting Urban AI/AN communities across the nation. These virtual gatherings cover a wide array of topics, from health and wellness to policy efforts and cultural preservation. They serve as a space for dialogue, education, and collaboration, bringing together experts, community leaders, and stakeholders to drive positive change and amplify the voices of AI/AN people in urban settings.

15
Events

765
Attendees

FEATURED EVENTS



POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

Protected and Strengthened Indian Health Investments

$5M increase to the Urban Indian Health line item in FY 2026 and a House-proposed $10M increase in FY 2027

Secured the largest increase to the Special Diabetes Program for Indians in 22 years in FY 2026.

Garnered Strong Support for UIOs among HHS Leadership

Secretary Kennedy committed to supporting 100% FMAP for UIOs at a Senate Finance Committee Hearing, a longstanding priority for UIOs and NCUIH.

Secretary Kennedy highlighted UIOs, including NATIVE HEALTH and Native American Connections, as models for traditional food integration and traditional healing-based substance use treatment, before the HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee.

115 Advisory Committee and Federal Agency Meetings with UIO Advocacy

35 Comments and Letters to Federal Agencies

10 Urban Confers and Tribal Consultations

130 Capitol Hill Meetings

12 Congressional Hearings

Strengthening & Expanding Partnerships to Elevate Urban Indian Health Needs

NCUIH joined the Montana Consortium of Urban Indian Health in a conversation on policy, advocacy, and partnership from Montana to D.C. at the Native American Development Corporation 17th Annual Native ECon in Billings, Montana.

Discussed behavioral health funding needs in urban AI/AN communities with Indian Country partners at the 7 Generations AI/AN Behavioral Health Center of Excellence Policy Action Institute in Washington, D.C.

Co-chaired the Health Subcommittee and advanced resolutions that strengthen AI/AN health at the National Congress of American Indians 83rd Annual Convention in Memphis, TN.

Represented UIOs at the National Congress of American Indians 2026 State of Indian Nations Address.

Brought the UIO perspective on traditional healing at the National Indian Health Board's 2026 National Tribal Health Conference.

Brought urban Indian health priorities to the forefront with Indian Country partners at the 2026 National Congress of American Indians Tribal Impact Days.

Elevating Urban Indian Health on the Federal Level

NCUIH CEO Francys Crevier testified for full funding for urban Indian health and IHS before the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, where Appropriations leadership reaffirmed their commitment to protecting and maintaining stable funding for IHS.

NCUIH worked hand-in-hand with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Tribal Technical Advisory Group to support UIO priorities, 100% FMAP and Traditional Healing, during meetings with CMS leadership and Congress.

NCUIH Board President, Robyn Sunday-Allen *(Cherokee)*, joined the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and Tribal leaders for the introduction of the Native Children's Commission Implementation Act, a landmark investment in Native children and families.

NCUIH stood with the Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty to elevate Indian Country needs in a meeting with Mark Cruz *(Klamath Tribes)*, Senior Advisor to the HHS Secretary and new IHS Director.

Federal Agency leaders from HHS, CMS, and HRSA visited UIOs in Arizona to see firsthand how UIOs provide culturally responsive care to AI/AN people in urban settings.

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

VIEW THE FULL REPORT

160+ Advocates Trained

60 Congressional Meetings (**10** with Members themselves)

70+ Advocates joined on the Hill

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH CENTER (TARC)

NCUIH's Technical Assistance and Research Center helps UIOs address the challenges of delivering culturally grounded care. Through tailored guidance, accredited training, research, and practical tools, we support providers and organizational leaders as they strengthen services for American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

311
Hours of TA

CEUs

11 Accredited Trainings Available

Accredited Training Completions by Continuing Education Unit Type:

81 Continuing Medical Education (CME)

60 Continuing Nursing Education (CNE)

Advancing AI/AN Maternal Health

NCUIH launched a centralized Maternal Health Hub at ncuih.org/maternal-health, a resource that outlines maternal health disparities affecting AI/AN communities and highlights efforts to improve outcomes through policy, partnerships, and support for UIOs. The hub features a UIO case study on the Bakersfield American Indian Health Project, best practices for Native-led Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs), and new research on the racial misclassification of AI/AN pregnant and postpartum people.

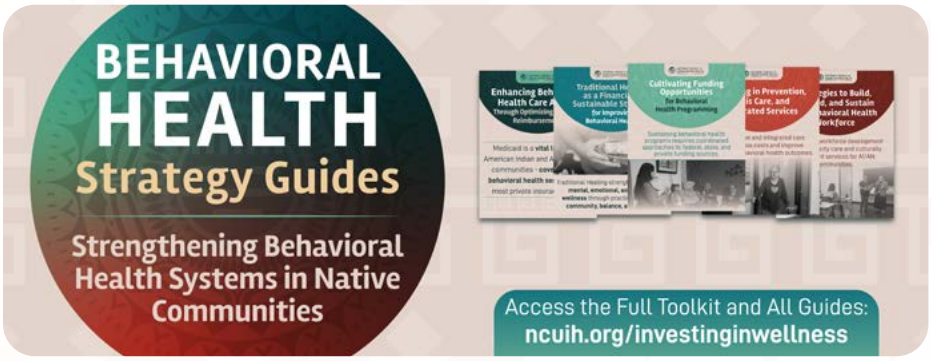
Participated in national conversations, alongside the Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake, on maternal mortality review through Maternal Mortality Review Information Application (MMRIA) at the CDC's 10th Annual MMRIA User Meeting, supporting efforts to strengthen how pregnancy-related deaths are reviewed and understood.

Shared an overview of NCUIH's maternal health work, including resources supporting maternal health and Tribally-led MMRCs, and updates on its maternal health policy priorities at the National Indian Health Board's 2026 National Tribal Health Conference's Maternal Child Health Institute.

Expanding Research on Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) in AI/AN Communities

NCUIH released new resources highlighting how key SDOH affect AI/AN people across the US and in California. Drawing on a scan of publicly available research and data, along with a survey of California UIOs, our reports offer key findings and recommendations to address AI/AN disparities related to housing insecurity, transportation barriers to care, food insecurity, and Indigenous language and identity challenges.

Investing in Wellness: Financing Strategies for Behavioral Health in Indian Country



NCUIH developed the "Investing in Wellness: Financing Strategies for Behavioral Health in Indian Country" toolkit and strategy guides to provide key information and resources to develop applicable and practical financing strategies for Indian Health Care Providers to strengthen access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services for Indian Health Service beneficiaries.

Launch of the Native Health Protection Network

This Network is designed to connect those working with AI/AN communities to timely updates and resources designed to support vaccine programs. Through the Network, NCUIH also provides a platform and outlet for peer-to-peer learning through four virtual Community of Learning gatherings hosted by NCUIH focused on Strengthening Vaccine Confidence in AI/AN Communities.

COMMUNICATIONS

NCUIH NATIVE HEALTHCAST

Available at ncuih.org/podcast

UIO HIGHLIGHTS

Each month, NCUIH spotlights a UIO to connect national policy priorities to the lived experience of urban AI/AN communities. These highlights showcase the culturally grounded care UIOs deliver and the federal engagement needed to sustain it.

New York Indian Council (March 2026)
NYIC, an IHS-funded UIO, provides culturally grounded care to Native individuals and families across all five boroughs of New York City. Their immunization clinics, behavioral health services, and Wellness Case Managers help community members navigate insurance, appointments, and trusted providers.

Butte Native Wellness Center Site Visit (August 2026)
NCUIH CEO, Francys Crevier, visited the Butte Native Wellness Center in Montana for their grand opening of the Seven Generations Community Space and Garden.

FEATURED PUBLIC HEALTH CAMPAIGNS

NCUIH develops monthly public health campaigns with adaptable graphics, flyers, and social media content for UIOs. Each campaign connects national health observances to the priorities of urban AI/AN communities.

Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month (April 2026)
NCUIH raised awareness of the disproportionate rates of sexual violence experienced by AI/AN people and shared resources for UIOs to support survivors. Campaign materials emphasized prevention, culturally responsive care, and connecting community members to trauma-informed services.

Youth Smoking Prevention
NCUIH developed resources addressing e-cigarette use and respiratory health among AI/AN youth. The campaign distinguished commercial tobacco from traditional tobacco and equipped UIOs with materials to support prevention and cessation efforts for young people.

292	24	31	14	68
Attendees	Sponsors	UIOs Represented	Exhibitors	Speakers

The NCUIH 2026 Annual Conference brought together 292 attendees for 81 sessions and 68 speakers—amplifying Urban Indian voices and priorities nationwide. Over 82,000 sponsor impressions and representation from 31 UIOs made this gathering one to remember.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

PhRMA RESEARCH • PROGRESS • HOPE

AARP

sanofi

NATIVE HEALTH

MOEWAKANTON

OKLAHOMA CITY INDIAN CLINIC

Nevada Urban Indians Inc. Medical Clinic & Health Wellness Programs

NACA NATIVE AMERICANS FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

Indian HEALTH BOARD

NARA NORTHWEST NATIVE AMERICAN REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Bakersfield American B·A·I·H·P Indian Health Project
Our Feathers Soaring Higher

FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY HEALTHSOURCE

HOBBS STRAUS DEAN & WALKER

INDIAN HEALTH CARE RESOURCE CENTER OF TULSA

JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBE

NATIVE AMERICAN HEALTH CENTER
Serving the community since 1972

WOODSTONE

DENVER INDIAN HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Hello Heart

CareQuest Institute for Oral Health

HUNTER HEALTH

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

URBAN INDIAN CENTER OF SALT LAKE

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

81 Sessions, including:

- Federal engagement with the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Presentation on MMIP & Missing Children: Protecting Urban Indigenous Communities
- Capitol Hill Advocacy Training
- Presentation on Culturally-Centered Strategies for Navigating Organizational Growth (So'oh-Shinálí)
- Panel on Philanthropy and Indian Health: Challenges & Opportunities

AWARDS

URBAN INDIAN HEALTH

UIO Staff Member of the Year
Michael Duran
Director of Counseling
Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley

Native Health Partnership Excellence
Pfizer

UIO Visionary
LivA'ndrea Knoki
Board President
Native Americans for Community Action

Native Health Rising Ally
Ishkode Fund

Distinguished Service
Walter Murillo
Board President
National Council of Urban Indian Health

Excellence in Public Service to Advance Native Health
Mark Cruz
Senior Advisor to the HHS Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services

CONGRESSIONAL AWARDS

Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK-04)
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations

Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME-01)
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN)
Member
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

LOOKING AHEAD

In the coming year, NCUIH will continue working alongside UIOs to protect access to care and strengthen the resources they use to serve Native communities. Our priorities include supporting Indian Country through Medicaid implementation changes, advancing stable Indian health funding, expanding practical technical assistance, and developing culturally relevant research and public health tools.

INVEST IN URBAN INDIAN HEALTH

The federal government's trust and treaty responsibility to American Indian and Alaska Native people remains central to our work. Philanthropy has a complementary role: helping NCUIH respond to emerging needs, connect UIOs with expertise, and advance community-informed work that requires flexible resources.

A gift to NCUIH supports the national advocacy, research, education, and technical assistance that help UIOs carry their priorities forward. Flexible support allows us to listen to changing community needs and respond with timely guidance, useful resources, and stronger partnerships.

WHAT YOUR PARTNERSHIP CAN HELP MAKE POSSIBLE

- Timely guidance and provider resources when federal policies or implementation requirements change.
- Tailored technical assistance and training responsive to UIO needs.
- Research that elevates urban Native experience and informs health policy and practice.
- Culturally relevant public health tools and opportunities for UIOs to share knowledge.

GIVE OR PARTNER WITH NCUIH

Make a gift at www.ncuih.org/make-an-impact/. To discuss a philanthropic partnership or conference sponsorship, contact development@ncuih.org.

One-time gifts, recurring support, and organizational partnerships help sustain this work. We welcome a conversation about how your support can advance the priorities of urban Native communities.

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We thank the Urban Indian Organizations, Tribal partners, foundations, corporate partners, public agencies, and individual supporters who contribute to NCUIH's mission. Your partnership helps bring urban Native health priorities into national decisions and equips communities with resources to move their work forward.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REGION 1

Kerry Hawk Lessard
Board Member
(Descendant of Absentee Shawnee)
Executive Director
Native American LifeLines of Baltimore

REGION 2a

Dr. Patrick Rock
Board Member
(Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe)
Chief Executive Officer
Indian Health Board of Minneapolis

REGION 2b

Dr. Albert Mensah
Board Member
Co-founder of Mensah Medical
American Indian Health Services of Chicago

REGION 3

VACANT

REGION 4

Todd Wilson
Board Member
(Crow)
Executive Director
Helena Indian Alliance-Leo Pocha Clinic

REGION 5

Toni Lodge
Board Member
(Turtle Mountain Chippewa)
Chief Executive Officer
The NATIVE Project

REGION 6a

Sonya Tetnowski
President-Elect
(Makah Tribe)
Chief Executive Officer
Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley

REGION 6b

Natalie Aguilera
Board Member
(Choctaw)
Chief Executive Officer
Native American Health Center

REGION 7a

Dr. Linda Son-Stone
Secretary
Executive Director
First Nations Community HealthSource

REGION 7b

Walter Murillo
Vice-President
(Choctaw)
Chief Executive Officer
Native Health

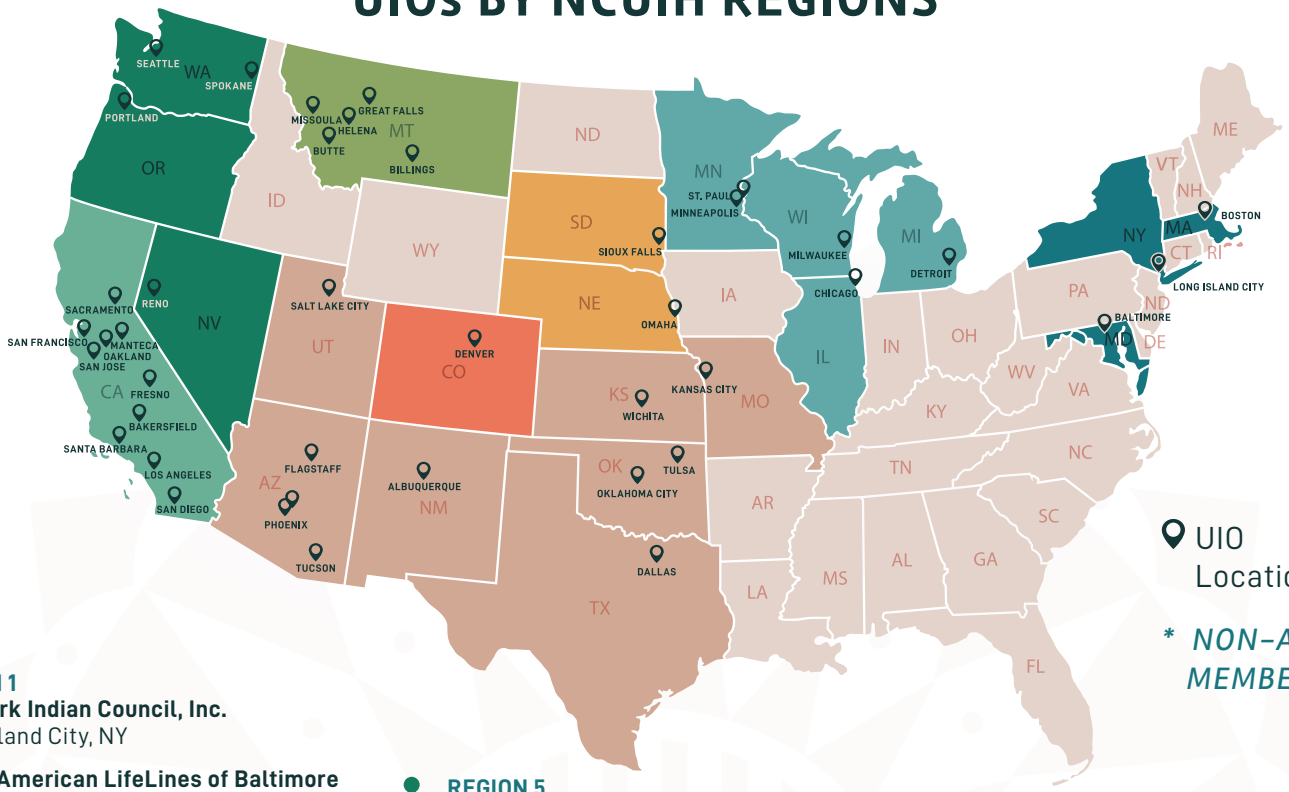
REGION 7c

Robyn Sunday-Allen
President
(Cherokee)
Chief Executive Officer
Oklahoma City Indian Clinic

REGION 8

Adrianne Maddux
Treasurer
(Hopi)
Executive Director
Denver Indian Health and Family Services

UIOs BY NCUIH REGIONS



UIO Locations

* *NON-ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP*

REGION 1

New York Indian Council, Inc.
Long Island City, NY

Native American LifeLines of Baltimore
Baltimore, MD

Native American LifeLines of Boston
Roxbury, MA

REGION 2

American Indian Council on Alcoholism, Inc.
Milwaukee, WI

American Indian Health & Family Services
Detroit, MI

American Indian Health Service of Chicago
Chicago, IL

Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center
Milwaukee, WI

Indian Health Board of Minneapolis
Minneapolis, MN

Juel Fairbanks
St. Paul, MN

REGION 3

Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition, Inc.
Omaha, NE

South Dakota Urban Indian Health, Inc.
Sioux Falls, SD

REGION 4

Helena Indian Alliance-Leo Pocha Clinic
Helena, MT

Indian Family Health Clinic (IFHC)
Great Falls, MT

All Nations Health Center
Missoula, MT

Butte Native Wellness Center
Butte, MT

Billings Urban Indian Health & Wellness Center
Billings, MT

REGION 5

Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest, Inc. (NARA)
Portland, OR

The NATIVE Project
Spokane, WA

Nevada Urban Indians, Inc.
Reno, NV

Seattle Indian Health Board*
Seattle, WA

REGION 6

American Indian Health & Services, Inc.
Santa Barbara, CA

Bakersfield American Indian Health Project (BAIHP)
Bakersfield, CA

Fresno American Indian Health Project (FAIHP)
Fresno, CA

Friendship House – Association of American Indians, Inc. of San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley
San Jose, CA

Native American Health Center
Oakland, CA

Sacramento Native American Health Center, Inc.* (SNAHC)
Sacramento, CA

San Diego American Indian Health Center
San Diego, CA

Native Directions, Inc./Three Rivers Indian Lodge
Manteca, CA

Los Angeles American Indian Health Centers, Inc.
Los Angeles, CA

REGION 7

First Nations Community HealthSource
Albuquerque, NM

Hunter Health
Wichita, KS

Indian Health Care Resource Center of Tulsa
Tulsa, OK

Kansas City Indian Center
Kansas City, MO

Native Americans for Community Action (NACA)
Flagstaff, AZ

NATIVE HEALTH
Phoenix, AZ

Native American Connections
Phoenix, AZ

Oklahoma City Indian Clinic
Oklahoma City, OK

Tucson Indian Center
Tucson, AZ

Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake City
Salt Lake City, UT

Texas Native Health
Dallas, TX

REGION 8

Denver Indian Health and Family Services
Denver, CO

NCUIH

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