

2022



NATIONAL COUNCIL *of*
URBAN INDIAN HEALTH

YEAR IN REVIEW

NOVEMBER 1, 2021 - OCTOBER 31, 2022



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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 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.

HIGHLIGHTS

Key Events

- ▶ [#MovewithNCUIH: Native American Heritage Month 5K](#)
- ▶ [Messengers in Health: Tis the season to vaccinate – Flu, Pneumonia, and COVID-19](#)
- ▶ [Project Firstline: Application Information Session for Year 2 UIO IPC System Champions & Graduate Fellows](#)
- ▶ [4-in-1 Kick-Off Office Hours](#)
- ▶ [Messengers in Health: Vaccination – Myths vs Facts](#)
- ▶ [NCUIH 2022 Urban Indian Health Policy Preview](#)
- ▶ [Addressing Emerging Infection Control Threats to Urban Indian Organizations](#)
- ▶ [The Coral Council](#)
- ▶ [CDC's Project Firstline Curriculum Launch Event for Healthcare Workers](#)
- ▶ [PATH: Walking in Board Balance](#)
- ▶ [Using the Personal Balance Tool for Youth Self-Assessment and Goal Development](#)
- ▶ [COVID Success Stories](#)

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Key Events continued

- ▶ [Kick-off: EHR and HIT Support for UIOs](#)
- ▶ [No More Broken Promises: A Path to Health Equity in Indian Country](#)
- ▶ [Strengthening the Ribbon: A Primary Care Approach to Eliminating HIV/AIDS in Indian Country](#)
- ▶ [GOTV/IVE National Project Celebration 2022: One Vote, One Family, One Voice at a Time](#)
- ▶ [Explore HealthCare Environment Reservoirs and How to Manage the Spread of Germs](#)
- ▶ [Broadening the Ribbon: Innovative Resources and Effective Strategies to Eliminate HIV/AIDS in Indian Country](#)
- ▶ [Youth Council Event Series](#)
- ▶ [Sharing the Ribbon: Best Practices from the Frontlines](#)
- ▶ [How can Healthcare Workers Recognize the Risk of Germ Spread and Know what Actions to Take to Stop it?](#)
- ▶ [IPC Training Toolkit for Healthcare Workers to Deal with Emerging and Re-emerging Disease Threats](#)
- ▶ [Vax Chat: Continuing our Conversations on Vaccines](#)
- ▶ [Peer-to-Peer Solutions Center – HIT Technical Assistance Support](#)
- ▶ [Emergency Preparedness and Vaccination Planning Storyteller Application \(2022-2023\)](#)
- ▶ [UIO Focus Group](#)
- ▶ [Peer-to-Peer Solutions Center: HIT Chaha'oh/Gathering of People](#)
- ▶ [UIO Focus Groups](#)
- ▶ [Seven Generation Focus: Building Special Programming for Youth Empowerment](#)



~400 HOURS

Total Hours of Technical Assistance



\$1.8M+

Total Grant Funding Given to UIOs



17% INCREASE

Federal Funding for Urban Indian Health

COVID-19 Continuing Response

Viewed resources on COVID-19 Resource Center:

514

ncuih.org/coronavirus

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POLICY

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 of numerous federal agencies including the Indian Health Service, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Department of Health and Human Services (the parent agency for IHS and CMS), the Department of Veterans Affairs, and others.

NCUIH's Policy Division works with UIOs to build consensus-based policy priorities, tracks the 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.

Highlights



NCUIH was invited to present at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Advisory Committee on Infant and Maternal Mortality (ACIMM) as a result of the comments we submitted.



NCUIH's President-Elect Walter Murillo (Choctaw) was invited to join the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health due to NCUIH comments on this issue.

▶ [Video of session](#)



NCUIH President Sonya Tetnowski (Makah) named to the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)'s Not Invisible Act Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs.



NCUIH Members visited Congressional leaders on Capitol Hill to advocate for more resources for urban Indian health.



On September 27, 2022, Roselyn Tso (Navajo) was sworn in as the new IHS Director. NCUIH has advocated for appointing a permanent IHS Director and called for the elevation of the role to Assistant Secretary.



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POLICY CONTINUED

Congressional

Due to NCUIH advocacy, the FY 2022 funding bill included \$73.4 million for urban Indian health, which represents a 17% increase above the FY 2021 enacted level and the highest increase in the past 10 years.

UIOs were included in grants and programs for the first time, including in Tribal set-asides in the Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA) reauthorization. NCUIH also successfully advocated for key legislation impacting urban Indians such as the Urban Indian Health Confer Act (S. 4323), which would implement urban confer policies across all HHS agencies.



Congressional Hearings



Bills Endorsed by NCUIH



Capitol Hill Meetings



Letters to Congress

Federal

NCUIH engaged in significant efforts to educate the federal government regarding the critical needs of Urban Indian Organizations and Native people living in urban areas. NCUIH has submitted thirty-eight comments and letters to numerous federal agencies including the Indian Health Service (IHS), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and others.

NCUIH has provided critical technical assistance to UIOs to enhance their ability to directly engage with the federal government. NCUIH hosted 15 preparatory sessions for UIOs in advance of Urban Confers and Tribal Consultations and provided 12 templates for UIOs to use in submitting comments to the federal government.

NCUIH's work has significantly elevated the federal government's awareness of issues impacting UIOs. For example, September, NCUIH leaders were invited to speak and testify at several high-profile initiatives of the federal government including Walter Murillo, NCUIH-President Elect, who was invited to speak on a keynote panel at the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, and NCUIH VP of Public Policy Meredith Raimondi, who was invited to testify before HRSA's Advisory Committee on Infant and Maternal Mortality. Also in September 2022, VA Secretary McDonagh began his presentation at NIHB's Tribal Health Equity Summit with an update on VA's efforts to engage with UIOs.



Comments and Letters to Federal Agencies



Advocacy at Urban Confers



Advocacy at Tribal Consultations



Advisory Committee and federal agency meetings with UIO advocacy

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POLICY CONTINUED

NCUIH Signs Amicus Brief to Protect the Indian Child Welfare Act

On August 19, 2022, the National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) and five urban Indian organizations (UIOs) (Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition, Inc., Sacramento Native American Health Center, Fresno American Indian Health Project, All Nations Health Center, and Oklahoma City Indian Clinic) signed on to the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center's (NIWRC) amicus brief to the Supreme Court in support of the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in the Brackeen v. Haaland case. NCUIH worked directly with NIWRC to engage with UIOs to ensure that the submitted brief was inclusive of urban American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/ANs).



Advance Appropriations

Advance appropriations is funding that becomes available one year or more after the year for which the appropriations act is passed. The Indian healthcare system, including IHS, Tribal facilities, and UIOs, is the only major federal healthcare provider funded through annual appropriations, which does not allow for long-term planning by insulating Indian healthcare providers from government shutdowns and continuing resolutions.

NATIVE LIVES CAN'T WAIT ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS NOW

Not another Native life should be lost from budget uncertainty. Advance appropriations for IHS now.



NCUIH created a special [website](#) and released a [document](#) on the history of advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service (IHS), which explains the necessity of advance appropriations and provides a timeline on the advocacy, congressional and federal support, and legislative efforts. The website includes an interactive timeline since 2013, opportunities to take action, and a historical representation of advocacy to date.

Due to robust advocacy by NCUIH, the Senate FY 2023 funding bill provides \$5.577 billion of advance appropriations for IHS for FY 2024. However, the House bill failed to include advance appropriations. NCUIH continues to advocate for advance appropriations in funding bills.

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH CENTER

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 Organizations 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.

Highlights

NCUIH hosted six live ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) sessions. Project ECHO is a new tele-mentoring program designed to create communities of learners by bringing together health care providers and experts in topical areas using didactic and case based presentations, fostering an "all learn, all teach" approach. NCUIH awarded 2 returning UIO Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Champions \$208,000 in total.

NCUIH hosted and awarded an AI/AN graduate student an IPC Fellowship

Collaborated and hosted a representative from RTI National, an independent nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition, in our final webinar

➤ [Watch Episode](#)

NCUIH Native Healthcast

National Council of Urban Indian Health's (NCUIH) Project Firstline team launched the Native Healthcast podcast and released 4 episodes in 2022. The NCUIH podcast platform promotes infection prevention and control education topics for our frontline warriors and healthcare team members through a collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) via Project Firstline. NCUIH's Native Healthcast has featured a range of guest speakers including Angel Galvez (Tarasco and Purepecha), CEO of Bakersfield American Indian Health Project, Inc (BAIHP), CDC Subject Matter Experts and Kyle Mitchell (Diné) who is a storyteller.

Episodes can be listened to directly from the [NCUIH Project Firstline](#) page on our website or other platforms including [BuzzSprout](#)

The image shows the cover for the NCUIH Native Healthcast episode titled "Project Firstline Reflections: Addressing Emerging Infection Control Threats to UIOs". The cover features the NCUIH logo at the top, followed by the text "SUPPORTING HEALTHCARE WARRIORS" and "INFECTION CONTROL". Below this, the main title "Project Firstline Reflections: Addressing Emerging Infection Control Threats to UIOs" is displayed. The host is identified as "Hosted by Vickie K. Oldman (Diné)". The cover also lists two special guests: "Abigail Carlson MD, CDC Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, Medical Officer" and "Kyle Mitchell (Diné, Navajo), Facilitator with NCUIH for Project Firstline". At the bottom, there are logos for "PROJECT FIRSTLINE" and "NATIONAL COUNCIL OF URBAN INDIAN HEALTH".

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH CENTER CONTINUED

Knowledge Resource Center

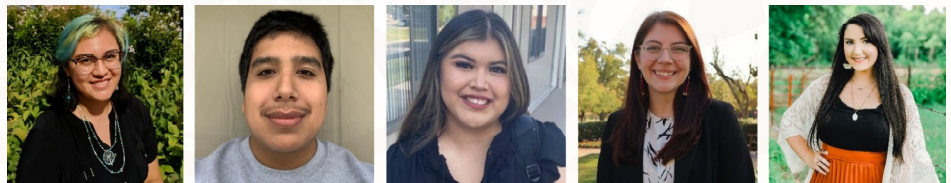
There are 27 posts currently on the KRC that were posted in the time frame November 1, 2021 – October 31, 2022. 15 of those posts on the KRC are peer-reviewed journal articles out of the 27 posts.

Vaccine Equity

Created a COVID-19 Myths vs Facts Factsheet and shared with our UIOs via the NCUIH Newsletter and email. We also uploaded the resource to the CDC Learning Community and Vaccine Resource Hub.

Developed 4 Vaccine Promotion Videos with Next Day Animations and received feedback from 3 UIOs on the videos. The 4 Vaccine Promotion Video Links are listed below:

- ▶ [#BeAGoodRelative Campaign: Flu Immunization - YouTube](#)
- ▶ [#BeAGoodRelative Campaign: Annual Vaccines - YouTube](#)
- ▶ [#BeAGoodRelative Campaign: Youth Immunization - YouTube](#)
- ▶ [#BeAGoodRelative Campaign: COVID-19 Myths vs Facts - YouTube](#)



379

TA Hours

46

Events

10

Youth Council Members

17

Resources

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PROGRAMS, DEVELOPMENT, AND COMMUNICATIONS

Media Mentions



Social Media Impressions



60,797
post impressions



97,752
impressions



13,837
video views



47,589
impressions



44,058
impressions

42 Collaborative Partners

Collaborations with National Organizations and Stakeholders



Minority HIV/AIDS Fund (MHAF)





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ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UIO Presentations

- ▶ UIO Successes/Best Practices – The Benefits of Enhanced Oral Health Services in Urban Indian Health presented by American Indian Health & Services Corporation (Santa Barbara, CA)
- ▶ UIO Successes/Best Practices – Project Firstline: UIO Champions Share Best Practices on Infection Control presented by Bakersfield American Indian Health Project, Fresno American Indian Health Project, and Denver Indian Health and Family Services
- ▶ Tribal-Urban Partnership Successes – Tribal Partnerships: Connections for a Better Tomorrow presented by United American Indian Involvement, Inc. (Los Angeles, CA)
- ▶ Closing Session and UIO Awards Ceremony Sponsored by Pfizer

2022 Urban Indian Health Congressional Champion Award Recipients

- ▶ Senator **Jerry Moran** (R-KS)
- ▶ Senator **Alex Padilla** (D-CA)
- ▶ Representative **Teresa Leger Fernandez** (D-NM-03)
- ▶ Representative **David Joyce** (R-OH-14)

2022 Award for Advocacy and Leadership in Urban Indian Health

- ▶ **Libby Washburn**, Former Special Assistant to the President on Native Affairs

2022 Urban Indian Health Awards Recipients

- ▶ Urban Indian Organization (UIO) Staff Member of the Year: **Penelope Pinnecoose**
- ▶ Local Urban Indian Leadership Award: **Rachel Ramirez (a member of the local Wukchumni Tribe)**
- ▶ Urban Indian Organization (UIO) Innovation Award: **Native American Connections**
- ▶ Urban Indian Legacy Award: **Toni Lodge**
- ▶ Rising Ally Award: **Kresge Foundation**
- ▶ National Urban Indian Policy Impact Award: **Kitty Marx**

NCUIH presents
the 2022 Virtual Annual Conference

NO MORE BROKEN PROMISES

A PATH TO HEALTH EQUITY IN INDIAN COUNTRY

May 24–25 • 12–6p.m. EST



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LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS

Sonya Tetnowski
President
Makah Tribe

Robyn Sunday-Allen
Vice-President
Cherokee

Walter Murillo
President-Elect
Choctaw

Linda Son Stone
Secretary

Scott Black
Treasurer
Descendant of Miami of Ohio
and Mohican of Ohio

BOARD MEMBERS

Region 1

Kerry Lessard

Board Member

Descendant of Absentee Shawnee

Executive Director

Native American LifeLines of Baltimore

Region 5

Maureen Rosette

Board Member

Chippewa Cree

Chief Operations Officer

The NATIVE Project

Region 7 (b)

Walter Murillo

Board President-Elect

Choctaw

Chief Executive Officer

Native Health Center

Region 2

RoxAnne Lavallie-Unabia

Board Member

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

Executive Director

American Indian Health Service of

Chicago

Region 6 (a)

Sonya Tetnowski

President

Makah Tribe

Executive Director

Indian Health Center of Santa Clara

Valley

Region 7 (c)

Robyn Sunday-Allen

Board Vice-President

Cherokee

Chief Executive Officer

Oklahoma City Indian Clinic

Region 3

Michaela Seiber

Board Member

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate

South Dakota Urban Indian Health

Region 6 (b)

Scott Black

Board Treasurer

Descendant of Miami of Ohio and

Mohican of Ohio

Executive Director

American Indian Health Services

Region 8

Adrienne Maddux

Board Member

Hopi

Executive Director

Denver Indian Health and Family

Services

Region 4

Todd Wilson

Board Member

Crow Tribal Nation

Executive Director

Helena Indian Alliance-Leo Pocha Clinic

Region 7 (a)

Linda Son-Stone

Board Secretary

Executive Director

First Nations Community HealthSource

NCUIH LEADERSHIP

Francys Crevier, JD
Chief Executive Officer
Algonquin

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)*

Meredith Raimondi
*Vice President, Public
Policy*

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