

2021

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF URBAN INDIAN HEALTH

YEAR IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 – AUGUST 31, 2021





NATIONAL COUNCIL OF URBAN INDIAN HEALTH

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 – AUGUST 31, 2021

October 29, 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



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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 (AI/AN) living in urban settings.

Vision

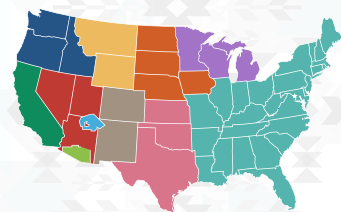
NCUIH envisions a nation where comprehensive, culturally competent personal and public health services are available and accessible to American Indians and Alaska Natives living in urban communities throughout the United States.

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



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
Manteca, CA
- United American Indian Involvement, Inc.
Los Angeles, CA

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

NAVAJO

- Native Americans for Community Action
Flagstaff, AZ

TUCSON

- Tucson Indian Center
Tucson, AZ

BILLINGS

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

ALBUQUERQUE

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

OKLAHOMA CITY

- Hunter Health Clinic
Wichita, KS
- 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

GREAT PLAINS

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

BEMIDJI

- 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
- Juel Fairbanks Chemical Dependency Services
St. Paul, MN

NASHVILLE

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



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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 Signs Three Joint Letters Urging Congressional Action Before the End of the Year (December 9, 2020)
- House Passes NCUIH Bill to Extend FTCA Coverage to Urban Indian Health Workers (December 17, 2020)
- House Passed NCUIH IHS - VA Bill (December 21, 2020)
- NCUIH Secures Huge Wins for Urban Indians in Final Enacted COVID-19 and Omnibus Bills (January 13, 2021)
- NCUIH Submits Testimony to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (March 22, 2021)
- NCUIH Testified Before House on COVID-19 Impacts in Indian Country (March 23, 2021)
- NCUIH Submits Testimony to House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees (March 24, 2021)
- House Energy and Commerce Holds Legislative Hearing on ACA including NCUIH's Bill on 100% FMAP for UIOs (March 24, 2021)
- National Native Organizations Call for Bold Action, Inclusion of Urban Indians in Infrastructure Package (April 15, 2021)
- Senators Smith and Murkowski Re-introduced Tribal Health Data Improvement Act (May 12, 2021)
- NCUIH Bill Introduced to Expand Use of Existing Resources for Urban Indian Health Care (May 25, 2021)
- NCUIH Efforts on MMIP Lead to Congressional and Administrative Action (June 4, 2021)
- NCUIH Submits Written Testimony to Senate Interior Appropriations with FY22 Budget Requests for UIOs (June 21, 2021)
- NCUIH Testifies at House and Senate Hearings Highlighting Need for Urban Indian Health Infrastructure Fix (July 22, 2021)
- Bipartisan Padilla-Moran-Lankford NCUIH Amendment for Urban Indian Health Passes Senate (August 3, 2021)
- Congressional Hearing Highlights How Lack of Urban Confer Delayed Vaccine Rollout for Urban Indians (October 6, 2021)
- NCUIH Endorsed Bill Introduced by Sen. Warren, Rep. Davids and Rep. Cole on National Day of Remembrance (October 15, 2021)
- Senate Releases FY22 Funding Bills with Historic Increase for Urban Indian Health, Indian Health Service, Advance Appropriations, MMIW and UIO Facility Fix (October 19, 2021)



345+ HOURS

Hours of Technical Assistance
Provided to UIOs in 2020



\$8 MILLION+

Total Grants Given to UIOs



~\$500 MILLION

COVID-19 Funding for UIOs
Through NCUIH Advocacy

COVID-19 Continuing Response

Viewed resources on COVID-19 Resource Center:

1,650+

<https://www.ncuih.org/coronavirus>



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Partnership with Native American Lifelines Baltimore, University of Maryland Baltimore, 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.





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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.

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 Medicaid beneficiaries for services provided at 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.

Federal Tort Claims Act Coverage for UIO Health Care Workers

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 Fix for UIOs

Currently, IHS interprets IHCA 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, and is also only currently used by 1 of 41 UIOs. The facilities fix bill was introduced as a standalone bill, and also passed as the first amendment heard on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Package. The amendment was included in the final bill, with a vote of 90-7.

12
HEARINGS

House And Senate Hearings With UIOs Represented Through Testimony And Witnesses

135
BILLS

Bills And Committee Reports In Congress Introduced Impacting UIOs

279
MEETINGS

Advisory Committee, Federal Agency, Independent And Other Meetings With UIO Advocacy

27
LETTERS

Letters Submitted On Behalf Of UIOs Regarding Rules and Other Policy Proposals



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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 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

Number of Technical Assistance Hours Provided

68+

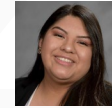
EVENTS

Number of Events, Webinars, Trainings, COLs, ECHOs

5

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Number of NCUIH Youth Council Members



Elizabeth Alexander
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Shawnee, OK



Taejonon Denetclaw
Navajo Nation
Albuquerque, NM



Lauren Etcitty
Navajo Nation



Samuel Stollenwerck
Cherokee Nation
Golden, CO



Tia Yazzie
Navajo Nation
West Valley City, UT





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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH CENTER CONTINUED

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.



Bakersfield American Indian Health Project

Outreach & Referral Center

Johnny Delgado, Grants & Project Director



Denver Indian Health and Family Services

Full Ambulatory

Aron Wahkinney, Project Director—Contracts and Grants Program



Fresno American Indian Health Project

Outreach and Referral

Nancy Pierce, Director of Health Service



NATIVE AMERICAN CONNECTIONS

Native American Connections

Residential/Outpatient Treatment Center

Jennifer Thompson, Project Director



Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake

Limited Ambulatory; Outreach and Referral

Rochelle Moore, QI & Compliance Officer and Project Director

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

BLOG POSTS

Blog posts published

18

REPORTS

Bi-weekly COVID-19 reports



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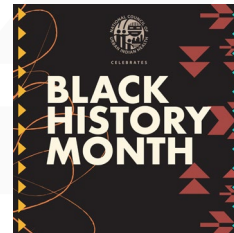
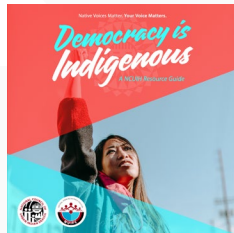
PROGRAMS, DEVELOPMENT, AND COMMUNICATIONS

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



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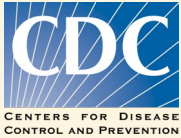
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PROGRAMS, DEVELOPMENT, AND COMMUNICATIONS CONTINUED

Development Highlights

39 COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

Major Contributors



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



Indian Health Service (IHS)



Administration for Native Americans (ANA)

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

University of Chicago



Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



Morehouse School of Medicine

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

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.



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ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF URBAN INDIAN HEALTH'S 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
CIRCLE OF RESILIENCE: EMPOWERING INDIAN COUNTRY IN A VIRTUAL WORLD
May 25 - 27, 2021 | 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. EST, Daily

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 Tina Smith
(D-MN)



Senator James Lankford
(R-OK)



Representative Don Young
(R-AK)



Representative Ruben Gallego
(D-AZ)



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URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS

All Nations Health Center

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

Billings Urban Indian Health & Wellness Center

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

Native American Rehabilitation Center of the Northwest

Native American Connections

Native American Health Center

Native American Lifelines of Baltimore

Native American Lifelines of 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



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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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Walter Murillo
Choctaw
President

Robyn Sunday-Allen
Cherokee
Vice-President

Sonya Tetnowski
Makah Tribe
President Elect

Linda Son Stone
Secretary

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

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
N.A.T.I.V.E. Project

Region 7 (b)
Walter Murillo
Board President
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
Board President-Elect
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
Vacant

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

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National Council of Urban Indian Health

ncuih.org

