



# URBAN INDIAN HEALTH NEEDS

REQUEST:

**\$200 MILLION**

for urban Indian health to improve, update and expand urban Indian health facilities based on needs

**FACT**

The Declaration of National Indian Health Policy in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act states that: *“Congress declares that it is the policy of this Nation, in fulfillment of its special trust responsibilities and legal obligations to Indians to ensure the highest possible health status for Indians and urban Indians and to provide all resources necessary to effect that policy.”*

**FACT**

Congress “establish[ed] programs in urban centers to make health services more accessible to urban Indians” 25 U.S.C. § 1651. The IHS carries out this authority through contracts with, and grants to, Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs). 25 U.S.C. §§ 1652-1653.

**FACT**

Urban Indian Organizations are not eligible for the Indian Health Service Facilities or Sanitation line items.

**FACT**

The Indian Health Service has a facilities priority list for Tribal and IHS facilities. Urban Indian Organizations do not have the ability to be placed on the list.



Population of AI/AN people in UIO Service Areas 1



Established in 1976 by Tribes who advocated for treaty health rights for off-reservation AI/ANS



More than 70% of the 5.6 million (US Census) AI/AN live in urban and suburban areas



There are 41 UIOs in 22 states, totaling 77 facilities in operation



Annual appropriations funding for the urban Indian health line item is approximately 1% of IHS Budget, which has always been <1% prior to 2020



# OVERVIEW OF CURRENT URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATION NEEDS<sup>1</sup>

**90%** UIOs need facility upgrades to improve health care services

**\$2 Million**

Estimated cost for new building purchases

**\$7 Million**

Estimated cost for total sanitation facilities needs

**\$32 Million**

Estimated cost for renovations of current facilities

**\$48 Million**

Estimated cost for total expansion of facilities

**\$83 Million**

Estimated cost for new construction needs

**\$172 Million**

Estimated cost of Shovel Ready Projects at UIOs to expand and improve existing spaces and/or acquire new facilities

+

**\$28 Million**

Estimated cost for non-Shovel Ready Projects

=

**\$200 Million**

Estimated total cost needed

## EXAMPLE PROJECTS

-  Sanitation (water supply, sewage system, sanitary solid waste)
-  Expansion and improvement for Traditional services
-  Maintenance, repair, restoration of existing facilities
-  New in-house pharmacy services
-  Hazmat abatement and remediation
-  New urgent care center
-  New primary, behavioral, dental, infectious disease areas
-  New mobile health units for specialty services
-  New waiting rooms and isolation rooms for infectious disease patients

<sup>1</sup>Based on a NCUIH survey of 37 of 41 UIOs in April 2020 – April 2021



## UIO EXAMPLES



**First Nations Community HealthSource (FNCH)**  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

### Current Status

*“Without facility funds, our ability to grow and operate efficiently and effectively becomes more challenging, which inevitably impairs our ability to meet the healthcare needs of our urban Indian community members.”*

### Main Facility

*“Our main clinic is housed in a 40-year-old facility, which has limitations with poor roofing, cracked and worn hallways and office tiles, fixtures that are not ecofriendly, limited office and storage space, small waiting rooms, small exam rooms and offices.”*

### Dental Facility

*“Our dental facility which is housed in a 20-year-old modular. This modular is continuously challenged by roof leaks, uneven and sagging floors, peeling stucco, cracked walls and limited space for sterilization and lab needs... Our clinic is the only dental clinic dedicated to serving urban Indian adults in Albuquerque. With the limitation of our dental clinic’s physical space, we are at capacity serving 3,000 patients with 10,000 patient visits per year”*

- Linda Son-Stone

CEO of First Nations Community HealthSource

### With funding:

1. Shovel Ready Project: FNCH hopes to expand primary care, dental, Traditional Healing and an array of support services.

**Estimated cost: \$6 million**

2. Shovel Ready Project: FNCH would like to add an additional 50,000 square feet to its wellness center. The added square footage will be used to include the following services: Cultural wellness/Traditional Healing, healthy lifestyle activities and education, physical activity opportunities, small primary care clinic, three behavioral health offices with two group rooms, case management offices, expanded community gathering space, community gardening, youth activities, community kitchen for cooking demonstrations and community participation, and other community-based healthy lifestyle activities.

**Estimated cost: \$2 million**





**Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake (UICSL)**  
Salt Lake City, Utah

In March 2020, a 5.7 magnitude earthquake hit Salt Lake City causing structural damage to UICSL, but they were unable to use federal funding to purchase a backup generator or to remedy structural damage to the facility.



*“Not only are the spaces confined and not adequate for testing and providing in a clinical setting, what we learned that our HVAC system was not adequate and does not have the proper flow system.”*

*“Facility dollars for urban Indian programs, including Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake, will allow us to get back to some sort of normalcy and at the same time, provide us with much needed critical resources to expand our services and programs and follow safe guidelines.”*

**- Maurice “Mo” Smith**

Executive Director of Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake

**With funding:**

1. Shovel Ready Project: UICSL could purchase and build a new facility.

**Estimated cost: \$2 million**



## Native Directions, Inc/Three Rivers Indian Lodge

Manteca, California

*"Native Directions has been here for the last forty-seven years and the property is in need of renovation, and constant repair. We are a Native American agency that has been here for many years and to our culture and traditions this site is now considered a sacred site and we must preserve it. We have held many years of our spiritual practices here and have assisted many Native American men to find sobriety and a new way of life. We are in need to finally upgrade the buildings and grounds and with that I humbly request that you support urban Indian health facilities funding."*

### - Ramona Valadez

Executive Director of Native Directions, Inc/Three Rivers Indian Lodge. Boarding School Survivor.

#### With funding:

1. Shovel Ready Project: Native Directions could purchase a temporary housing facility for quarantine residents.

**Estimated cost: \$25,000**

2. Shovel Ready Project: Native Directions could purchase a new modular facility.

**Estimated cost: \$10,500**

3. Shovel Ready Project: Native Directions could purchase new mobile health units for specialty services.

**Estimated cost: \$35,000**

4. Shovel Ready Project: Native Directions could maintain and improve their current facility.

**Estimated cost: \$17,000**

5. Shovel Ready Project: Native Directions could upgrade their sanitation systems.

**Estimated cost: \$10,000**