

May 10, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing from the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), part of the National Institutes of Health under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to initiate a virtual Tribal Consultation on an initiative for improving American Indian and Alaska Native cancer outcomes, to be held on **May 22, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. ET (1:00 p.m. CT, 12:00 p.m. MT, 11:00 p.m. PT)**. I hope that you will be able to participate in this discussion and provide input on the development of a funding opportunity to support efforts to improve cancer outcomes in American Indians and Alaska Natives through advanced screening, diagnosis, and treatment.

American Indians and Alaska Natives experience overall cancer incidence and mortality rates that are strikingly higher than non-Native populations. We are seeking input from Tribal Nations and organizations in the creation of an initiative for improving American Indian and Alaska Native cancer outcomes. To improve the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of cancers among Native Americans, particularly those living in rural communities, the initiative will incorporate multifaceted efforts including research, education, outreach, and clinical access related to cancer. In accordance with Congressional language NIMHD will work with the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to locate this initiative at an NCI-designated cancer center demonstrating partnerships with Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations.

We are seeking your input on this initiative, to which any NCI-designated cancer center working in partnership with Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations can apply. We would like to understand the research priorities and cultural approaches important to your communities to be captured in the initiative. We value the opportunity to learn how the initiative for improving cancer outcomes might help advance the goals and strategic priorities of Tribal Nations.

We are committed to collaborating with Tribal Nations to address community priorities and needs. I encourage you to participate in this timely and urgent discussion on this critical effort to improve the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of cancers among American Indians and Alaska Natives.

**Participant information:**

**What:** NIH Tribal Consultation on the Initiative for Improving American Indian and Alaska Native Cancer Outcomes

**Date:** May 22, 2024

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. ET (1:00 p.m. CT, 12:00 p.m. MT, 11:00 a.m. PT)

**Registration link:** <https://forms.office.com/g/xrm5M3ch8v>

For technical meeting questions related to connectivity or audio/visual, please contact **Elizabeth Cushman** at [Cushman\\_Elizabeth@bah.com](mailto:Cushman_Elizabeth@bah.com).

# NIMHD

National Institute on Minority Health  
and Health Disparities

Due to the delay in this year's appropriations, the receipt date for written testimony, comments, and questions for this initiative will be **May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. Please submit any written testimony, comments and questions to [NIHTribalConsultation@nih.gov](mailto:NIHTribalConsultation@nih.gov). For more information, please contact Dr. Nathan Stinson, director of Community Health and Population Science, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities at [stinsonn@mail.nih.gov](mailto:stinsonn@mail.nih.gov)

Thank you for your continued partnership as we work together to improve the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives through research.

Sincerely,



Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, M.D.  
Director, NIMHD