

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Tribal Consultation on the draft NIH Tribal Consultation Policy

This document provides an overview for Tribal leaders and community members to participate in the upcoming **NIH Tribal Consultation on the draft NIH Tribal Consultation Policy**. This Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer session will be held as a web-based meeting as part of the HHS Regional Tribal Consultations.

NIH Overview

NIH's mission is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.

- [NIH](#) invests nearly \$41.7 billion annually in medical research for the American people.
- More than 80% of NIH's funding is awarded through almost 50,000 competitive [grants](#) to more than 300,000 researchers at more than 2,500 universities, medical schools, and research institutions in every state.
- Located in Bethesda, Maryland, the NIH is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and is composed of the Office of the Director and 27 Institutes and Centers, many of which have an organ- or disease-specific focus. The Office of the Director is the central office at NIH and is responsible for setting policy for NIH and for planning, managing, and coordinating the programs and activities of all the NIH components.

Purpose of Consultation

The purpose of this Tribal Consultation is to gather meaningful and timely input into the development of the draft NIH Tribal Consultation Policy. This Policy reflects NIH's commitment to consistent engagement with Tribal Nations on NIH policies, programs, or activities that significantly affect Tribes.

The draft Policy was developed by the [NIH Tribal Health Research Office](#) (THRO) with extensive input and review from the [NIH Tribal Advisory Committee](#) (TAC) and the [NIH Office of Science Policy](#) (OSP) to ensure it respects Tribal Sovereignty and will strengthen Nation-to-Nation relationships with Tribes. The draft Policy complements the HHS Tribal Consultation Policy by focusing on NIH-specific issues, and will replace the 2014 [NIH Guidance on the Implementation of the HHS Tribal Consultation Policy](#).

Discussion

Some potential discussion questions are listed below:

- What would be your definition of a critical event that would initiate formal Consultation with the NIH?
- Is the proposed timeline for NIH Tribal Consultation adequate to solicit meaningful input?
- Can NIH Tribal Consultations be held on different platforms? (e.g, in-person events, virtual meetings, or teleconferences)
- Is the NIH strategy for concluding Tribal Consultation appropriate?