

Tribal Consultation on the National Institutes of Health Strategic Plan for Tribal Health Research, FY2024–2028

This document provides an overview for Tribal leaders and community members to participate in the upcoming ***National Institutes of Health (NIH) Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer on the NIH Strategic Plan for Tribal Health Research, FY2024-2028***. This Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer will be held as a series of web-based meetings in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Regional Tribal Consultations.

NIH Mission

The NIH 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 primarily accomplishes this work through research, training and career development, and the dissemination of research findings.

- NIH invests about \$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.
- NIH is a component of HHS and is composed of the Office of the Director and 27 Institutes and Centers, many of which have an organ- or disease-specific focus.

Purpose of Consultation

The purpose of this Consultation is to request input to update and revise the current [NIH Strategic Plan for Tribal Health Research, FY2019-2023](#) to ensure that the agency addresses the highest priorities and research needs of tribal communities over the next five years.

In addition, NIH recognizes the disproportionate impact the COVID-19 pandemic has on American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities and welcomes input on how its impact may have changed tribal research priorities.

The NIH Strategic Plan for Tribal Health Research, FY2019-2023

The purpose of the NIH Strategic Plan for Tribal Health Research is to improve the agency's relationship and collaborative research efforts with AI/AN communities through four overarching goals:

1. enhancing communication and collaboration;
2. building research capacity;
3. expanding research; and
4. enhancing cultural competency and community engagement.

Each goal is accompanied by a set of objectives describing how the goals will be achieved. The plan supports improving overall program efficiency and effectiveness; building a strong, coordinated community of AI/AN researchers; and expanding scientific knowledge to improve the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Suggested Questions for Consideration:

1. How can the goals and objectives be revised to better meet the needs of tribal communities?
2. Are there research priorities or types/areas of research or programming that should be added?
3. How has COVID-19 changed tribal priorities and community health research needs?
4. What other research needs do you anticipate over the next five years?

Additional Resources

NIH has integrated the highest level of public accountability into its scientific mission through access to its research data. To that end, NIH offers several online tools:

Public Data on NIH Research Projects and Expenditures

<https://report.nih.gov/>

- The RePORT (Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools) website provides access to a variety of reporting tools, reports, data, and analyses of NIH research activities.
- One of the tools available on the RePORT site is the RePORTER (RePORT Expenditures and Results) module which allows users to search NIH-funded research projects and access publications and patents resulting from NIH funding. Searches can be conducted by state, organization, principal investigator, disease/condition, text, fiscal year, and more.

Coding of Research Related to AI/AN Communities

<https://report.nih.gov/funding/categorical-spending#/>

- The Research, Condition, and Disease Categorization (RCDC) computer-based process sorts NIH-funded projects into categories which represent NIH's best estimates and includes basic, pre-clinical, clinical, biomedical, health services, behavioral, and social research. Visit this site to see research identified as focused on AI/AN populations.