



March 2, 2022

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I write to notify Tribal Nations that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is initiating a Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer on the Helping to End Addiction Long-term® (HEAL) Initiative, a federal trans-agency effort to speed scientific solutions to stem the national opioid public health crisis. The initiative aims to reduce suffering due to opioids and chronic pain; curb the rates of opioid misuse, addiction, and overdose; and achieve long-term recovery from opioid addiction.

We are seeking input from Tribal Nations to develop priorities and collaborative strategies to address the opioid crisis in Indian Country. We would like to understand the research priorities important to your communities and how HEAL could engage with you to develop a Tribally-focused initiative to speed development of scientific and local solutions to the opioid crisis. This could be through supporting new approaches to research on improving chronic pain management and opioid misuse, addiction, and overdose in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. NIH seeks to continue to build on the input from the 2018 [Consultation](#), and adapt our approaches as the overdose crisis continues to change.

NIH is announcing a **two-hour virtual NIH Tribal Consultation** on Research Needed to Address the Opioid Crisis Including Managing Chronic Pain and Addiction on **Thursday, March 31, 2022, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., ET**. We hope you will participate in this timely and urgent discussion.

**Participant information:**

**What:** NIH Tribal Consultation on Helping to End Addiction Long-term® (HEAL) Initiative

**Date:** Thursday, March 31, 2022

**Time:** 2:00-4:00 p.m., ET

**Live videocast link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85819035837?pwd=NG1Ca0E0OU02ZUJFVENRN3czby9oZz09>

Meeting ID: 858 1903 5837, Passcode: 435570

If you have technical questions related to connectivity or audio/visual regarding the meeting, please contact Maria George at [maria.george@nih.gov](mailto:maria.george@nih.gov). If you are unable to attend, you are encouraged to send any testimony, comments, and questions to [NIHTribalConsultation@nih.gov](mailto:NIHTribalConsultation@nih.gov) before May 1, 2022. For more information, please contact Dr. David Wilson, Director of the NIH Tribal Health Research Office (THRO), at [NIHTribalConsultation@nih.gov](mailto:NIHTribalConsultation@nih.gov).

We look forward to your participation in this event and to listening and learning from each of you. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Rebecca Baker, Director, NIH HEAL Initiative at [Rebecca.baker@nih.gov](mailto:Rebecca.baker@nih.gov).

Sincerely,

Tara A. Schwetz, Ph.D.  
Acting Principal Deputy Director  
National Institutes of Health