

Tribal Advisory Committee: THRO UPDATE

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

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THRO Past Year Highlights



National Institutes of Health
Tribal Health Research Office

Over 200
AIAN Leaders,
Practitioners,
Knowledge
Keepers

35+ Boarding
School Survivors

350+ attendees
Virtual & in-person



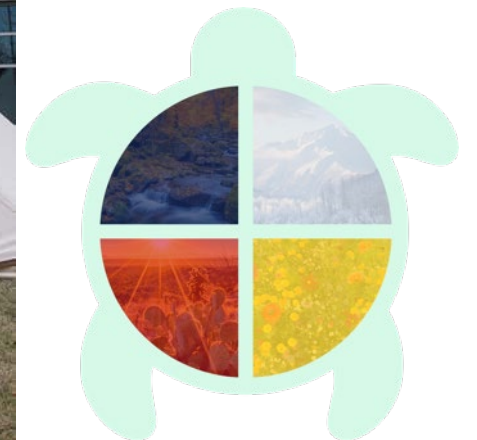
HHS:
IHS, ACF, CDC,
SAMHSA, OASH,
OMH +

Federal:
DOI
White House

18 NIH
Institutes
Centers
Offices

Boarding School Healing Summit: THRO and NABs collab

THRO Staff Plus AAS
Fellow Robert
putting on the
Boarding School
Healing Summit



Indigenous Data Sovereignty Summit 2-day intensive meeting





Intramural Policy on Research with AI/AN Data & Biosamples

- 3014-405 - Research Involving American Indian/Alaska Native Persons, Their Data and Biological Materials
 - Released 7/09/2025
 - <https://policymanual.nih.gov/3014-405>
- Companion page: <https://irbo.nih.gov/research-with-vulnerable-populations/none/>
 - Includes recording from Dr. Karina Walters (December 05, 2024)





Hot Topics



National Institutes of Health
Tribal Health Research Office



July 2 Memo from OPERA/OER

- Director of Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration sent a memo RE: **Class Deviation** – Issuing Awards for Applications Submitted to Unpublished Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs)
- EO 14173 and orders to freeze or terminate funding that is racially discriminatory **do not apply to federal programs for AI/AN Tribes and their citizens** that are based on the government-to-government relationship.
- The exclusion includes NIH research and research training programs, initiatives, contracts, grants, or other programs that **focus on AI/AN Tribes, AI/AN serving organizations, or on AI/AN populations.**

July 2 Memo from OPERA/OER (excerpt)

The Tribal Health Research Office (THRO) has provided the following approved definitions for AIANs and NHs as subsumed under the term Native Americans, per OGC (May 8, 2025):

- **Native Americans:** Native Americans are defined as people who are members of Indigenous Tribes and communities, irrespective of where they live or reside, that have been recognized as having a special political and trust relationship with the United States, including those Tribes, bands or groups terminated since 1940 and those recognized now or in the future by the State in which they reside. This includes members or up to second generation descendants of **federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes** (U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; Cherokee Nation v. Georgia, 30 U.S. 1 (1831); Worcester v. Georgia, 31 U.S. 515 (1832); 25 U.S.C. §5301(a)), and **state recognized tribes and Urban Indians** as described in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (Public Law 94-437, 25 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq., as amended by Public Law 117-58, November 21, 2021)). Also included for purposes of this NOFO are **Native Hawaiian communities** as described in the Native Hawaiian HealthCare Improvement Act (42 U.S.C. § 11701 et seq.).



Reinstatement Report

- THRO staff reviewed over 200K grants, contracts for AIAN awards
- Prioritized research training awards followed by center and research awards
- Approximately 90 AIAN grants scheduled for termination or not renewed
- 64% of terminated awards reinstated
- 70% of overdue renewals that were renewed
- Currently writing-up the report for STAC and will issue to TAC
- RadX terminated- Tribal Data Repository (TDR) terminated as a sub-contract
- AIAN awards that are in hot topic areas harder time to reinstate



Continued Programs

Intervention Research to Improve Native American Health (IRINAH)

Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) program

Tribal Undergraduate to Graduate Research Training and Leadership (TURTLE)

Tribal Institutional Review Board Establishment and Enhancement (TIRBEE)

Native Collective Research Effort to Enhance Wellness (N Crew)

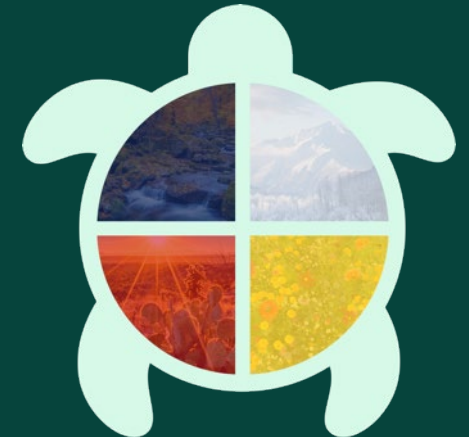


Transitions



National Institutes of Health
Tribal Health Research Office

NIH Tribal Health Members





Future Directions



National Institutes of Health
Tribal Health Research Office



Directions

Indigenous Data Sovereignty Policy – Tribal Consultations

Strategic Plan

New NOFOS- AIAN-specific: MMIP/Foster care; Trauma; Food Sovereignty, Physical Activity, and Land-Based healing

Ancient DNA Policy

Implementation toolkits for AIAN IRB and IDS policies

Tribal Consultations related to non-reinstated awards

Questions and Discussion TAC Members

TAC Members

Ahéhee' (Navajo/Diné)

Kinanâskomitin (Cree)

Pilamaya (Lakota)

Quyana (Central Yup'ik)

Wado (Cherokee)

Nakurmiik (Inuktitut - Inuit)

Miigwech (Ojibwe/Chippewa)

Yakoke (Choctaw)

Wela'lin (Mi'kmaq)

Yaw^ko (Pawnee)

Ahéhee' (Apache)

Migwech (Potawatomi)

Aho (Kiowa)

Wopida (Dakota)

Háw'aa (Haida)

Gunalchéesh (Tlingit)

Mvto (Muscogee/Creek)

Kwakwhá (Hopi)

Yakoke (Chickasaw)

Niá:wen (Mohawk)

