

National Indian Health Board



Dear Tribal Leader,

Over 40 years ago, Tribal leaders came together to create the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) to advocate on behalf of all federally recognized Tribes, to ensure the federal government upholds its trust responsibility to deliver health and public health services to the Tribes. Since that time, NIHB has worked to protect and improve health and reduce health disparities for American Indian and Alaska Native people through Congressional and Administrative advocacy, policy research and analysis, training and technical assistance, convening and facilitation support, and outreach and real time communications.

As part of its policy research, NIHB conducted a scan in 2009 to better understand the capacity of Tribal public health. With that scan information, NIHB created a Tribal Public Health Profile Report in 2010. NIHB now looks to follow up those efforts with a new, more comprehensive scan - the *Public Health in Indian Country Capacity Scan* (PHICCS). The information gained from the PHICCS project will be used to develop a 2019 national- level, Tribal Public Health Profile Report. We believe this report will be a valuable tool for Indian Country to better assess needs and strengths of Tribal public health, to measure progress over time, to allocate staff and resources where they are most needed, and to advocate for additional funding for the system overall.

We need this information to better advocate for the needs of all Tribes.

To gather information for the scan, NIHB will be using a scan instrument (questionnaire) and reaching out to the Tribal health director of record. **Since the success and capacity of the PHICCS project is dependent on Tribal participation, we are respectfully requesting your help to encourage your health director or public health director (or other respondent of the Tribe's choosing) to participate in the project.** (Please note: We are asking for one response per Tribe.)

We have attached a brief fact sheet to this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact Stephen Valliere, Public Health Project Coordinator at 202-507-4082 or svalliere@nihb.org with any questions you may have. To view a copy of the scan instrument, visit NIHB's PHICCS webpage at: https://www.nihb.org/public_health/proj_phiccs.php

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to the health of your community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy A. Bohlen".

Stacy A. Bohlen
Chief Executive Officer
National Indian Health Board



National Indian Health Board
910 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003-4070

Telephone: (202) 507-4070
Facsimile: (202) 507-4071
www.nihb.org



PUBLIC HEALTH IN INDIAN COUNTRY CAPACITY SCAN

Created by the Tribes in 1972, the National Indian Health Board exists to advocate on behalf of all 573 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes to ensure the fulfillment of the federal trust responsibility to deliver health and public health services as assured through treaties, and reaffirmed in legislation, executive orders and Supreme Court cases.

PURPOSE

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB), through the Public Health in Indian Country Capacity Scan (PHICCS) project, will increase the knowledge of Tribal and federal health leaders and advocates through the creation and dissemination of a comprehensive profile of the public health system and infrastructure in Indian Country. The profile will be informed by a national scan of Tribal public health systems, functions, workforce, priorities, needs, strengths, and leadership.

END GOAL

The end goal of this project is to compile the information collected to develop a report that can support and guide essential public health work in Indian Country, especially in the areas of Tribal public health practice, technical support, and assessing priority areas related to improving Indian health. The report can help in efforts to educate Congress, federal agencies, private foundations, and policy makers on the resources needed to build the capacity of Tribal public health, ultimately leading to improved health and well-being for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

BENEFIT TO TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS

The results of this profile will help demonstrate the connections between the daily operations of individual Tribal health organizations and the collective efforts to improve the health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives taking place nationally. Such information will benefit Tribes at the Tribal, regional and national level in a number of ways, including:

- Assessing Tribal public health systems to identify needs
- Identifying Tribal priorities for development and resource allocation
- Identifying opportunities for training and technical assistance
- Establishing a baseline to measure progress over time

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What types of questions does the survey ask? The survey asks about a range of topics, including: what public health services are provided for the Tribal population; how those services are provided; the Tribe's public health work force; the Tribe's public health priorities; and resources needed to improve public health service delivery or capacity.

Has there been Tribal input incorporated in the development of this survey? Yes, NIHB called upon a work group of experts from Indian Country, and when their work was done, NIHB gathered feedback from Tribal leaders, Area Indian Health Boards, Tribal Epidemiology Centers, and health directors all across Indian Country. NIHB heard their concerns, answered questions, and made substantial changes to the scan instrument based on that feedback.

Who should complete the survey? Each Tribe will receive a Dear Tribal Leader Letter from NIHB so that Tribal leaders can determine the most appropriate person to fill out the survey. In many cases, this will be a Tribal Health Director, a Tribal Public Health Director, or a Tribal Administrator; in other cases, the respondent will be a combination of these or other respondents.

How will the data be reported? NIHB will only report aggregate data at the national level. NIHB will produce a report - NIHB 2018 Tribal Public Health Profile – and disseminate the report widely to Indian Country. Survey data will be housed and password protected at NIHB.

How will NIHB be capturing the diversity of Tribes? NIHB understands that there is vast diversity in Indian Country. Knowing that some questions may not capture the work that is occurring, NIHB is proposing to use a text box format at the conclusion of the survey so unique aspects can be understood.

For more information contact Stephen Valliere, Public Health Coordinator, at (202) 507-4082 or svalliere@nihb.org

One Voice affirming and empowering American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples

to protect and improve health and reduce health disparities.