



# Why does policy matters

*“The ACA has changed the landscape and future of health care financing!”*

*“Funding of Indian programs will be heavily influenced by state Medicaid programs and health insurance marketplaces”*



# How many times have you said. . .

- “They don’t get it.”
- “They don’t understand us.”
- “This program is designed for some other type of organization.”
- “This is too complicated.”
- “This program isn’t worth it for us to apply.”
- “If only, they had. . .”



# Today we want to discuss how we can assist Tribes undertake policy work

- Tribes need to be involved in policy at the state and national levels.
- What is health policy analysis?
- Who pays for this work to be done from a Tribal perspective?
- How can you get involved in state or national efforts?
- What types of tools can the National Indian Health Board provide and how to make those available?



# Policy Analysis: A definition

*"a course of action or inaction chosen by public authorities to address a given problem or set of inter-related problems"*

Robert Wolf, School of Public Policy  
Queens University, Canada



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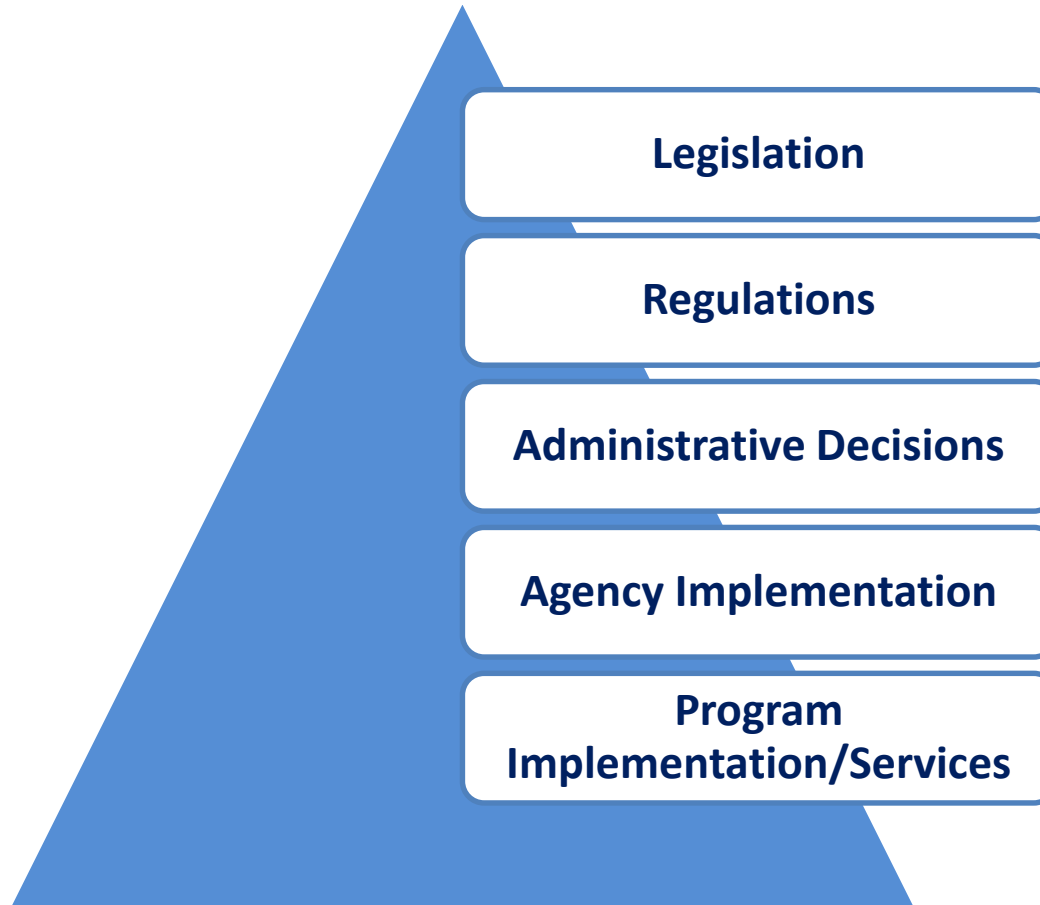
# Evolution of Policy Analysis

- Until 1980's, very few “Policy Analysts ”
- Policy performed by lawyers, economists, planners, program evaluators, budget analysts, researchers, statisticians, and many others
- Over the last 40 years policy analysts have become an established profession and common in government programs
- ***Concern that Indian health sector has not kept pace with this evolution & lack people working in this field***
- This is clear when we look at the number of Indian people working on NIHB's Medicare & Medicaid Policy Committee





# Indian Health Policy: “Where does it begin?”





# Types of Policy Examples

- Tribal, state and federal legislation
- Tribal constitutions
- Executive Orders (Presidential or Gubernatorial)
- Judicial decisions
- Tribal, state, and federal regulations
- Sub-regulatory guidance, Implementation Letters, Agency FAQs
- Program Standards
- Licensing and Certification requirements
- Contract and Services Agreements
- Budget and grant funding agreements



# What ideas to you have for resources to support policy work?

- Financial and personnel resources
- Federal resources
- State resources
- Type of resources: print, video, social media
- NIHB Resource Guidebook



*“It is the single most important function that will support the development, financing, and preservation of our Indian health system and the trust responsibility for health care to American Indian and Alaska Native people”*



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## **OUR VISION:**

**Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.**



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