



April 6, 2022

Rebecca Haffajee, JD, PhD, MPH
Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am pleased to announce the publication of the new Department of Health and Human Services (HHS or Department) Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2022–2026 (Strategic Plan). The Strategic Plan is now available on the Department’s website at: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/strategic-plan/2022-2026/index.html>.

Every four years, HHS updates its Strategic Plan, as required by the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993 (P.L. 103-62) and the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-352), which describes the Department’s work to address complex, multifaceted, and evolving health and human services issues. Each of the Department’s Operating and Staff Divisions contributed to the development of the Strategic Plan, which aligns strategic goals and objectives with priorities of the Administration, the Department, and Operating and Staff Divisions. The Strategic Plan will be updated on an annual basis to reflect our Department’s work toward achieving the HHS mission.

The Strategic Plan describes the Department’s efforts in working toward five strategic goals:

- Strategic Goal 1: Protect and Strengthen Equitable Access to High Quality and Affordable Healthcare
- Strategic Goal 2: Safeguard and Improve National and Global Health Conditions and Outcomes
- Strategic Goal 3: Strengthen Social Well-Being, Equity, and Economic Resilience
- Strategic Goal 4: Restore Trust and Accelerate Advancements in Science and Research for All
- Strategic Goal 5: Advance Strategic Management to Build Trust, Transparency, and Accountability

The HHS values its government-to-government relationship with Indian Tribes and recognizes that robust Tribal Consultation is important to the development of the Strategic Plan. On October 21, 2021, the HHS Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) initiated Tribal Consultation to seek input on the draft Strategic Plan. ASPE received several written comments from Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and Urban Indian Organizations during the initial written comment period that ended on November 22, 2021. In October and November 2021, ASPE joined two virtual events hosted by the Indian Health Service to provide an overview of the draft Strategic Plan, hear input, and respond to questions or comments from Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leaders.

Based on request from Tribal Leaders for additional time to provide comments, ASPE extended the comment period for written comments from Tribal Leaders until January 6, 2022. In addition, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra joined us for a virtual Tribal Consultation session held on January 13, 2022. During the session, Tribal Leaders requested additional time to provide comments. In response, HHS granted an additional extension and accepted written comments through January 19, 2022.

The HHS Strategic Plan responds to recommendations from Tribes and Tribal and Urban Indian Organizations for the Department to strengthen support for Tribal inclusion and reflect the unique needs of Tribes in the Strategic Plan. Throughout the Strategic Plan, strategies aim to reflect the specific health and human services needs of American Indian and Alaska Native communities, including a focus on maternal health, behavioral health, economic opportunity, and addressing trauma.

The Strategic Plan also ensures the Department's alignment with the Executive Order 13175: Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments and White House (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2000/11/09/00-29003/consultation-and-coordination-with-indian-tribal-governments>) and the White House Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/26/memorandum-on-tribal-consultation-and-strengthening-nation-to-nation-relationships/>).

Thank you for your support and partnership as we developed the HHS Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2022–2026. We appreciate the thoughtful comments and input provided as part of Tribal Consultation. We look forward to your continued support and partnership as we implement the Strategic Plan.

If you have any questions about the Strategic Plan, please contact the ASPE Division of Strategic Planning at StrategicPlanning@hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Haffajee, JD, PhD, MPH
Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation