



NIHB
National Tribal Health Conference 2026
Draft Agenda

Sunday, August 16, 2026

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM Registration Opens Akimel Foyer

Monday, August 17, 2026

No cost sessions

8:00 AM – 5:30 PM Registration Opens (*closed for lunch 12-1 PM*) Akimel Foyer

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM Exhibit Hall Move-In Komatke Ballroom

Pre-Conference Sessions

7:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Extreme Heat Safety & Tribal Disaster Preparedness Institute** Bird/Roadrunner
additional registration required

This interactive institute equips participants with practical tools to strengthen Tribal extreme heat preparedness through emergency planning, culturally responsive strategies, and a facilitated tabletop exercise. Attendees will gain hands-on experience developing or updating a Tribal extreme heat response plan and learn from a field visit to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Wellness Center's cooling center operations.

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM **IHLA ASU Session** Kave 1
Private Event – Not Open to the Public

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM **Maternal Mental Health Listening Session** Akimel 1 & 2

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Public Health in Indian Country Capacity Scan** Deer/Scorpion

10:15 AM – 12:15 PM **NIH Consultation/Listening Session** Akime 1 & 2

10:30 AM – 5:00 PM **Maternal Health Institute** Kave 2 & 3
Private Event – Not Open to the Public

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Lunch Horse & Ant
Available for purchase onsite

12:00 PM – 5:30 PM Elder's Lounge Opens Gila Monster

12:00 PM – 8:00 PM Tradeshow Opens Komatke Ballroom

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM **Behavioral Health Institute** Deer/Scorpion

Join us for this pre-conference learning opportunity focused on strengthening Tribal behavioral health systems through promising practices and culturally grounded, Tribally driven approaches. This year's institute will explore ways to better support providers, program staff, and behavioral health advocates serving Tribal communities, while addressing topics including grief, substance use disorder, and strategies that promote the health and well-being of Native communities.

1:15 PM – 3:15 PM	CMS Listening Session	Akimel 1 & 2
3:30 PM – 5:30 PM	IHS Listening Session	Akimel 1 & 2
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Welcome & Cultural Night, Exhibit Hall Grand Opening, and SDPI Poster Session Begin your conference experience with an evening that celebrates community, culture, and innovation. Welcome & Cultural Night begins in the Akimel Foyer with greetings from NIHB and our local hosts, followed by a traditional dance performance. As the performance concludes, attendees are invited to follow the dancers in a vibrant procession to the Exhibit Hall for the Grand Opening Reception, featuring light appetizers, the SDPI Poster Session, and the opportunity to connect with exhibitors and colleagues from across Indian Country. <i>6:00 – Welcome from NIHB and Local Host</i> <i>6:30 – Join us for appetizers and performance</i>	Akimel Foyer and Komatke Ballroom

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

Registration required

8:00 AM – 5:30 PM	Registration Opens <i>(closed for lunch 12-1 PM)</i>	Akimel Foyer
8:00 AM – 5:30 PM	Exhibit Hall <i>*Open to the public</i>	Komatke Ballroom
8:00 AM – 5:30 PM	Elders Lounge Open	Rattle Snake
8:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Opening Plenary Session	Akimel Ballroom
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch <i>Available for purchase onsite</i>	Horse & Ant

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block 1 – 75 min)

<i>Pathways to Health: Advancing Health Literacy in AI/AN Communities</i> This workshop focuses on the importance of health literacy and strategies to improve communication and understanding between health care providers, patients, and caregivers.	Bird/Roadrunner
<i>Impactful Tribal Health Outcomes through Partnerships with Philanthropic Organizations</i>	Deer/Scorpion

This interactive presentation will provide an overview of Seva Foundation's and Direct Relief's approach to addressing unmet healthcare needs in tribal communities. Presenters will share examples of how cultural values and community priorities are incorporated into the formation of partnerships and the influence tribal organizations have through these relationships.

Nurturing Resilience: Culturally Grounded Transition Programs for Native Youth with Disabilities

Akimel 1

Attendees will learn how to engage tribal communities, honor cultural knowledge, and support the groundwork needed for employment services to be accepted and effective in tribal communities with two case studies: the Wayfinder curriculum, a culturally adapted Pre-Employment Transition (PreETS) integrated in rural Tribal Arizona high school curriculum and the ALFA (Adventure for Leadership and Fulfillment with Access) Camps, a model collaborative summer 3 week Pre-ETS program for Native youth with disabilities that focus on self-advocacy, vocational rehabilitation, workplace readiness, and leadership skills across the nine Tribal Nations in South Dakota.

Listening to American Indian/Alaska Native Elders: Learning about Challenges with Benefits Enrollment

Akimel 2

During this listening session, AI/AN elders, caregivers, navigators, caseworkers, and IHS staff are invited to come together and share firsthand insights about their experiences accessing public benefits or attempting to help people access public benefits, including Medicare Part D Extra Help and the Medicare Savings Programs. This will be a facilitated discussion led by the National Council on Aging (NCOA), which is a national non-profit organization, in partnership with Kauffman and Associates, Inc. NCOA is committed to generating and disseminating knowledge about best practices and cost-effective strategies for benefits outreach and enrollment.

CMS TTAG Priorities

Akimel 3

Description coming soon.

From Advocacy to Care: A Public Approach to the MMIP Crisis

Akimel 4

Presented by the Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI), this session will offer an inside look at the organization's MMIP efforts. It will provide a deeper understanding of the issues within government, law enforcement, media, and public health. Attendees will hear practical solutions and real-world examples of how to approach MMIP issues in their own communities. This session is designed for tribal leaders, health professionals, researchers, social workers, public health practitioners, communications experts, policy experts, advocates, MMIP families and anyone whose work intersects with Indigenous communities or violence prevention.

Honoring What Matters: Culturally Responsive Conversations to Align Care With Patient Values

Kave 1

Learn practical communication skills from the VitalTalk framework to navigate serious illness and goals-of-care conversations with confidence and compassion. Through interactive practice, participants will strengthen their ability to build trust, honor patient values, and improve conversations with patients and families

Bridging Health and Technology: Telehealth in Alaska's Native Communities

Kave 2

Explore how Alaska Tribal health organizations are using telehealth, digital literacy, and community-based workforce models to improve healthcare access in remote communities. Participants will gain practical strategies for expanding digital health services through technology, partnerships, and culturally responsive care.

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block 2 – 45 min)

***Dental Therapy: An Indigenous Led Game Changer for Oral Health Care* Bird/Roadrunner**

Learn how dental therapists are expanding access to culturally responsive oral healthcare in Tribal communities while strengthening the Indigenous dental workforce. Participants will explore the role of dental therapy, current policy challenges, and strategies to improve oral health through Tribal-led solutions

***Meeting Communities Where They Are: A Tribal Eye Health Education Model* Deer/Scorpion**

This presentation describes a community-based health education initiative focused on promoting eye health within Native communities, specifically within the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate. Participants will leave with actionable tools and approaches to design culturally responsive health education programs that improve knowledge, increase preventive care utilization, and support sustainable community health outcomes.

***Building a Tribal Public Health Workforce Through Indigenous Food Sovereignty Leadership* Akimel 1**

Learn how the Indigenous Food Sovereignty Emerging Leaders Program uses traditional food systems to inspire and prepare the next generation of Tribal public health professionals. Participants will explore practical strategies for strengthening workforce development through youth engagement, community-based learning, and Indigenous food sovereignty.

***The Opioid Response Network's Naloxone and Saturation Mapping Training for Tribes* Akimel 2**

Learn how the Opioid Response Network equips Tribal communities with culturally responsive overdose prevention strategies through naloxone training, mapping tools, and community-led education. Participants will gain practical approaches to expanding harm reduction efforts and strengthening local response capacity.

***Federal Advocacy 101* Akimel 3**
Description coming soon.

***Indian Health Service Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA)* Akimel 4**

Learn how the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) empowers Tribes to manage and operate their own healthcare programs under Title I and Title V. Participants will explore eligibility requirements, proposal development, best practices, and lessons learned from successful Tribal self-governance programs.

***Healthy Native Youth: Culturally Grounded Strategies for Native Youth Engagement* Kave 1**

Learn how to use the Healthy Native Youth website and Implementation Toolbox to plan and deliver culturally relevant adolescent health programs. Participants will gain hands-on experience with practical tools, curricula, and strategies for engaging youth, families, and communities.

Building Indigenous Public Health Systems

Kave 2

Learn how to integrate Indigenous Social Determinants of Health into program design while building a culturally responsive workforce and strengthening trauma-informed services. Participants will gain practical tools and strategies to improve program implementation, partnerships, and long-term systems change.

Integrating Certified Professional Midwives into Tribal Healthcare Systems

Kave 3

Indigenous midwives safeguard traditional birth practices while providing culturally grounded care that supports the health of mothers, babies, families, and future generations. This session explores the role of Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs), the growing evidence for midwifery care, and ongoing efforts to expand access to these essential providers in Tribal communities to strengthen maternal-child health and community wellness.

4:00 PM – 5:15 PM Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block 3 – 75 min)

Quechan Healthy Hearts

Bird/Roadrunner

Learn how the InBody Challenge combines body composition tracking, health education, and community support to promote lasting lifestyle change. Participants will explore practical strategies for engaging communities in wellness through data, fitness, and nutrition.

National Indian Health Board Hiring Event

Deer/Scorpion

An Integrated Continuum of Behavioral Health and Housing with a Youth Services Focus

Akimel 1

This session will explore how Native American Connections aligns residential substance use treatment, outpatient and mobile health services, outreach, emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing and workforce housing into a coordinated system designed to reduce fragmentation and improve outcomes. The presentation will then focus more closely on NAC's youth housing continuum, with HomeBase in the City of Phoenix and HomeBase in the City of Surprise serving as central hubs for engagement and stabilization.

Building Better Dementia Care: Lessons Learned from Tribal and Urban Indian Models of Care

Akimel 2

American Indian and Alaska Native communities are leading innovative, culturally grounded approaches to address Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). This interactive workshop will provide an overview of the grant program and highlight early implementation experiences across diverse grantee sites.

Hot Topics

Akimel 3

Description Coming Soon

Invisible by Design: What California's Medicaid Transformation Reveals About AI/AN Data Sovereignty

Akimel 4

Explore how Tribal data sovereignty can strengthen accountability and improve equitable access to Medicaid services for Tribal communities. Participants will examine lessons from California's CalAIM initiative and gain practical tools to assess data visibility and Tribal engagement in their own states.

Sacred Tobacco, Healthy People: Tools for Commercial Tobacco Prevention and Cancer Screening in Tribal Communities

Kave 2

The Good Medicine Keepers Program, part of the National Network Driving Action funded by CDC Office on Smoking and Health, works with Tribal communities to address commercial tobacco use and cancer prevention through culturally grounded education, prevention strategies, and community engagement. This session will include discussion and shared learning to elevate Tribal voices and community-driven solutions.

How 3 Tribes used 105(l) Lease program, 340B pharmacy, & pre-award/startup to fund a health system

Kave 3

This session will use three Tribal leaders' experience and recommendations to help Tribes exercise their self-governance rights to start quality health programs for their Tribal members. This session will provide a blue-print for Tribes showing how they used funding to begin a new program or clinic/pharmacy.

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Registration required

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Fitness Event - Yoga Class A beautiful way to start your day. This class is suitable for all fitness levels and incorporates subtle yoga postures with breathing exercises to increase flexibility and emotional well-being.	
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Partners Breakfast <i>Invite Only</i>	
8:00 AM – 5:30 PM	Registration Opens (closed for lunch 12-1 PM)	Akimel Foyer
8:00 AM – 5:30 PM	Exhibit Hall Open <i>*Open to the public</i>	Komatke Ballroom
8:00 AM – 5:30 PM	Elders Lounge Open	Rattle Snake
8:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Middle Plenary Session	Akimel Ballroom
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch <i>Available for purchase onsite</i>	
1:00 PM – 2:15 PM	Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block 4 – 75 min)	

A Future Healers Journey: Navigating the Medical School Pathway with We Are Healers Bird/Roadrunner

Through a dynamic discussion, panelists will share how prioritizing social and emotional health and maintaining a deep connection to culture served as their foundation for success. We will explore how the HCC model addresses the "support gap" by providing structured mentorship, financial resources for travel home, and a community that mirrors their lived experiences.

Indigenous Determinates of Health Framework-Achieving Health Equity Among American Indians Deer/Scorpion

This presentation synthesizes and operationalizes the UN IDH framework for American Indian health and behavioral health systems, proposing pathways for redesigning care and systems to align with tribal sovereignty, cultural continuity, and community-defined wellness.

Centering Indigenous Ways of Evaluation using Logic Models and Metaphors Akimel 1

This interactive 75-minute workshop introduces two practical and culturally responsive tools for strengthening public health program development and evaluation: logic models and metaphor. Facilitated by faculty from a Department of Indigenous Health who train Indigenous PhD students in public health evaluation and Indigenous evaluation frameworks, this session draws on experience from national Indigenous training initiatives and graduate-level teaching.

Expanding Graduate Medical Education Opportunities in Tribal Communities Akimel 2

This breakout session on addressing workforce shortages in tribal communities will provide an overview of the current state of Tribal GME and efforts to expand it. The session will feature a panel, moderated by Dr. Michael Toedt.

CMS Division of Tribal Affairs Update Akimel 3

CMS Division of Tribal Affairs routinely updates Indian Health Service, Tribal and Urban Indian (ITU) program staff on evolving healthcare guidelines, proposed rules, coverage expansions, and program administration.

Our Stories, Our Data: Strengthening AI/AN Maternal & Child Health Systems Through Fatality Review Akimel 4

This interactive workshop introduces a practical framework for integrating storytelling into maternal, infant, and child fatality review and prevention efforts. Drawing on Indigenous storytelling principles and emerging evidence that narrative approaches can shift power, elevate strengths-based perspectives, and improve behavioral health outcomes, participants will explore how storytelling can improve accurate AI/AN identification, deepen understanding of contributing factors, and strengthen community engagement.

You Are in This Story: Shaping NIHB's Next Chapter Kave 1

Something new is taking shape at NIHB, and it carries the voices of Indian Country within it. Join us for an interactive session unlike a typical conference workshop: no long slide decks, no sitting quietly in rows. Shoreline Consulting invites you to come ready to talk, respond, and weigh in as we reveal glimpses of NIHB's emerging vision for the future. Be part of the moment before the story is told.

Traditional Knowledge, Transformative Impact: The American Indian Team at Minnesota DHS

Kave 2

Learn how the American Indian Team is transforming state systems through stronger Tribal partnerships, culturally grounded decision-making, and a commitment to treaty responsibilities. Participants will gain practical strategies for advancing collaboration, equity, and meaningful Tribal engagement.

The Power of Presence: Using the Mentored Internship Program (MIP) as a Culturally Grounded Pathway

Kave 3

Explore how the Mentored Internship Program supports Tribal workforce development, reduces recidivism, and strengthens community safety through culturally grounded mentorship and career pathways. Participants will learn practical strategies for building reentry and workforce programs rooted in Indigenous values and lived experience.

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block 5 – 75 min)

National Indian Health Board Hiring Event

Bird/Roadrunner

Culture as Intervention: Integrating Cultural Consultants to Strengthen Whole-Person Healing

Deer/Scorpion

This workshop supports Tribal sovereignty by providing actionable strategies to operationalize culture as a health intervention within clinical settings. Attendees will leave with practical tools including an Integrated Cultural Coordinator role template, cultural intervention workflow guide, and whole-health evaluation framework focused on patient engagement and community-defined wellness outcomes.

Elev8: Strengthening Tribal Healthcare Workforce Through “Growing Our Own”

Akimel 1

Learn how Gila River Health Care's Elev8 Initiative inspires the next generation of Native healthcare professionals through culturally grounded education, mentorship, and career pathways. Participants will explore practical strategies for building sustainable Tribal healthcare workforce pipelines.

Ceremony Assisted Treatment and Substance Use Recovery in American Indian Communities

Akimel 2

Explore how ceremony-assisted treatment integrates Traditional Knowledge and cultural practices to support substance use recovery in American Indian communities. This session highlights promising outcomes from an Indigenous-led model and the role of culturally grounded approaches in promoting holistic healing.

How state and federal agencies can work with Tribes and Tribal partners to honor Tribal data sovereignty

Kave 1

Learn how Washington State and Tribal partners collaborated to strengthen Tribal Data Sovereignty and improve public health data sharing. Participants will explore practical tools, including data-sharing agreements and governance principles, that support respectful partnerships and equitable access to data.

CMS Quality Improvement Organization

Kave 2

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) American Indian Alaska Native (AIAN) Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), we provide quality improvement technical assistance to Medicare-

certified hospitals, clinics and nursing homes managed by the Indian Health Service, Tribes and Urban Indian Organizations. We work alongside these health care facilities and support new or ongoing efforts that improve quality of care and patient outcomes. We focus on four primary areas: Preventive health, wellness, Patient safety, Behavioral health, and Capacity building and leadership development

The Healthy Tribes Program: Uncertainty Around Executive Orders During 2025

Kave 3

Explore how federal funding uncertainty affects Tribal public health programs, workforce stability, and community-driven initiatives. This session shares Tribal perspectives and lessons for building resilient, culturally grounded public health systems that support Tribal sovereignty.

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block 6 – 45 min)

Centering Community Voices: The Hualapai Tribe COVID-19 Oral History Project

Bird/Roadrunner

This session will describe the project's community-driven methodology, including collaboration with Tribal programs, culturally appropriate interview approaches, and protocols for working with elders and knowledge holders. Presenters will also reflect on lessons learned related to trust-building, participant engagement, and the role of qualitative data in documenting community-defined impacts of public health emergencies.

The Opposite of Addiction is Connection for Our Relatives—Even in Unhoused Communities

Kave 1

This training, "The Opposite of Addiction for Our Relatives is Connection—Even in Unhoused Communities," centers connection as a critical pathway to healing for individuals experiencing substance use and homelessness. Participants will explore how disconnection, trauma, and systemic inequities contribute to addiction, and how relationship-centered approaches can interrupt this cycle.

Expanding HIV and Syphilis Self-Testing Through Mail-Based and Tribal Site Distribution

Kave 2

Learn how Native Test expands access to free HIV and syphilis self-testing through low-barrier, community-driven approaches designed for Tribal communities. Participants will explore strategies for increasing testing, reducing barriers, and strengthening connections to prevention and care.

Walking the Path of Accreditation: Strengthening Community and Systems at White Earth

Kave 3

Learn how White Earth Nation approached public health accreditation as a tool to strengthen community relationships, public health systems, and Tribal priorities. Participants will gain practical strategies for navigating the accreditation process while remaining grounded in cultural values and community needs.

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Heroes in Healthcare VIP Reception *VIP Ticketed Event*

Akimel 3/4

Enjoy an exclusive pre-banquet reception for VIP ticket holders featuring premium hospitality, an intimate performance by *One Way Sky*, and early access to an unforgettable evening.

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Heroes in Healthcare Awards Banquet <i>*Ticketed Event*</i>	Akimel 3/4
	Join us for an inspiring evening celebrating exceptional leaders in Tribal health through prestigious award presentations, special entertainment including a performance by <i>One Way Sky</i> and our special guest Jaynie Parrish, and an elegant dinner honoring excellence across Indian Country. *Black Tie/Regalia Encouraged*	
9:00 PM – 11:00 PM	Awards Banquet After Party <i>*Ticketed Event*</i>	
	Keep the celebration going with music from DJ Tribal Touch, refreshments, and a lively celebration with colleagues and friends following the Heroes in Healthcare Awards Banquet.	

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Registration required

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Registration Opens	Akimel Foyer
8:00 AM – 5:30 PM	Exhibit Hall Open <i>*Open to the public</i>	Komatke Ballroom
8:00 AM – 5:30 PM	Elders Lounge Open	Rattle Snake

8:30 AM – 9:15 AM Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block 7 – 45 min)

Establishing a Tribal Air Quality Monitoring System **Bird/Roadrunner**

Learn how the Tule River Tribe developed a community-driven air quality monitoring program to protect public health and improve environmental awareness. Participants will explore practical strategies for implementing Tribal-owned monitoring systems, engaging communities, and turning data into action.

Keeping an Area-Wide STI Strategic Map Alive: Planning, Updating, and Using Data for Action **Deer/Scorpion**

Learn how a Tribal-centered STI strategic "Road Map" can strengthen collaboration, improve public health planning, and respond to changing community needs. Participants will gain practical strategies for developing and sustaining data-informed plans that support coordinated action and Tribal sovereignty.

From Culture to Practice: Building Prevention and Wellness Across Schools and Communities **Akimel 1**

Discover how culturally grounded, community-driven prevention strategies can strengthen youth mental health and reduce substance use in Tribal communities. Participants will explore practical tools, youth engagement approaches, and partnerships that build lasting wellness.

Magical Millie: Using Culture to Increase Pediatric Immunization **Akimel 2**

This session will provide an overview for promoting science-based public health guidelines to reduce misinformation and share culturally based methodologies for providers, clinics, tribes, urban Indian

organizations and community members on how to build culturally centered campaigns to share health information by utilizing trusted messengers and centering the values of Native people.

Bringing Care Home: Mobile Health in Indian Country

Akimel 4

Intended for Tribal leaders, health administrators, clinicians, planners, and partners, this presentation offers practical takeaways for communities exploring mobile care strategies, including program design considerations, partnership models, and ways to align mobile delivery with culturally-rooted, community-driven care.

Learning Across Native Systems: Diverse Approaches to Rural Health Transformation

Kave 2

Hear from Tribal health leaders as they share lessons learned in delivering high-quality care in rural communities. This panel will explore opportunities presented by the Rural Health Transformation Program and strategies for building successful partnerships to improve access to care.

9:30 AM – 10:45 AM Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block 8 – 75 min)

Traditional Healing as Whole Health: A System-Based Approach to Wellness

Bird/Roadrunner

This session will cover the history and current operation of Southcentral Foundation's Traditional Healing clinic, the services it provides, and the beneficial health outcomes for customer-owners who use the clinic, which include reported improved well-being and pain reduction, and decreased visits to the ER, specialty clinics, and primary care.

Applying a Tribal Sovereignty Lens to Data Governance: Preventing Harm & Building Trust

Deer/Scorpion

Learn how Tribal sovereignty and Indigenous Data Sovereignty can guide stronger Tribal-state partnerships and more equitable data practices. Participants will explore practical strategies to improve collaboration, strengthen Tribal data governance, and support better health outcomes.

Purchased/Referred Care and Cancer: Overview and Policy Options for Tribal Consideration

Akimel 1

Explore how Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) policies can affect timely access to cancer screening, treatment, and follow-up for Tribal communities. Participants will examine current policy developments and practical strategies to strengthen referral systems, patient access, and Tribal healthcare delivery.

Tribal Health Data Sharing: Real-World Lessons, Tools, and Strategies

Akimel 2

Learn how data sharing agreements can strengthen Tribal data sovereignty while supporting public health planning and decision-making. Participants will explore practical tools, model agreements, and real-world strategies for developing and implementing Tribal data governance.

Medicaid and Child Welfare Opportunities to Strengthen Tribal Healing Practices for Children and Families

Akimel 3

Our panel will share findings from an upcoming paper written by the Center for Health Care Strategies with support from Casey Family Programs. This paper, developed through research and interviews with national experts, state staff in Medicaid and child welfare agencies, and staff at Tribal health systems and organizations, explores how Medicaid and state child welfare agencies can partner with

and support behavioral health programs designed to serve the unique needs of Native children and families.

Grant Writing 101-Strategies for Writing Winning Proposals

Kave 2

This workshop, presented by Advocates for Human Potential (AHP), is designed to increase understanding and preparedness for applying for grants. Whether your organization is new to grant seeking or looking to strengthen existing capabilities, this session provides practical, accessible guidance for navigating the grant application process from start to finish.

Tribal Sovereignty in Public Health: Through Relationships, Infrastructure and Self-Determination

Kave 3

Explore how relationship-based partnerships and Tribal leadership can advance public health modernization. Participants will gain practical strategies for strengthening data, planning, emergency preparedness, and community-driven public health systems.

11:00 AM – 11:45 AM Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Block 9 – 45 min)

The Enduring Power of Our Ways: Tribally Led MICH Initiatives and What We Are Learning

Akimel 1

Explore how Tribal-led, culturally grounded engagement strategies can strengthen maternal, infant, and child health initiatives. Participants will learn about the Pulling Together for Wellness framework and practical approaches to building trust, community partnerships, and lasting health improvements.

Dementia Bingo: A Culturally Adaptable Tool for Cognitive Engagement & Caregiver Support

Akimel 2

Learn how Dementia Bingo provides caregivers with a simple, culturally adaptable tool to promote memory, engagement, and meaningful connection for individuals living with dementia. This interactive session includes hands-on strategies for immediate use.

Healthcare Sovereignty: Forecasting the impacts of H.R. 1 on Tribal Healthcare Systems

Akimel 3

Examine how H.R. 1 could reshape Tribal healthcare through changes to Medicaid, financing, and federal funding. Participants will explore potential impacts on Tribal health systems and discuss strategies to prepare for evolving policy and funding landscapes.

We Are Nations, Not Minorities: Restoring Self-Enumeration and Native Affiliation to Tribal Health

Akimel 4

Explore how race-based federal data can misrepresent the health of Tribal Nations and why enrollment-based data offers a more accurate picture. Participants will examine current data challenges and discuss approaches that support Tribal data sovereignty and informed decision-making.

A Toolkit for Organizations Serving Families/Communities to Diversify Funding & Strengthen Practice

Kave 1

Learn how the Indigenous Healthy Marriage & Responsible Fatherhood (IHMRF) Toolkit helps Tribal organizations secure funding and implement culturally grounded, community-driven programs.

Participants will explore practical strategies for adapting the Toolkit to meet their organization's goals.

Tribal building codes are foundational to tribal housing

Kave 2

Explore how Tribal building codes strengthen sovereignty while creating healthier, safer, and more resilient homes and communities. Learn why modern building standards are essential to improving health, reducing energy burdens, and supporting long-term Tribal prosperity.

Tribal building codes are foundational to tribal housing.

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Lunch

Available for purchase onsite

2:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Closing Plenary Session

Akimel Ballroom

**Friday, August 21, 2026
sessions**

No cost

Post-Conference Sessions

8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

**IHEART August 2026 AI/AN Healthcare Workforce
Development Summit, August 21 2026**

Kave Ballroom

Tribal Colleges & Universities (TCUs) Indigenize higher education. To improve American Indian/Alaska Native health outcomes, support future healers, and increase healthcare workforce diversity, we can learn from the TCU model of decolonizing our education pathways and ways of thinking. Join IHEART and our partners in a day of discussion, learning, and connecting with TCU representatives to learn how we can come together to Indigenize healthcare workforce development. [Register today!](#)