

# Tribal Cooperative Agreement

Strengthening tribal public health systems to ensure health, safety, and security in Indian Country



## About the Cooperative Agreement

This cooperative agreement—**Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services in Indian Country**—provides funding to tribal nations and regional tribally designated organizations to build stronger public health systems in their communities.

This funding helps recipients to:

- **Invest in the people, services, and systems** that improve health and well-being in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.
- **Overcome unique infrastructure challenges**, such as data access barriers, public health workforce shortages, remote locations, and limited partnership opportunities.
- **Deliver tailored public health services** that address tribal community-specific needs, including emergency response activities.

## Unique Features: Funding Built for Communities

This funding enables tribal communities to address local public health priorities and respond to emerging needs. This cooperative agreement:

- **Respects tribal sovereignty and the authority of tribes and tribal organizations** to lead public health activities and promote healthy lifestyles in AI/AN communities.
- **Gives recipients the ability to direct resources** where communities need them most.
- **Encourages collaboration by connecting recipients with each other and to resources**, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public health strategies across Indian Country.
- **Combines funding from multiple CDC sources**, creating more opportunities for recipients to innovate and strengthen public health outcomes.



[www.cdc.gov/tribal-health/cooperative-agreements/strengthening-public-health-systems-and-services-in-indian-country.html](https://www.cdc.gov/tribal-health/cooperative-agreements/strengthening-public-health-systems-and-services-in-indian-country.html)

# Goals: Enhancing Quality, Performance, and Capacity

This funding helps tribal communities strengthen four elements of public health.

- **Foundational Capabilities:** Reinforcing essential skills and services, including disease surveillance, emergency response, partnership development, and performance management.
- **Data Systems:** Improving data collection, analysis, and systems to better track diseases.
- **Programs and Services:** Supporting activities such as disease testing and prevention, health education, and evidence-based decision-making.
- **Workforce:** Building a strong public health workforce through recruitment, training, and retention initiatives.

## By the Numbers



Over **\$82.5 million** awarded since FY 2023.



**34** Recipients

**22**

federally  
recognized  
AI/AN tribes

**12**

regional tribally  
designated  
organizations



More than **550 AI/AN communities** reached through this funding to build stronger public health systems

## A Closer Look

CDC investments empower tribal leaders to improve health and well-being in tribal communities across the country. Recipients are using this funding to:



**Prevent the spread of infectious disease.** The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma distributed tickborne disease prevention materials to more than 3,300 residents, providing clear, life-saving health information to reduce the risk of Rocky Mountain spotted fever.



**Modernize data systems.** The California Rural Indian Health Board collected data on more than 5,000 clinic patients. This enabled the Sonoma County Indian Health Project to make data-driven decisions, identify urgent health needs, and provide services for infectious diseases, dental and vision care, and cancer screenings.



**Build the tribal public health workforce.** Recipients have hired 147 full-time employees and increased training opportunities, expanding local career options and improving communities' ability to provide essential public health services.



**Expand access to public health services through partnerships.** The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians collaborated with six partner organizations to expand access to overdose prevention and mental health services. The tribe hosted eight wellness programs and launched a pilot mobile crisis response unit which reached more than 100 community members.



**Improve program quality at four tribal health departments.** These recipients are pursuing public health accreditation, demonstrating their commitment to accountability, performance, and excellence in community health.