

# Tribal Support

## How CDC supports American Indian and Alaska Native communities

*CDC's tribal support activities focus on the agency's supportive role in ensuring American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities receive public health services that keep them safe and healthy. As a health protection agency, CDC works with partners throughout the world to save lives and protect people.*

### Federal-Tribal Relationship

The United States has a unique legal and political relationship with Indian tribes and a special relationship with Alaska Native entities as provided in the Constitution of the United States, treaties, and federal statutes.

CDC is committed to continuing to work with federally recognized tribal governments on a government-to-government basis, and strongly supports and respects tribal sovereignty and self-determination for tribal governments in the United States.

### Who We Are

- Principal advisor to and main liaison with policy-level officials regarding AI/AN
- Principal contact for AI/AN and tribal inquiries
- Intradepartmental coordinator of CDC/ATSDR programs and policies that benefit or affect AI/AN

### What We Do

- Enhance the relationship building and liaison role between CDC/ATSDR and tribes
- Develop tribal-related communication strategies
- Apply the Tribal Consultation Policy and formal government-to-government consultation
- Work with Native-serving organizations, including urban and rural Indian organizations, in the interests of Indian tribes and AI/AN
- Manage the Tribal Advisory Committee, which advises the CDC director and ATSDR administrator on policy issues and broad strategies affecting Native tribes and people
- Partner with the US Department of Health and Human Services
- Manage extramural funding supporting AI/AN communities
- Serve as subject matter expert on Native efforts

### More Information

[www.cdc.gov/tribal](http://www.cdc.gov/tribal)

