



Community Health Representative Supports within Indian Country

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National Council of Urban Indian Health

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ABOUT NCUIH

The National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) is the national non-profit organization devoted to the support and development of quality, accessible, and culturally-competent health and public health services for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) living in urban areas.

NCUIH is the only national representative of the 41 Title V Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) under the Indian Health Service (IHS). NCUIH strives to improve the health of the over 70% of the AI/AN population that lives in urban areas, supported by these health centers.



Indian Health System

A diagram of an umbrella with a light green canopy and a dark teal frame. The canopy is divided into several segments by the frame. In the center of the canopy is a dark teal oval containing the text "Indian Health System". Below the umbrella, three categories of services are listed: "Indian Health Service", "Tribal", and "Urban Indian Organizations".

Indian
Health
Service

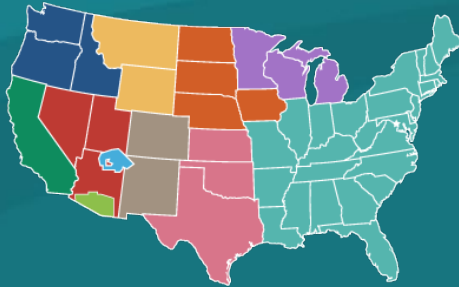
Federally Run Facilities

Tribal

Contract or Compact Facilities

Urban
Indian
Organizations

IHS Funded Native Health Nonprofits



UIO Locations by IHS Region

CALIFORNIA

- **American Indian Health & Services**
Santa Barbara, CA
- **Bakersfield American Indian Health**
Bakersfield, CA
- **Fresno American Indian Health Project**
Fresno, CA
- **Friendship House Association of American Indians**
San Francisco, CA
- **Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley**
San Jose, CA
- **Native American Health Center**
Oakland, CA
- **Sacramento Native American Health Center**
Sacramento, CA
- **San Diego American Indian Health Center**
San Diego, CA
- **Native Directions, Inc./Three Rivers Indian Lodge**
Manteca, CA
- **United American Indian Involvement, Inc.**
Los Angeles, CA

PORTLAND

- **NARA of the Northwest**
Portland, OR
- **The NATIVE Project**
Spokane, WA
- **Seattle Indian Health Board**
Seattle, WA

PHOENIX

- **Native Health Center**
Phoenix, AZ
- **Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake City**
Salt Lake City, UT
- **Nevada Urban Indians, Inc.**
Reno, NV
- **Native American Connections**
Phoenix, AZ

NAVAJO

- **Native Americans for Community Action**
Flagstaff, AZ

TUCSON

- **Tucson Indian Center**
Tucson, AZ

BILLINGS

- **Helena Indian Alliance – Leo Pocha Clinic**
Helena, MT
- **Indian Family Health Clinic**
Great Falls, MT
- **North American Indian Alliance**
Butte, MT
- **Missoula Urban Indian Health Center**
Missoula, MT
- **Native American Development Corporation**
Billings, MT

ALBUQUERQUE

- **First Nations Community Healthsource**
Albuquerque, NM
- **Denver Indian Health & Family Services**
Denver, CO

OKLAHOMA CITY

- **Hunter Health Clinic**
Wichita, KS
- **Indian Health Care Resource Center**
Tulsa, OK
- **Oklahoma City Indian Clinic**
Oklahoma City, OK
- **Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas**
Dallas, TX
- **Kansas City Indian Center**
Kansas City, MO

GREAT PLAINS

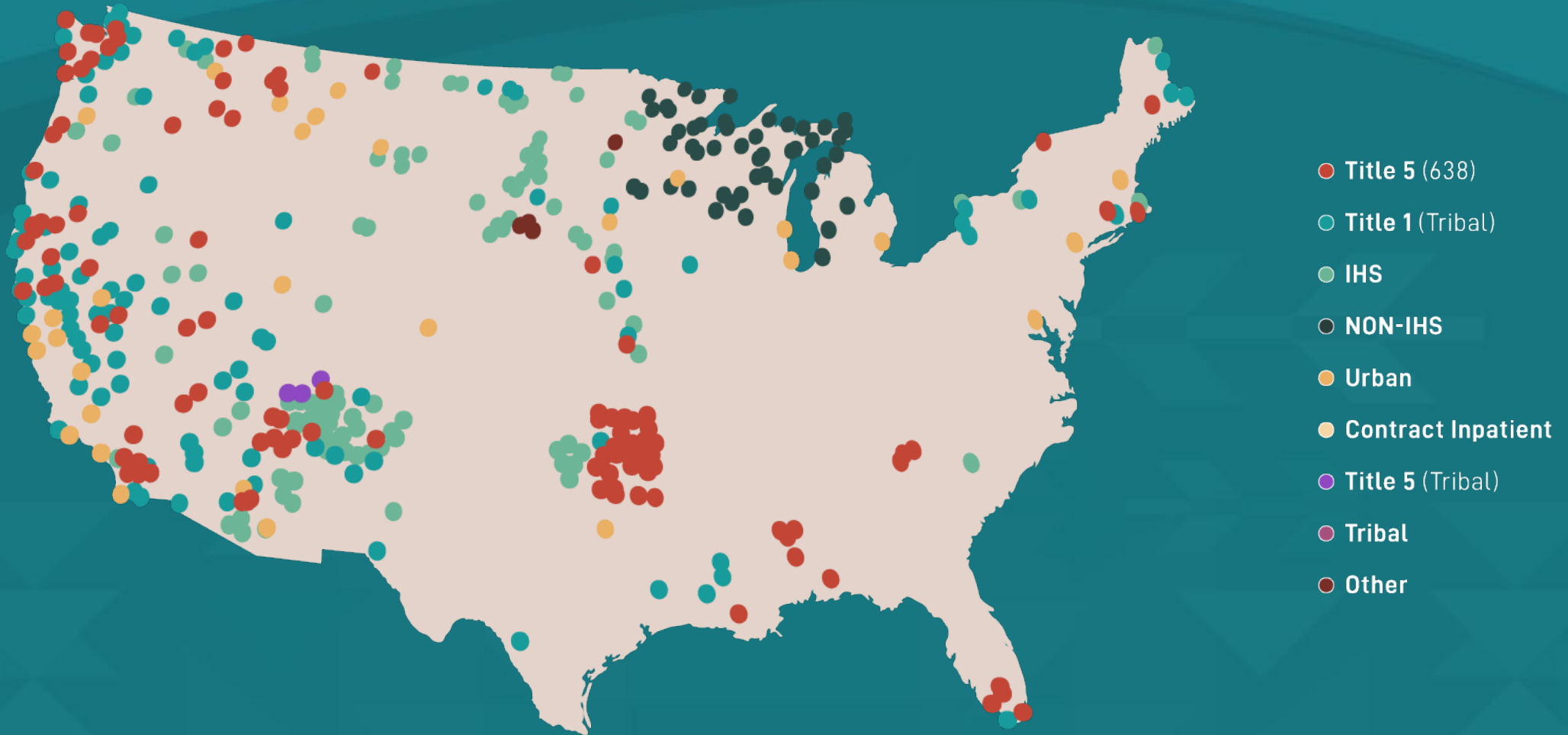
- **Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition**
Omaha, NE
- **South Dakota Urban Indian Health, Inc.**
Sioux Falls, SD

BEMIDJI

- **American Indian Council on Alcoholism, Inc.**
Greenfield, WI
- **American Indian Health & Family Services S.E.**
Michigan, Detroit, MI
- **Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center**
Milwaukee, WI
- **Indian Health Board of Minneapolis**
Minneapolis, MN
- **American Indian Health Services of Chicago**
Chicago, IL
- **Juel Fairbanks Chemical Dependency Services**
St. Paul, MN

NASHVILLE

- **New York Indian Council**
Long Island City, NY
- **Native American Lifelines of Baltimore**
Baltimore, MD
- **Native American Lifelines of Boston**
West Roxbury, MA





Primary Care

- General medical care
- Diabetes care and prevention
- Health and wellness check-ups
- Vision and hearing screenings
- Immunizations
- Chronic disease care
- Women's health
- Urgent care

Traditional Medicine

- Sweat lodge ceremonies
- Men's, women's, and elder's talking circles
- Traditional medicine from traditional healers
- Prayer ceremonies
- Relationship gatherings

Services provided by UIOs

Behavioral Health Services

- Mental health counseling
- Psychiatry
- Substance abuse counseling
- Education and prevention services
- Anger management
- Domestic violence counseling

Social & Community Services

- Prevention and education services
- Youth camps and programs
- Elder services
- Domestic violence services and classes
- Job placement
- Diet and nutrition services and classes
- Arts and crafts
- Pot luck/soup kitchens



Public Health Support for Indigenous Communities

Community Public Health workers support the primary care patients receive to complete the continuum of care

- Community Health Educators/Public Health Educators
- HIV/AIDS/STDs Intervention Program staff
- Special Diabetes Programs- (Diabetes Prevention Programs - DPP/Lifestyle Intervention Programs)
- WIC Programs
- Maternal Infant and Child Developmental Programs
- Early Childhood Education Programs
- General Wellness Programs (fitness/nutrition education)
- Coordinated School Health Programs/Adolescent Health Programs
- In-home healthcare programs for elders and disabled populations



IHS Community Health Representative (CHR) Program

- Established in 1968 under the 1921 Snyder Act (25 U.S.C. 13)
- CHRs are frontline public health workers: Over 1,600 within 12 IHS Areas from 250 tribes
- Trusted advocates for assisting and connecting with the community
- Provide health care, health promotion and disease prevention services
- Variety of funding mechanisms: Local/State, Federal, or Private
- Provided with CHR Skills Management Training thru IHS (online)
 - TeleEcho community-level response training:
 - UNM/ IHS Community Health ECHO and
 - Indian Country ECHO CHR Program series





CHR Outcomes

- Tribal cultural competence increases health access and coverage
- Reduce hospital readmissions
- CHRs have contributed to lowering mortality rate
- Improved maternal and child health outcomes- well-child visits, immunizations, etc.

As frontline health workers in Native communities, CHRs help to decrease health inequities through activities that impact the social determinants of health such as:

- **Access to Care**
- **Social & Cultural Cohesion**
- **Social Justice**
- **Environmental Quality/Housing**
- **Food Access**
- **Parks and Recreation**





Challenges, Solutions, and Opportunities

- Many operational and financial barriers before COVID-19 were further exacerbated
- Patients are still adjusting to returning for preventative or chronic care
- Staff recruitment and retention continues to be a need within all systems of care- “Great Resignation”
- Compassion fatigue, burnout, and mental health obstacles
 - NCUIH offered mental health workshops with use of cultural traditions to build safe spaces
- Recent launch of the *National Health Coach Pilot Project* by IHS
- CDC Project Firstline- NCUIH’s Infection Prevention and Control project
- Offer support “defined” by public health workforce
- More funding to support UIOs
- Pathway processes to expand workforce
- Physical environment improvements due to COVID-19



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