



# 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*

**Indian  
Health  
Service**

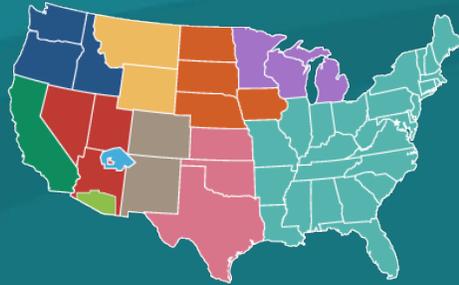
Federally Run Facilities

**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

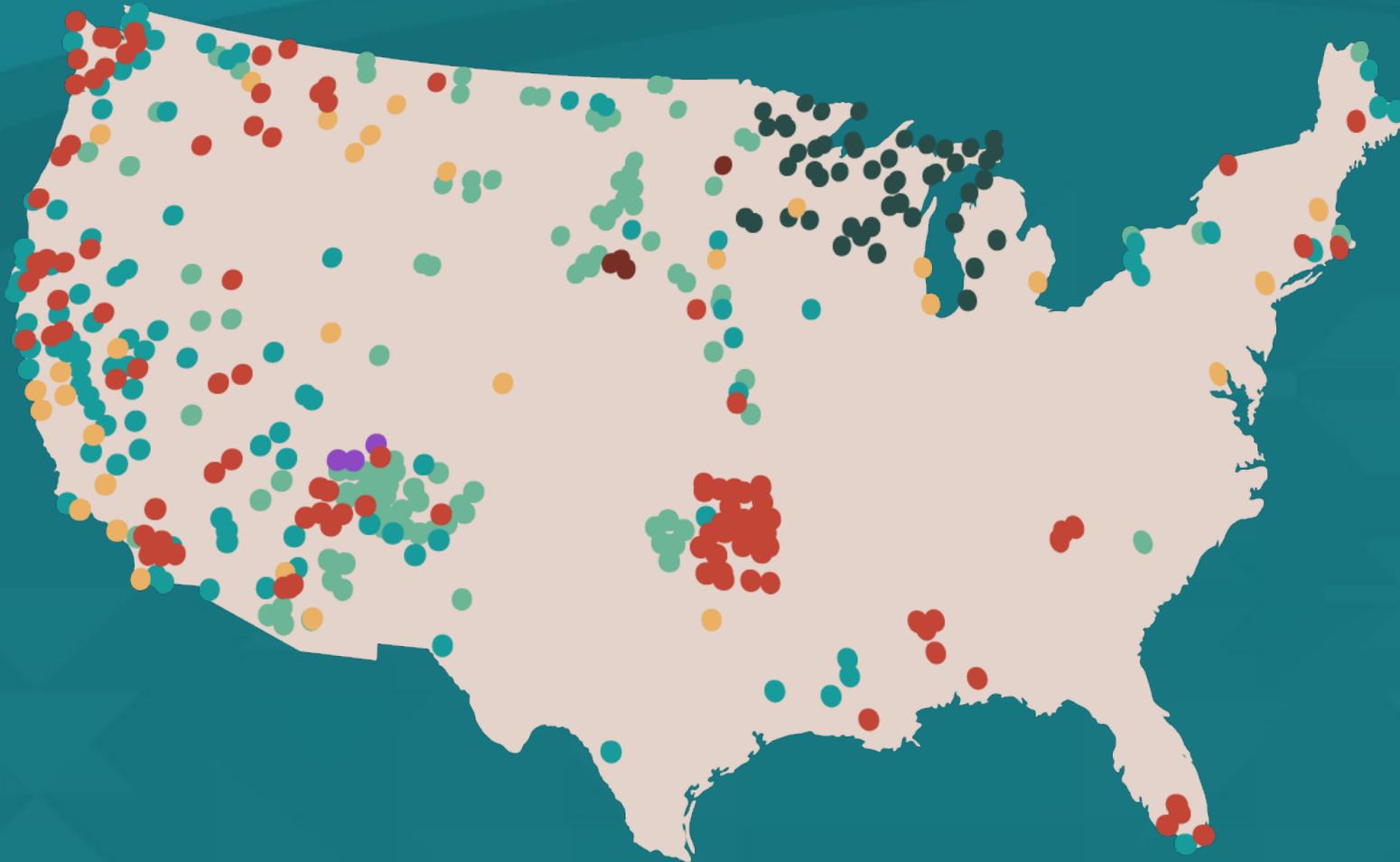
- **Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition**  
Omaha, NE
- **South Dakota Urban Indian Health, Inc.**  
Sioux Falls, SD

### 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



- Title 5 (638)
- Title 1 (Tribal)
- IHS
- NON-IHS
- Urban
- Contract Inpatient
- Title 5 (Tribal)
- Tribal
- Other



### 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 Synder 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



# Technical Assistance and Research Center (TARC)

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# NCUIH

NATIONAL COUNCIL *of* URBAN INDIAN HEALTH



