



## **Indian Health Service Press Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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# **IHS Selects Native American Development Corporation to Serve the Billings Urban Indian Population**

The Indian Health Service (IHS) announced today that the Native American Development Corporation (NADC) has been selected to provide health care services for the urban Indian population residing in the metropolitan area of Billings, Montana.

Approximately 5,900 urban Indians live in the Billings area. NADC will begin offering health care services by the end of the year. IHS will keep the community up to date on the opening of the new site.

“Today’s announcement underscores IHS’ commitment to provide quality health care for urban Indians in and around the Billings area,” said Dorothy Dupree, IHS Billings Area Office director. “IHS is addressing the needs of urban Indians in our area by ensuring they have access to comprehensive, culturally appropriate health services to meet their critical health needs.”

The NADC replaces the Indian Health Board of Billings, a nonprofit organization that closed in May 2017. Since the closure, urban Indian clients who are eligible for health care through IHS have been encouraged to seek care from Pryor Health Station and Crow/Northern Cheyenne Hospital. RiverStone Health, a community health center in Billings, has also assisted in serving some urban Indian patients after the IHBB closed.

The NADC is a nonprofit Urban Indian Organization and Community Development Corporation with a long-standing presence in the Billings community. The NADC will be the initial contractor for the Urban Health Care Services while the structure of the newly established nonprofit Billings Urban Indian Health and Wellness Center is completed. The new site will be located at 17 North 26<sup>th</sup> Street in Billings.

“The Native American Development Corporation is pleased to be selected by the Indian Health Service to assist in the development of an organization that will provide much needed health services to the urban Indians residing in the Billings community,” said Leonard Smith, NADC executive director. “We look forward to the partnerships with other community health centers in Billings and the surrounding reservations. NADC is working with a health board of directors comprised of urban Indians representing tribes in Montana to provide sustainable quality health services.”

The NADC operates as part of the federal Urban Indian Health Program. Programs are funded through grants and contracts from the IHS, under Title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. Federal law allows for IHS to contract with nonprofit urban Indian organizations to serve those that live in urban centers rather than on reservations, where IHS and tribal facilities are located. Many receive funding from other sources as well, including local government, foundations, or other sources. IHS is authorized to issue Urban Indian Health Program contracts and grant awards only to eligible Urban Indian Organizations.

The IHS, an agency in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides a comprehensive health service delivery system for approximately 2.2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. Follow IHS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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