



Indian Health Service
California Area Office
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 7-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

February 17 2023

Dear Tribal Officials and Indian Healthcare Program Administrators:

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to attend the Indian Health Service (IHS)/California Area Office (CAO) Annual Tribal Consultation & Listening Session, April 25, 26, and 27, 2023 at the Agua Caliente Casino in Rancho Mirage, California.

Agua Caliente Casino
32-250 Bob Hope Drive
Rancho Mirage, California 92270
(800) 854-1279 to reserve rooms at a rate of \$165/night (plus tax and resort fee)

This year's conference is scheduled for two and a half days and will conclude on Thursday, April 27 at 11:15 am.

Conference Highlights

Preconference April 25		Health Board Training <i>Open to Tribal Health Board and Urban Indian Health Board members. Space is limited.</i>
		IT Broadband Sessions <i>A discussion with experts on what tribes need to do to take advantage of emerging broadband opportunities. Bring your technology and community development specialists and decision makers.</i>
		Cybersecurity <i>Cybersecurity risks have permanently altered the landscape of healthcare. We'll discuss how tribes can protect themselves from ransomware, how cyber-insurance can help reduce liabilities, and what resources are available to California Tribes.</i>
Day 2	April 26	Listening Session with the IHS Director <i>(invited)</i> California Area IHS Update Facilities Infrastructure Tribal Caucus & Elections
Day 3	April 27	Legislative Updates National Boards/Committees/Workgroups

Registration

All conferees are encouraged to register for the Consultation cost-free in advance by going to <https://www.ihs.gov/ihscalear/calendar/caihs-annual-tribal-consultation7/>.

For assistance with registration or to reserve your spot at the Health Board Training, please contact:

Rachel Harvey
E-mail: rachel.harvey@ihs.gov
(916) 930-3981 Ext. 361

Lodging

A block of rooms has been reserved at Agua Caliente Casino at the negotiated rate of \$165+ taxes/fees. **Please call the hotel directly at (800) 854-1279 to make your reservations or visit <https://aguacalientecasinos.reztrip.com/ext/promoRate?property=2036&mode=b&pm=true&sr=804712&vr=3&accessCode=IHSCAO23>. The block of rooms is reserved under room code "IHSCAO23".**

Registration/Voting Process for California Tribal Chairpersons or their Designees

In the spirit of promoting the government-to-government relationship, each of the 104 federally-recognized Tribes in the California service area will have one vote (see enclosed Tribal Voter Designation Form for more details) on key issues impacting the California Area IHS. This year's voting process will again require each individual Tribal government's chairperson to register or certify their respective designated voting delegate. The Tribal Voter Designation Form will be provided to each of the 104 Tribal governments in the California service area. This form should be filled out and exchanged for a voting card at the conference registration on Tuesday morning, April 25. Tribal chairpersons unable to attend the conference may designate another individual to vote in their absence. Such representatives can include elected Tribal council officials, designated Tribal employees, or designated Tribal members. However, designations must be by letter or Tribal resolution and submitted to IHS/CAO no later than the morning of April 26. Under no circumstances will the IHS/CAO mediate disputes over current Tribal leadership, at the Annual Tribal Consultation. This certification and voting process eliminates lengthy roll calls for each issue where the Indian Health Service/California Area Office Director seeks input and advice.

The **Tribal Voter Designation Form** may be e-mailed to:

Wesley Simmons
E-mail: wesley.simmons@ihs.gov
(916) 930-3981 Ext. 319

Exhibit Registration

The IHS/CAO welcomes exhibits from Tribal governments, Indian healthcare programs, non-profit health organizations, and federal/state/county governments. Exhibits can be set up on Tuesday morning, April 25.

To reserve exhibit space, please e-mail the enclosed **Exhibitor Information Form** to:

Terri O'Shea
E-mail: terri.oshea@ihs.gov
(916) 930-3981 Ext. 315

Refreshments

As in previous years, Tribal health programs and Tribal governments have graciously donated refreshments because federal agencies like the IHS cannot pay for refreshments with federal funds. If your Tribal government and/or healthcare program is willing to donate for this purpose, please contact Mr. Bill Thomsen, Chief Executive Officer, Riverside/San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc. at BThomsen@RSBCIHI.org (909) 864-1097.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Agua Caliente Tribe for their willingness to host the 2023 Annual Tribal Consultation. Please mark these dates on your calendar and I look forward to seeing the largest turnout ever. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Beverly Miller at (916) 930-3981, Ext 312.

Sincerely yours,

Beverly Miller, M.H.A., M.B.A.
Director

Enclosures: Agenda
 Tribal Voter Designation Form
 Exhibit Registration Form
 Health Priorities Ballot

IHS/CAO Annual Tribal Consultation

TRIBAL VOTER DESIGNATION

(Required to designate a voter other than current Tribal Chairperson)

During this year's Indian Health Service/California Area Office (IHS/CAO) Annual Tribal Consultation, April 25-27, 2023, in the spirit of the government-to-government relationship, the leaders of California Federally-Recognized Tribal Governments will be asked to vote on various issues. For the most part, the purpose of these votes is to collectively provide advice and guidance to the Area Director on selected issues and to measure agreement on subjects that are discussed during the consultation.

Based on the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), Tribal Governments may designate, by Tribal resolution or letter, a representative to participate in voting at the Annual Tribal Consultation, such as a current duly-elected Tribal official, Tribal employee, or Tribal member. The IHS/CAO is not making any judgment as to whom the appropriate Tribal official should be. The IHS/CAO will not mediate any disputes over who or how the representative is given the authority to vote on the Tribal Government's behalf at this consultation.

Your signature authorizes your representative to vote for your Tribal Government for all issues related to this year's Annual IHS/CAO Tribal Consultation. Your signature also assures the IHS/CAO that this designation has been made in accordance with your Tribal Government's procedures for conducting business.

The individual identified on this form is designated to represent the below named Tribal Government for voting related to the virtual IHS/CAO Annual Tribal Consultation, April 25-27, 2023.

Tribal Government:	
Tribal Chairperson Name:	
Tribal Chairperson Signature:	
Name of Designated Representative:	
E-mail of Designated Representative:	

Please email this TRIBAL VOTER DESIGNATION form to:

Mr. Wes Simmons, Agency Lead Negotiator
Indian Health Service/California Area Office
E-mail: Wesley.Simmons@ihs.gov
Phone: (916) 387-5154

2023 Annual Tribal Consultation

Agua Caliente Casino

Rancho Mirage, CA

April 25-27, 2023

Exhibitor Information

Organization Represented: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Name or Type of Exhibit: _____

Items/Service you are Exhibiting/Promoting: _____

Special needs for your Exhibit: _____

Scheduled Days of Exhibit (Check Day Below)

Tuesday _____

Wednesday _____

Thursday _____

Exhibits can be set up on Tuesday, April 25 starting at 7:30AM.

For additional information, contact Terri O'Shea at 916-930-3981 x 311

Please return this form to Terri O'Shea, IHS/CAO by e-mail to terri.oshea@ihs.gov

Budget Formulation FY 2026

Please rank your top ten budget priorities for FY 2026 by writing the number in the box to the left of the priority of your choosing, where 1=first choice, 2=second choice, 3=third choice, etc., and 10=last choice.

- ☐ **Health Information Technology (IT)** – Provides critical IT support to secure and reliable information technology that improves health care delivery and quality, enhances access to care, reduces medical errors, and modernizes administrative functions. This priority was ranked #7 for FY 2025 by Tribal officials.
- ☐ **Purchased/Referred Care (PRC)** - Funds are used to purchase hospital and emergency care, physician specialty services, outpatient healthcare, laboratory, dental, radiology, pharmacy, transportation services, and other health services in the private sector. The California Area is 100% compacted and PRC dependent as there are no IHS-operated hospitals or clinics. The California Area under utilizes the CHEF because Tribal healthcare programs have difficulty meeting the \$25,000 threshold. This priority was ranked #1 for FY 2025 by Tribal officials.
- ☐ **Indian Health Care Improvement Fund (IHCIF)** - Measures the resources needed by Tribal healthcare programs by calculating its level of needed resources percentage relative to health insurance costs and comparing them to the National Health Expenditures (NHE) benchmark. If Congress appropriates additional funding for the IHCIF, IHS and Tribal healthcare programs with the greatest unmet needs are funded first. This priority was ranked #9 for FY 2025 by Tribal officials.
- ☐ **Urban** - Recent studies document poor health status and inadequate healthcare available and accessible to the urban AI/AN population living off of their reservations/rancherias. Urban programs offer behavioral health services and wellness assessments, dental, outreach referral services as well as comprehensive ambulatory healthcare services. There are ten urban Indian healthcare programs in California. This priority was ranked #11 for FY 2025 by Tribal officials.
- ☐ **Obesity/Diabetes + Complications (Dialysis)** - The national rate of diabetes for AI/ANs is 16.1%. Tribal and urban Indian healthcare programs use these funds to offer education, self-management support, clinical, and specialty care for AI/AN patients battling diabetes. This priority was ranked #3 for FY 2025 by Tribal officials.
- ☐ **Behavioral Health** - Includes prevention and treatment of chemical dependence and depression. Psychiatric and psychological services are necessary to improve outreach, education, crisis intervention, and the treatment of mental illness. Behavioral Health Aid Program expansion includes training and accreditation of a mid-level workforce to provide behavioral health supports and resources to rural Tribal communities. This priority was ranked #2 for FY 2025 by Tribal officials.
- ☐ **Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention/Domestic Violence Prevention** - Projects promote the development of innovative evidence-based and practice-based models to address methamphetamine abuse, suicide, and domestic violence, and sexual assault in Indian Country. The IHS currently provides funding based on a competitive process. This priority was ranked #4 for FY 2025 by Tribal officials.
- ☐ **Dental Health** - The IHS dental program reduces dental decay in children, reduces periodontal disease in children and adults, and fluoridates both Tribal and community water systems. Dental decay rates of AI/AN children and adolescents are twice the national average and contribute to serious diseases. This priority was ranked #5 for FY 2025 by Tribal officials.
- ☐ **Sanitation Facilities Construction** - Provide financial assistance to Indian tribes in operating, managing, and maintaining sanitation facilities through Public Law 86-121 and Public Law 94-437, “Indian Health Care Improvement Act” as amended to avoid a health hazard or to protect the Federal investment in sanitation facilities.
- ☐ **Hospitals & Clinics/Pharmacy** – This budget line provides the base funding for the hospitals, clinics, and health programs that operate on Indian reservations and Tribal communities, predominantly in rural areas. Also are seeking a IHS budget line item for pharmaceutical products and services similar to the Department of Veterans’ Affairs. This priority was ranked #8 for FY 2025 by Tribal officials.
- ☐ **Small Ambulatory Program** authorizes up to \$2.0 million per project to support Tribal construction of new healthcare facilities. This priority was ranked #6 for FY 2022 by Tribal officials. This priority was ranked #10 for FY 2025 by Tribal officials.
- ☐ **Joint Venture Construction Program** authorizes 20 years of IHS funding for staff and operational expenses to support new Tribally funded/constructed healthcare facilities.
- ☐ **Community Health Representative** – Among other items, Community Health Representative (CHR) programs funds can be used to support the following CHR activities and associated resources: program staffing, patient and community health education, CHR staff training, health promotion/disease prevention outreach, documentation and workload reporting of CHR services, patient education materials, transportation to expand access to patient services. This priority was ranked #6 for FY 2025 by Tribal officials.
- ☐ **Maintenance & Improvement** – These funds will support facilities activities that are generally classified as those needed for ‘sustainment’ of existing facilities and be provided to the Area and to Tribes for daily maintenance activities and local projects to maintain the current state of health care facilities.
- ☐ **Regional Specialty Centers**– Estimated cost of a Project Justification Document / Program of Requirements combined planning study to be around \$2.5 million (in 2025 dollars). Separate line item created in the budget for these studies.
- ☐ **Other** – Please specify:

Tribal Government (Print):			
Tribal Chairperson/Designee Name (Print):			
Tribal Chairperson/Designee Signature:		Date:	

Fax to (916) 930-3952 or e-mail to Christine.Brennan@ihs.gov