



July 30, 2026

Dear Portland Area Tribal Leader:

The Portland Area Indian Health Service (PAIHS) invites Tribal Leaders from the Portland Area to participate in Tribal Consultation regarding the proposed methodology for determining User Population within the PAIHS.

As noted in the May 22, 2026, and June 16, 2026, letters, the PAIHS Funds Distribution Work Group (FDWG) proposed an updated User Population methodology that maintains each Tribe's current assigned counties and the existing assignment of unaffiliated users for user population calculations. The only change under the PAIHS FDWG-proposed methodology is that when a Tribe expands its Purchased/Referred Care Delivery Area (PRCDA), its user population would also include the Tribe's enrolled members residing in the newly added PRCDA counties. The PAIHS FDWG-proposed methodology is intended to provide a more equitable approach to user population determinations, minimize unintended impacts on Tribes with shared assigned counties and support a more consistent and timely review of PRCDA expansion requests. The proposed methodology is intended for implementation within the PAIHS and does not apply to other IHS Areas.

The PAIHS invites you to provide your feedback on the proposed User Population methodology. During the Tribal Consultation session, the PAIHS will provide background on the current User Population methodology, present the proposed methodology developed by the PAIHS FDWG, discuss the rationale for the proposed changes, and review implementation considerations. Please make plans to join the hybrid Tribal Consultation session on:

Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time

Location: Portland Area Indian Health Service
1414 NW Northup Street, Suite 800
Cedar Conference Room
Portland, Oregon 97209

Zoom: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/WmK8LpUHRNSeNE-riidRww>
Please register in advance using the Zoom registration link. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

A consultation packet, including the agenda, issue paper, presentation materials, and supporting documentation, will be made available on the IHS website in advance of the meeting to allow sufficient time for review.

Written comments will also be accepted throughout the duration of the Tribal Consultation period. The deadline to provide written comments is **October 9, 2026**. Please send your comments by email to: **consultation@ihs.gov** – Subject line: **Portland Area User Population**.

After the comment period closes, the PAIHS will review all feedback before making any final decision regarding the proposed methodology and will communicate final decisions in a follow-up letter.

If you have questions regarding the consultation or meeting logistics, please contact Peggy L. Brickell, Director, Division of Business Operations, at (503) 414-5598 or by email at **Peggy.Brickell@ihs.gov**.

Thank you for your continued partnership and input as we work collaboratively to ensure a fair and transparent User Population methodology for the Portland Area.

Sincerely,

RDML Marcus Martinez, PE
Director, Portland Area IHS

Enclosures

- May 22 FDWG User Pop Proposal
- June 16 User Pop Tribal Consultation Notification



May 22, 2026

Dear Tribal Leader:

We are writing to inform you of an upcoming change to the methodology used to determine user population in the Portland Area.

The current methodology uses a Tribe's assigned Purchased and Referred Care Delivery Area (PRCDA) for calculation of users, including a split of unaffiliated amongst those Tribes with shared counties. This methodology was adopted over two decades ago based on a recommendation from the Funds Distribution Workgroup (FDWG). At the time, the methodology was logical, however given the significant growth of our Tribes, and the increase in PRCDA redesignation requests, it was determined that the methodology was no longer serving the Portland Area. Because of this, all PRCDA expansions were placed on a temporary pause.

To address the concern regarding the user population methodology, the FDWG was reconvened and developed a proposal for an updated methodology that will better support the growth of our Area Tribes.

The proposed methodology is as follows. All assigned counties in reference to user population calculations, as they are today, would remain the same. Any Tribe who expands their PRCDA would not obtain any additional unaffiliated users from those expanded counties. The Tribe would only obtain their own Tribal members that live within those expanded counties as users.

This methodology would decrease the negative impact PRCDA expansions have on those Tribes who share counties, in turn reducing opposition to expansion requests. This would allow the Portland Area to show timely support to all Tribes requesting PRCDA expansion without significantly reducing another Tribe(s) user population.

The new methodology is scheduled to be adopted and implemented 30 days from the date of this letter. At that time, the Portland Area will move forward with the current PRCDA expansion requests on file.

If you have any questions, you may reach out to Peggy L. Brickell, Director, Division of Business Operations at 503-414-5598 or Peggy.Brickell@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

Marcus C. Martinez

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RDML Marcus Martinez, PE
Director, Portland Area IHS

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June 16, 2026

Dear Tribal Leader:

We are writing to inform you that the Agency will be hosting Tribal Consultation in response to a request received from Tribes regarding the new user population methodology as described in the May 22 Dear Tribal Leader Letter.

As previously shared, the Funds Distribution Workgroup was reconvened and developed a proposal for an updated methodology that will better support the growth of our Area Tribes.

The proposed methodology is intended to decrease the negative impact that Purchased/Referred Care Delivery Area (PRCDA) expansions would have on Tribes who share counties, in turn reducing opposition to expansion requests. This would allow the Portland Area to show timely support to all Tribes requesting PRCDA expansion without significantly reducing another Tribe(s) user population.

The Portland Area will consult on the response and details of Tribal Consultation will be forthcoming.

The implementation of the new methodology is currently on hold until Tribal Consultation is completed.

If you have any questions, you may reach out to Peggy L. Brickell, Director, Division of Business Operations at 503414-5598 or Peggy.Brickell@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

Marcus C.
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RDML Marcus Martinez, PE
Director, Portland Area IHS