



May 5, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

On January 26th, President Biden issued a [Presidential Memorandum](#) on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships that requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) submit a detailed plan for implementing Executive Order 13175, which charges all executive departments and agencies to engage in *regular, meaningful, and robust* consultation with Tribal officials in the development of federal policies that have Tribal implications.

On March 2nd, we initiated Tribal Consultation on President Biden's Presidential Memorandum. The HHS sought recommendations and feedback on how the Department can improve its policies and practices to better engage with Indian Country through meaningful consultation. Tribes were given the opportunity to provide their recommendations and feedback in two ways: through attending one of the six regional virtual Tribal consultation sessions; and/or by providing written feedback to the Department by March 26, 2021.

To assist in garnering feedback and recommendations, the Department invited Tribal leaders to answer four questions during the Tribal Consultation sessions. We received 38 written comments from Tribes and Tribal organizations in response to our consultation. On April 5th, we sent out a summary report from our six regional sessions, summarizing the themes and general comments we received during our Tribal Consultation (Attachment 1). We want to assure you that the consultations held in March are by no means the end of this process, and it is our hope that they will serve as the beginnings to an ongoing dialogue that promotes and fosters robust open discussion, communication, and engagement.

As mentioned during our consultations, we will convene a special workgroup of the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC), comprising Tribal leaders and federal officials, who will work collaboratively to review the written comments received and develop a plan to strengthen our HHS Tribal Consultation Policy. Once a plan is developed by the workgroup, we will share it with Tribal leaders and initiate Tribal consultation this fall for their review of what is developed, with the intent of having an updated plan and policy by the first quarter of 2022.

Additionally, this summer we will host our Regional Tribal Consultations, where we will continue to engage with you in strengthening our Tribal Consultation Policy. These sessions provide Tribes opportunities to focus on regional specific issues with their respective regional HHS counterparts, and also provides an opportunity for Tribal Leaders to consult with HHS headquarters leadership on issues at the national level.

Please see below for the dates of each respective consultation session, a link to register for the event in advance, and the Regional Contact(s):

- May 25, 2021: **Regions 7 & 8**
<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsfu2gqDgpHA7ZYBtZwBYNuLtKURACtmE>
 - Contact: Kit Wagar; Kit.Wagar@hhs.gov (Region 7)
 - Contact: Elsa Ramirez; Elsa.Ramirez@hhs.gov (Region 8)
- May 26, 2021: **Head Start Tri-Regional Meeting for 6, 7, & 8**
<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsd-GqqzwjHazdKmUZVtFrj1Ut3wIAQso>
- May 27, 2021: **Region 6**
<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdOctrTMuH2DXGZNV-Q-KMnkGZbLmcX8>
 - Contact: Julia Lothrop; Julia.Lothrop@hhs.gov
- June 9, 2021: **Region 4**
<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsf-igrzsjEusvUTT93Gdc1BbyYL0uC6k>
 - Contact: Natalia Cales; Natalia.Cales@hhs.gov
- June 14 – 16, 2021: **Region 10**
https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdOqrrjwuE1FopJTydmaFmqiuZTABl_s
 - Contact: Priya Helweg; Priya.Helweg@hhs.gov
- June 22, 2021: **Region 2**
<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdeCvqjMvGKbhHPxKAZJN0CP7wqNqWIA>
 - Contact: Sean Hightower; Sean.Hightower@hhs.gov
- June 29, 2021: **Region 3**
<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsfuitpzItHSKQvNmmTZrYX5PW9lswfMo>
 - Contact: Melissa Herd; Melissa.Herd@hhs.gov
- July 21 – 22, 2021: **Region 5**
<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItduurzgiGO90M4liEf75OXfauI5zLCY>
 - Contact: Sam Gabuzzi; Sam.Gabuzzi@hhs.gov
- July 27, 2021: **Region 1**
<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsduugqTIsHnUWRonprwUgGjND0pgUUKU>
 - Contact: Paul Jacobsen; Paul.Jacobsen@hhs.gov
- August 9 – 12, 2021: **Region 9**
<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdOyppjsuGpV6VYabm6IYwGDbAQQvY>
 - Contact: Schuyler Hall; Schuyler.Hall@hhs.gov

Tribes will have an opportunity to schedule individual one-on-one consultations through their Regional Offices, who will reach out to provide additional information on how to schedule a one-on-one session

for their region, but Tribes can also contact the individual identified above for their region to receive additional information on scheduling a one-on-one session. Additionally, if Tribes cannot attend their respective regional consultation or have specific concerns they would like raised, they can submit written testimony to consultation@hhs.gov by Friday, September 3, 2021.

We thank you for your continued partnership and support. We take our commitment to honoring the nation-to-nation relationship with Indian Tribes very seriously and look forward to continue working with you.

Sincerely,

Marvin B. Figueroa
Director
Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs