

Indian Health Service  
HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**MODERNIZATION PROGRAM**

**2025 Tribal Consultation and  
Urban Confer Recap Report**



# 2025 Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer Recap Report Health Information Technology Modernization Program

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# 2025 Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer Recap Report Health Information Technology Modernization Program

## TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND URBAN CONFER PURPOSE

A tribal consultation is a government-to-government process that recognizes the inherent and sovereign power of Tribes to exercise their political and legal rights. The consultation process between Tribes and federal agencies allows for meaningful and timely input by tribal officials in the development of policies and initiatives that affect American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) individuals. Tribal consultations are strengthened and affirmed by the federal government in Executive Order 13175.

An urban confer allows the Indian Health Service (IHS) to engage in an open and free exchange of information and opinions with urban Indian organizations (UIO). The IHS facilitates these confer sessions to foster a mutual understanding and comprehension between the federal government and urban leaders and representatives.

- The tribal consultation and urban confer (TC/UC) process promotes a collective discussion between the IHS, Tribes, tribal organizations, and UIOs. These sessions enable broad information sharing and emphasize a shared responsibility for the improvement of health care outcomes for AI/AN individuals.

## 2025 TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND URBAN CONFER SESSIONS

The IHS Health Information Technology (IT) Modernization Program facilitated three TC/UC sessions in 2025 to continue building a collaborative partnership with tribal and urban Indian organizations (T/UIOs). In 2025, the IHS featured three virtual sessions hosted via Zoom. These sessions allowed T/UIOs to receive key information about various aspects of the Program, with an emphasis on topics that contextualize the technical and people-focused considerations crucial for successful implementation and deployment of PATH EHR.

Each session began with an Opening in a Good Way provided by a T/UIO member, followed by Program updates led by a Program leader. Program updates are critical in promoting a shared understanding of recent accomplishments, upcoming milestones, and long-term goals with T/UIOs across Indian Country. Major updates communicated to T/UIOs during 2025 TC/UC sessions are as follows:

- Program vision, overview, and recent activities
- Calendar Year (CY) 2025 Program timeline
- Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Program funding update
- Enterprise Collaboration Group (ECG) overview and updates
- Enterprise design workshops launch and progress updates
- Pilot site updates and recent activities
- PATH EHR key priorities and solution set



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Each TC/UC session featured a modernization-focused topic presented by Program leaders and subject matter experts (SME). These featured topics provided details about future implementation efforts for T/UIO members to consider and share more broadly within their organizations. The table below details the key takeaways from each TC/UC session in 2025.

Session Date	Modernization Topic	Key Information Shared
May 15, 2025	Four Directions Warehouse (4DW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 4DW project vision focusing on enhancing data management and accessibility</li> <li>▪ Core benefits of 4DW as a central repository for data with continuous submissions</li> <li>▪ Legacy data migration and storage options for T/UIO</li> <li>▪ 4DW data management approach for sending and receiving data with PATH EHR</li> <li>▪ 4DW security, infrastructure, benefits, and site preparations</li> </ul>
Aug. 7, 2025	PATH EHR Scope and Capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Key features and capabilities of PATH EHR supporting end-to-end continuum of care</li> <li>▪ Value of PATH EHR for clinicians, including increased time with patients and data-driven clinical decisions</li> <li>▪ Value of PATH EHR for patients, including enhanced care coordination, increased patient safety, and seamless care across systems</li> <li>▪ PATH EHR solution set outlining solutions related to population health, revenue cycle, interoperability, and more</li> <li>▪ Patient journey highlighting capabilities and features of the patient portal</li> </ul>



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Session Date	Modernization Topic	Key Information Shared
Nov. 6, 2025	Pilot Site Implementation Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lawton deployment timeline, highlighting key activities to support go-live</li> <li>Importance of establishing an enterprise build of PATH EHR with flexibility to localize elements at each site</li> <li>Examples of how enterprise and local configurations complement each other to support sites across Indian Country</li> <li>Patient scenario highlighting examples of localized features of PATH EHR</li> </ul>

More information about the modernization topics featured in 2025 TC/UC sessions can be found under presentations on the [Health IT Modernization Program Resource Hub](#).

### SUMMARY OF OPEN DIALOGUE WITH TRIBAL AND URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATION PARTNERS

As a key component of each TC/UC, the open dialogue segment provides an opportunity for T/UIO leaders and representatives to engage in a robust discussion with Program leadership about the modernization-focused topics featured during the session. The Program dedicates approximately 40 minutes of each session to open dialogue, ensuring the continuation of close partnership with Tribes and urban Indian organizations in anticipation of PATH EHR implementation. Before the start of each open dialogue, Program leadership posed three consultation and confer questions for T/UIO attendees to guide conversation and encourage reflection on the topics presented.

The list below captures the prevailing themes gleaned from the questions and input provided by T/UIO members during the open dialogue segments in 2025:

- Data migration and legacy RPMS transition
- 4DW architecture, access, and use
- Data security, privacy, and compliance
- PATH EHR functionality and interoperability
- User experience, workflow, and customization
- Specialty-specific needs
- Training, change management, and onboarding support



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- Pilot site deployment timeline
- Cohort planning, site selection, and implementation timeline
- Technical infrastructure readiness

### NEXT STEPS FOR THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

The IHS has identified immediate action items for ensuring long-term collaboration with T/UIO leaders and representatives following conclusion of the 2025 TC/UC sessions:

- Leverage input gathered from T/UIO leaders and representatives to inform the facilitation of future TC/UC sessions
- Document and maintain frequently asked questions from T/UIO TC/UC attendees for incorporation in Program resources

### 2025 TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND URBAN CONFER ATTENDEE DATA

Based on the information provided through the registration process and attendee data, there were a total of **176 T/UIO leaders and representatives in attendance** across the 2025 TC/UC sessions. The tables below highlight TC/UC attendance from 2025. *Due to technical issues, November attendee data is not available.*

T/UIO Attendance by Session		
TC/UC Session Date	Number of Tribal Attendees	Number of UIO Attendees
May 15, 2025	78	24
Aug. 7, 2025	61	13
Nov. 6, 2025	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>37</b>

T/UIO Area Representation by Session			
IHS Area	May 15, 2025	Aug. 7, 2025	Nov. 6, 2025
Albuquerque	8	10	N/A
Alaska	6	5	N/A
Bemidji	10	7	N/A
Billings	5	1	N/A
California	8	4	N/A
Great Plains	5	3	N/A
Headquarters	3	1	N/A
Nashville	16	21	N/A
Navajo	16	5	N/A
Oklahoma City	9	5	N/A



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T/UIO Area Representation by Session			
IHS Area	May 15, 2025	Aug. 7, 2025	Nov. 6, 2025
Phoenix	2	3	N/A
Portland	12	6	N/A
Tucson	2	3	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Based on the results of the TC/UC Satisfaction Survey deployed at the conclusion of each session, the **overall satisfaction rating** for 2025 TC/UC sessions among T/UIO attendees was **84%**. This number is the average rating of respondents who selected “very satisfied” and “satisfied” when asked to rank their overall satisfaction with the TC/UC session. The table below highlights TC/UC satisfaction results from 2025. *Due to technical issues, the November survey was not deployed.*

T/UIO TC/UC Satisfaction		
TC/UC Session Date	Very Satisfied	Satisfied
May 15, 2025	50%	33%
Aug. 7, 2025	62%	23%
Nov. 6, 2025	N/A	N/A
<b>Average</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>28%</b>

When asked to share additional comments or feedback regarding the 2025 TC/UC sessions, T/UIO attendees shared their appreciation for IHS leadership transparency, the value of open dialogue, and their interest for more patient journey scenarios in the future.

### UPCOMING ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRIBES AND URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS

During the 2025 TC/UC sessions, leadership encouraged T/UIO partners to continue their engagement with ongoing modernization activities and the Program as a whole. Tribes and urban Indian organizations can leverage the resources below to continue collaborating with the IHS on PATH EHR.

- Complete the [Health IT Modernization Program Awareness Survey](#)
- Follow the IHS on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)
- Attend 2026 TC/UC sessions (*dates and topics forthcoming*)
- Participate in upcoming [Focus Group sessions](#)