

2023 Accomplishments
Executive Summary



This document highlights many of the major accomplishments made across the Indian Health Service from January to August 2023. They include a number of new and ongoing IHS programs and services, advances in agency leadership, as well as enhanced communication and participation with tribes and other stakeholders. The many initiatives put forth by the IHS and Director Roselyn Tso are a reflection of the objectives prioritized by Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and the Biden Administration.



January-August 2023

Thus far in 2023, the IHS has made seven large funding announcements, totaling approximately \$170 million. This funding is providing resources to address suicide in Indian Country, tribal self-determination, produce prescription programs, infrastructure projects through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and more.

With the appointment of new Area Directors for our Navajo and Great Plains Areas, the IHS now has permanent leadership in all 12 Area Director positions, with all of them being members of federally recognized tribes. Empowering leadership at every level across the Indian health system is critical to improving health care services for our American Indian and Alaska Native patients.

We have also worked to improve communication to our tribal and urban Indian organization partners, and in January, started a [biweekly update](#) to provide the latest news on what is happening across the Indian health system. The IHS also regularly participates in tribal and urban Indian delegation meetings with leaders from across Indian Country. This year, IHS leadership has hosted 41 TDMs.

Director Tso has also continued her leadership tour she started when being appointed as director, visiting IHS, tribal, and urban sites to gain a better understanding of the successes and challenges we see throughout Indian Country. In 2023, she has met with more than 40 tribal delegations and conducted over 60 site visits across a number of areas throughout the IHS system.

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High-Level Announcements

[IHS 2022 Year in Review](#) - As a snapshot of the many achievements across the agency in 2022, this provides an opportunity to reflect on the important work done over the year to support the IHS mission. Throughout the Year in Review, you'll see how the IHS has expanded access to health care and taken aggressive action to protect our tribal communities. It acknowledges the working partnerships with tribal leaders, urban Indian organization leaders, and the organizations that support our mission.

[IHS 2023 Agency Work Plan – Ongoing](#)

Since October 2022, leadership from across the IHS worked to develop the IHS 2023 Agency Work Plan, which describes critical actions needed to address key priorities that directly impact IHS operations; improve communications with our tribal and urban organization partners; and ensure the delivery of quality, patient-centered care. Furthermore, in order to address agency priorities, the IHS will provide rigorous management and oversight of resources to ensure the health care needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives are met.

[IHS National E3 Vaccine Strategy – Announced in November 2022](#)

In 2022, the IHS released the [IHS National E3 Vaccine Strategy](#), which ensures that we offer **every** patient at **every** encounter **every** recommended vaccine, when appropriate. The E3 [Operational Plan](#) seeks to engage our federal direct-care sites and collaborate with our tribal and urban Indian organization partners in this proactive approach to raise vaccination rates in Indian Country. Our strategy promotes access to all [ACIP-recommended vaccines](#), inclusive of COVID, mpox, seasonal influenza and routine vaccines for all age groups. The [IHS E3 Champions Pilot Program](#) is part of the [E3 Champions Challenge](#), which is designed to encourage innovation, incentivize effort and recognize success in implementation of the E3 Vaccine Strategy at the service unit, facility, and tribal community level across the Indian health system. Participation in the E3 Champions Pilot Program is simple and open to teams at federal direct-care, tribal and urban Indian organization sites.

[IHS Recommendations Update - March 2023](#)

In March, the Indian Health Service released its [2023 IHS Recommendations Update](#). Between 2019 and 2021, the IHS received recommendations from IHS-commissioned internal reviews and external entities on the design and implementation of IHS policies and processes established to protect patients and to hold employees accountable for compliance. In November 2021, the Director's Policy Advisory Council was charged by the acting IHS director at that time to review all recommendations related to patient protection to ensure a centralized and cohesive understanding of the agency's progress, which would help guide ongoing agency actions.

[IHS Launches New Sanitation Facilities Construction Projects Website – April 2023](#)

The IHS [launched a new interactive website](#) to provide information on Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction projects funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. In 2022, the BIL appropriated \$3.5 billion to the Indian Health Service from FY 2022 through FY 2026 to build the infrastructure necessary to ensure a safe supply of drinking water, reliable sewage systems, and solid waste disposal facilities. This new website demonstrates our commitment to transparency and reporting on progress to complete projects that support improved public health for American Indian and Alaska Native homes and communities.

[IHS Strategic Initiative - Asthma Control in Tribal Communities – April 2023](#)

According to data from the CDC, American Indian and Alaska Native people suffer a higher prevalence of asthma than any other specific racial or ethnic group in the U.S. In April, IHS Chief Medical Officer Dr. Loretta Christensen announced the [Asthma Control in Tribal communities](#), or ACT, strategic initiative to reduce the burden of asthma-related illness and death in American Indian and Alaska Native populations. The [IHS ACT webpage](#) includes useful information such as a summary of the [ACT Initiative](#), an easy, one-touch resource toolbox with helpful public health, provider and patient/community resources, as well as best practices from IHS.

[IHS Health IT Modernization Program Updates – Ongoing](#)

The IHS Health Information Technology Modernization Program is a multi-year effort to modernize health IT systems for IHS, tribal, and urban Indian (I/T/U) health care programs. The Program will replace the Resource and Patient Management System with an enterprise health record system. The IHS will manage the Program through a user-centered governance model that seeks input from federal and tribal experts on the design of the solution.

Recent updates:

- [IHS Moves Closer to Build Phase of Health IT Modernization Program – May 2023](#)
- [Recap of May Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer on Modernization Program – July 2023](#)

[Issuance to Indian Health Manual for Data Capture of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity – June 2023](#)

In June, IHS Director Roselyn Tso signed an issuance to the Indian Health Manual, [Circular 23-02, “Data Capture of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Information,”](#) which aims to provide a standard to capture structured data for sexual orientation and gender identity in the data fields of an IHS patient’s health record. As with any patient data, SO/GI data collected and entered into the electronic health record must be obtained in a manner that is culturally competent and affirming to patients that identify as 2SLGBTQ+. While the science is not yet perfect and some 2SLGBTQ+ patients inevitably will not self-disclose, asking about sexual orientation and gender identity in clinical settings will improve health outcomes of patients and help advance our understanding of 2SLGBTQ+ health. Asking these questions will alert providers to screen patients for conditions disproportionately affecting 2SLGBTQ+ individuals and provide appropriate preventive health education.

Other highlights:

- [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Strategic Plan – March 2023](#)
- [Conferring with Urban Indian Organizations Policy \(revised\) – March 2023](#)
- [New IHS Data Brief: Oral Health of American Indian and Alaska Native Adults Continues to Improve – March 2023](#)
- [IHS and Alaska Tribal Health Compact Successfully Complete Complete Fiscal Year 2024 Negotiations – June 2023](#)
- [2023-2023 Office of Urban Indian Health Programs Strategic Plan – June 2023](#)
- [Indian Health GeriScholars Pilot Program: Enhancing Geriatric Care in the IHS – July 2023](#)

Funding Announcements

Advance Appropriations at IHS

In Fiscal Year 2023, the Indian Health Service received the first ever advance appropriation for the agency, which protects our patients from the harmful impacts of potential continuing resolutions or lapses in appropriations in Fiscal Year 2024. Advance appropriations provide long overdue funding stability and predictability for the Indian health system. The IHS is already reaping the benefits of the advance appropriations, as hospitals and health clinics have reported this change has improved planning for health care services and increased job security for health care providers. To share information and solicit input from tribal and urban Indian organization leaders on advance appropriations implementation at IHS, the IHS is hosted listening sessions on August 17 and September 6.

- Blog: [IHS Provides an Update on Advance Appropriations Implementation – July 2023](#)
- Dear Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leader Letter: [The IHS Director invites Tribal Leaders and Urban Indian Organization Leaders to participate in Agency-sponsored Listening Sessions to share information and solicit input on advance appropriations implementation – August 2023](#)

IHS Awards \$139 million for Special Diabetes Program for Indians – January 2023

The U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the IHS, is investing \$139 million in funding for the Fiscal Year 2023 [Special Diabetes Program for Indians](#) to provide diabetes prevention and treatment services for American Indian and Alaska Native communities. [Funding awards](#) have been made to 302 tribal, urban and IHS sites in 35 states under the new, 5-year grant cycle that began on Jan. 1, 2023. Eleven organizations and tribes are being funded for the first time.

IHS Awards \$24 Million to Expand and Modernize Small Ambulatory Health Care Facilities – February 2023

The Indian Health Service announced \$24 million in funding to 12 tribes and tribal organizations as part of a competitive Small Ambulatory Program to invest in the construction, expansion or modernization of small ambulatory health care facilities. The IHS Small Ambulatory Program is expanding access to various outpatient services for patients, including offering new services, building on existing services, and upgrading outdated facilities. Since the program began in 2001, more than 61 projects have been funded, totaling more than \$123 million. Ninety-five percent of tribally-operated health care facilities provide primarily ambulatory services. These services include preventative services for chronic diseases, such as diabetes. Ambulatory care settings operated by tribes and tribal organizations also provide increased access to culturally appropriate, quality health care.

FY 2024 Budget - March 2023

The [President's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget](#) is reflective of tribal and urban Indian organization leader priorities as it includes significant funding increases beginning in FY 2024 towards the top tribal budget recommendations. In addition, the mandatory budget builds towards the tribal recommendation of full funding. These major steps demonstrate the Biden Administration's continued commitment to honoring the United States' treaty responsibilities to tribal nations, strengthening nation-to-nation relationships, and improving the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives throughout Indian Country.

Loan Repayment Program Award Increase - March 2023

The Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program announced an increase in the award amount to \$25,000 per year for new awards and extensions starting in Fiscal Year 2023. The program can help dedicated health professionals chart a course for a long-lasting and successful health care career, repaying eligible health profession education loans in exchange for an initial two-year service commitment to practice in health facilities serving American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

IHS Awards \$449,360 in Grants to Support Urban Indian Organizations – May 2023

The IHS Office of Urban Indian Health Programs [awarded grants totaling \\$449,360](#) to two [urban Indian organizations](#) through the [4-in-1 grant program](#). These grants will make health care services more accessible for American Indians and Alaska Natives residing in urban areas and support operations at urban health care facilities. Funding provided through the 4-in-1 grant program will be used to support four health program areas: health promotion and disease prevention services; immunization services; alcohol and substance abuse related services; and mental health services. These programs are integral components of the IHS health care delivery system and the grant funding will benefit thousands of urban Indian patients. In FY 2022, IHS awarded more than [\\$8.3 million to 32 UIOs](#) across the country through the 4-in-1 grant program, now bringing the total to 34 awards in the amount of \$8.7 million.

IHS Awards \$2M to City of Gallup to Prevent Alcohol-Related Deaths in McKinley County, New Mexico – May 2023

The IHS Division of Behavioral Health [awarded \\$2 million](#) through a cooperative agreement to the city of Gallup, New Mexico, to prevent alcohol-related deaths among their large American Indian and Alaska Native population by providing withdrawal management and shelter services at the Na’Nizhoozhi Center, Inc. The facility is a leading detox and inpatient drug and alcohol rehab center in Gallup.

IHS Awards \$1.2 Million in Tribal Management Grants to Support Tribal Self-Determination – June 2023

The IHS has [awarded over \\$1.2 million in tribal management grants](#) to 12 tribes as part of a competitive program to develop and improve tribal capacity to manage health programs under the authority of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. The [Tribal Management Grant Program](#) is designed to prepare tribes and tribal organizations for assuming all or part of existing IHS programs, functions, services and activities, and to further develop and improve their health management capabilities. The program consists of four project types with funding amounts and project periods: Feasibility Study; Planning; Evaluation Study; and Health Management Structure.

IHS Awards \$850,000 Cooperative Agreement for Zero Suicide Initiative Coordinating Center – July 2023

The IHS Division of Behavioral Health [awarded \\$425,000](#) each through a cooperative agreement to the Research Triangle Institute and the Northwest Portland Indian Health Board to support the Zero Suicide Initiative Coordinating Center. The award cycle started on July 1, 2023, and will continue for five years. The purpose of the ZSICC cooperative agreement is to build capacity among the 15 health care facilities currently funded to implement the Zero Suicide model within their local health system of care. This cooperative agreement will work with DBH to provide technical assistance in the areas of data collection, reporting, training, resources, and implementation of the Zero Suicide approach in Indian Country.

HHS Awards \$2.5 Million to Help Decrease Food Insecurity in Native Communities – July 2023

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Indian Health Service, [awarded \\$2.5 million in funding](#) to support the development of produce prescription programs in tribal communities. The purpose of the [IHS Produce Prescription Pilot Program](#) is to help reduce food insecurity and improve health care outcomes among American Indian and Alaska Native people by increasing access to produce and other traditional foods within Native communities.

Indian Health Service Announces Allocation Decisions for \$702.6 Million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding – September 2023

In a significant stride towards ensuring essential sanitation facilities throughout Indian Country, the IHS announced the allocation decisions for \$702.6 million in funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Building upon the momentum set by the BIL, which [allocates \\$3.5 billion to the IHS between FY 2022 and 2026](#), this funding empowers efforts to develop critical infrastructure, including robust drinking water sources, reliable sewage systems, and effective solid waste disposal facilities. The IHS will continue to leverage the use of multiple strategies and available authorities to ensure timely and efficient distribution of this historic funding. These allocations align with recommendations from tribal leaders, prioritizing projects that have progressed through planning phases and can seamlessly transition into the design and construction stages. The outcome of this funding is substantial – more than 36,000 American Indian and Alaska Native households will benefit by gaining access to essential services.

Coming in September 2023 - \$1.8M in IHS Funding Provides Additional Resources to Address Alzheimer's and Dementia

In March, the IHS announced the [availability of \\$1.8 million in additional funding](#) for tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian organizations and IHS direct service facilities to address Alzheimer's disease within tribal communities. This follows first-time IHS funding appropriations in 2021 and subsequent year grant awards. This funding will support the development of sustainable, local approaches to addressing Alzheimer's disease and other causes of dementia, focusing on awareness, recognition, diagnosis, assessment, management and support for caregivers. The IHS continues to partner with agencies across the federal government and non-governmental organizations to address key program components tied to Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, including workforce development and community engagement.

Personnel Announcements

Indian Health Service Announces New Deputy Director for Intergovernmental Affairs – February 2023

The IHS [announced the appointment of Stacey Ecoffey](#), an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, as the new deputy director for intergovernmental affairs at IHS headquarters. In this position, Ecoffey is responsible for providing leadership on tribal and urban Indian health activities through oversight of the Office of Tribal Self-Governance, Office of Direct Service and Contracting Tribes, and Office of Urban Indian Health Programs.

New OCPS Director – March 2023

In March, the IHS welcomed [Christopher Jarvis, M.D.](#), as the new director of the Office of Clinical and Preventive Services. As director of OCPS, Dr. Jarvis will advise the IHS chief medical officer and provide

leadership toward improving and promoting wellness for American Indian and Alaska Native people by serving as the primary source of national advocacy, policy development, budget development and allocation for clinical, preventive and public health programs for IHS, area offices and service units.

New Senior Advisor to the Director – March 2023

In March, Joshua Marshall was welcomed as the senior advisor to the IHS director. In this position, he is responsible for advising the IHS director on a variety of special analyses and high-level health policy matters, including implementation of strategic initiatives and activities.

New IHS Chief of Staff – March 2023

In March, the IHS welcomed Capt. Carmen “Skip” Clelland, who returned to the IHS to serve as chief of staff. In his new role, Capt. Clelland will be responsible for overseeing the coordination of key agency activities and supporting the Office of the Director in a broad range of duties related IHS initiatives and priorities.

New Acting Director for the Office of Quality – May 2023

Capt. Jana M. Towne, RN, BSN, MHA, an enrolled member of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, was named as the acting director for the Office of Quality. Capt. Towne serves as the principal advisor to the IHS director on health care quality and compliance and provides leadership and management of the IHS quality and national compliance programs. In this position, she has responsibility and oversight of the health care innovation and quality improvement, risk management, patient safety and compliance activities of the agency.

IHS Announces New Great Plains and Navajo Area Directors – June 2023

The IHS [announced the permanent appointment of Joe Amiotte](#) as the director for the [IHS Great Plains Area](#). Amiotte, an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, has served as the acting director for the Great Plains Area since November 2022. As the area director, he is responsible for overseeing comprehensive health care and environmental health services for American Indians and Alaska Natives throughout Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota.

The IHS also [announced the appointment of DuWayne Begay](#), a member of the Navajo Nation, as the director for the [IHS Navajo Area](#). Begay most recently served as chief operating officer and acting deputy CEO of the Gallup Service Unit until 2022 and as the area executive officer of the Navajo Area from 2022 to 2023. In his new position, he is responsible for ensuring the provision of comprehensive health care services to tribes in the Four Corners area, comprising portions of the states of Arizona, New Mexico, and southern Utah.

IHS Announces New Senior Executive Service-Level CEO Positions

The Indian Health Service announced the appointments of 10 [Senior Executive Service](#)-level chief executive officer positions at IHS facilities across Indian Country. In 2022, the IHS was allocated [12 additional SES positions](#) to elevate using existing CEO roles at various service units, bringing the total number of SES positions across the agency to 38.

- [IHS Announces New Senior Executive Service-Level CEO Positions – June 22](#)
- [IHS Announces Additional Senior Executive Service-Level CEO Positions – August 2](#)

Communication with Tribes and Urban Indian Organizations

Biweekly Updates for Tribes and Urban Indian Organizations – Started in January 2023

In January, the IHS started a section on its website for [IHS updates](#) provide a bi-weekly update with up-to-date information on Indian Health Service and other federally-hosted meetings, conferences, deadlines and recognition from across the Indian health system. Tribes, tribal organizations and UIOs [can sign up](#) to receive the bi-weekly update.

HHS and IHS Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer Sessions – March 2023

In March, HHS and IHS held tribal consultation and urban confer sessions on New Strategy for Tribes to Access the Strategic National Stockpile. On January 21, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 14001 on a Sustainable Public Health Supply Chain, which directs actions to secure supplies necessary for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as future public health emergencies. In response, a working group led by the HHS Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response reviewed recommendations received during tribal consultation and urban confer in Fall 2021 to develop a [draft plan](#).

National Council of Urban Indian Health Conference – May 2023

In May, Director Tso attended the [National Council of Urban Indian Health's](#) "Honoring our Ancestors & Preparing for the Next Seven Generations" conference in Washington, D.C. At the meeting, she was able to share agency priorities and hear directly from urban Indian organization leaders as they discussed the health and resource needs of urban Indian communities. Director Tso reiterated the IHS' commitment to providing safe, quality health care to urban communities.

2023 Tribal Self-Governance Conference – June 2023

In June, Director Tso traveled to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for the 2023 Tribal Self-Governance Conference. Throughout the conference, IHS leadership and staff participated in meaningful dialogue with tribal leaders from across Indian Country on how they can achieve individual goals of self-government and ensure that the tenets and purpose of self-governance are accurately communicated and clearly understood. Director Tso also participated in a panel discussion with Bryan Newland, assistant secretary for Indian Affairs with the Department of the Interior, and Arlando Teller, assistant secretary of Tribal Affairs for the Department of Transportation, to provide updates on federal initiatives, activities and programs that serve tribal nations and their citizens. Tribal self-governance creates a framework for tribes to build prosperous, resilient and sustainable communities, ensuring the well-being of present and future generations.

National Tribal Opioid Summit – August 2023

In partnership with the [Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board](#), the IHS will cohost the [National Tribal Opioid Summit](#) in Tulalip, Washington, from August 22-24. This three-day event will address the intersection of COVID-19 and the opioid crisis throughout tribal communities, focusing on centering the voices of recovery and tribal communities, effective solutions in Indian Country, culture as prevention and intervention, and a culture night hosted by the Tulalip Tribe of Indians. For more information, please visit the event [webpage](#).

Ongoing Collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs

The IHS is committed to serving Native veterans and strengthening our relationship with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Through strong collaboration and resource-sharing, we will continue to ensure equitable access to care and services for American Indian and Alaska Native veterans throughout Indian Country.

In June, the IHS and the [Department of Veterans Affairs launched a new interagency map application](#) to increase access to health care, community-based resources, and other essential services for American Indian and Alaska Native veterans. The interactive map application integrates location-based data from 41 urban Indian organizations with 82 locations and 1,500 VA health care facilities, creating an immersive one-stop platform for Native veterans to search and explore health care and other supportive services. The development of the map application is a part of the Native American Veteran Homelessness Initiative, a multi-agency effort led by the [White House Council on Native American Affairs Health Committee](#), including VA, Department of Health and Human Services, and Department of Housing and Urban Development.

IHS is also working with the VA and Dr. Dave Wilson from the National Institutes of Health to plan and record a joint video message between IHS and VA leadership providing more information on resources available for Native veterans across Indian Country.

In January, IHS joined the VA in hosting a webinar to provide an overview of the Native American Veteran Homelessness Initiative. The Initiative's overall goal is to develop relationships between VA and organizations serving Native Americans to provide education on available resources and promote encouraging American Indian and Alaska Native veterans to access these services.

Leadership Site Visits

Upon becoming appointed as the IHS director last fall, Roselyn Tso felt it was important to embark on an initial leadership tour. As an extension of this initiative, she has continued to visit IHS, tribal, and urban Indian organization sites throughout Indian Country. Throughout 2023, IHS leadership will continue visits to each IHS area on a monthly basis

In January, she visited sites throughout the [IHS Albuquerque Area](#) and [California Area](#). This included attending the "Road to Healing" event in Many Farms, Arizona. U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland launched this year-long tour across Indian Country to provide survivors and descendants of the federal Indian boarding school system an opportunity to share their experiences and provide input for future work. Along the journey, IHS has partnered with DOI to provide mental and behavioral health support to survivors and their families.

In March, she visited the [Great Plains Area](#) with senior leadership, including the grand opening of the [Oyate Health Center](#) in Rapid City, South Dakota.

In April, she visited the [Portland Area](#) and had the opportunity to meet with several tribal councils and health care facility leadership teams to speak on our shared commitment to ensuring all facilities are actively meeting the needs of the tribal communities they serve.

In June, she visited the [Billings Area](#), meeting with several tribal councils and health care facility leadership teams. Also in June, Director Tso visited sites and met with tribal leaders throughout the [Oklahoma City Area](#).

In July, she again visited sites throughout the Great Plains Area and the grand opening of two new health care centers, a testament to the power of collaboration, compassion, and shared vision of the IHS and our tribal and urban Indian organization partners. The first was the open house and grand opening for [South Dakota Urban Indian Health's](#) new health care facility, followed by the grand opening of the [Ysleta del Sur Health Center](#).

Later in July, Director Tso and members of the IHS leadership team met with several tribal councils in the California Area and then toured several tribal and urban Indian organization facilities, in addition to the IHS Desert Sage Youth Regional Treatment Center.

Grand Openings and Groundbreakings

Oyate Health Center Grand Opening – March 2023

Director Tso attended the grand opening of the [Oyate Health Center](#) in Rapid City, South Dakota. This new 204,000 square foot health care facility will provide high quality medical services—from routine and preventive care, to care for more complicated or chronic conditions—to approximately 130,000 tribal members across the Great Plains Area. The IHS, in partnership with tribes, is committed to assuring new facilities meet the needs of the communities they serve. The new Rapid City facility meets that goal and will now provide a sense of pride for the Great Plains tribes.

Oklahoma City Indian Clinic – April 2023

On April 28, the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic held a grand opening for the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic Bank of America Native Resource and Nutrition Center. Patient services provided by the center include free food, clothing, shoes, toiletries and blankets. Patients and Native community members are welcome to visit and speak with social services specialists to learn more about the available resources, including Native American Veterans Homeless Programs, housing, transportation and much more.

Billings Urban Indian Health and Wellness Center – May 2023

On May 12, the Native American Development Corporation — [Billings Urban Indian Health and Wellness Center](#) celebrated its new facility's grand opening and naming ceremony in Billings, Montana. The Eagle Seeker Community Center will be the permanent home for the Billings Urban Indian Health and Wellness Center and will provide outdoor areas for health and recreation activities.

Phoenix Area – May 2023

On May 16, the [Hopi Health Care Center](#) announced a 32,000-square-foot renovation and expansion project with a celebratory groundbreaking ceremony. The two-year project is expected to begin in June

and will include expansions of the emergency department and ambulatory care center, as well as the addition of a conference center and food court. Alongside Hopi tribal leadership, this project has shown the power of unity and collaboration. It serves as a testament to commitment of the HHCC to raise the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level.

Oklahoma City Area – June 2023

On June 15, the [Indian Health Care Resource Center of Tulsa](#) hosted a cedar blessing and groundbreaking ceremony, marking the commencement of the health clinic's highly anticipated second expansion phase. The phase two expansion project will add 65,000-square-foot to the existing clinic, reinforcing the organization's commitment to providing comprehensive and culturally sensitive health care services to American Indians and Alaska Natives in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This expansion will enable the clinic to enhance its existing services and introduce a range of specialty services catering to the community's diverse health care needs.

Alaska Area – June 2023

On June 23, the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, an Alaska tribal health organization, recently held the grand opening ceremony for the new 2800-square-foot clinic in Quinhagak, Alaska. The Native Village of Kwinhagak was awarded \$2 million under the Indian Health Service FY 19 Small Ambulatory Program to replace the old clinic. The existing clinic settled in the permafrost, causing significant cracking in the walls and sloping floors. This new clinic features five exam rooms, an urgent care room, a dental operatory, pharmacy, laboratory, and bunk room for visiting providers. Quinhagak, Alaska, is located 70 air miles from Bethel, Alaska, and both communities are only accessible by plane. All materials were flown or barged.

California Area – June 2023

On June 28, the [Sacramento Native American Health Center](#) opened its newest health care facility in south Sacramento. The facility, designed to increase accessibility to patients unable to access the midtown Sacramento location, features a variety of services, including medical, dental, family and youth, as well as offering classes for community members.

Bemidji Area – June 2023

On June 30, the new Naytahwaush Health Center, or Waabinokwe, opened to the public. The approximately 32,000-square-foot facility provides primary care, pharmaceutical, dental, physical therapy, behavioral health, laboratory, x-ray, mammography, MRI/CT (mobile), traditional healing, and public health nursing services. The new health center replaces the 6,000-square-foot Naytahwaush health center, which is the oldest health facility in the Indian health system. The new Waabinokwe facility was completed by White Earth Builders LLC, White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians, and is the first joint venture construction project completed in the Bemidji Area.

South Dakota Urban Indian Health and Ysleta del Sur – July 2023

In July, she again visited sites throughout the Great Plains Area and the grand opening of two new health care centers, a testament to the power of collaboration, compassion, and shared vision of the IHS and our tribal and urban Indian organization partners. The first was the open house and grand opening for [South Dakota Urban Indian Health's](#) new health care facility, followed by the grand opening of the [Ysleta del Sur Health Center](#), a tribal health care facility located in El Paso, Texas, where a new state-of-the-art ambulatory care center was established. The Isleta del Sur Pueblo are the only Pueblo tribe in the state of Texas, just 13 miles from downtown El Paso, and have been home to the Tigua Indigenous people for more than 300 years.

Bemidji Area – August 2023

On August 4, the [Great Lakes Intertribal Councils](#) held a ground blessing for their new Adolescent Recovery and Wellness Center, a 36-bed residential facility centrally located in Wisconsin to best serve 12 tribes and urban Indians. When completed, it will provide culturally relevant services and responsive residential substance abuse treatment for Native American youth, ages 13-17, who are suffering from substance use disorder and any co-occurring mental health conditions.

Grand Opening Events in Oklahoma and Arizona – August 2023

Director Tso recently attended two important events in Oklahoma and Arizona. The first was the groundbreaking ceremony for the Pawnee Nation Behavioral Health Center. When completed, this new 21,000 square-foot facility will stand as a beacon of hope and healing, offering culturally competent and tailored mental health support that respects and acknowledges the unique cultural backgrounds and traditions of the community. The second was the grand opening of the Dilkon Medical Center, a 154,000 square-foot facility that will offer a wide range of medical services, preventive care, health promotion programs, and more to Navajo people and nearby communities in the southwest part of the Navajo Nation.

Helena Indian Alliance Grand Opening – August 2023

In August, Director Tso attended the grand opening ceremony of the Leo Pucha Memorial Clinic, a remarkable addition to the Helena Indian Alliance facility in Montana. This newly unveiled 3,957 square-foot expansion stands as a symbol of optimism, hope, and healing, offering comprehensive medical care, preventive services, and more to individuals of all ages in the community.

