



Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to share that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) will hold sessions during the 2021 HHS Regional Tribal Consultation Meetings to obtain feedback on establishing a Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) that will advise OMH on the structure and function of a new Center for Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity (CIIHE).

The December 27, 2020 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 116-260) directed OMH to create a Center for Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity (CIIHE) to support American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander populations in efforts including research, education, service, and policy development related to advancing Indigenous solutions. OMH obtained tribal feedback on the establishment of the CIIHE through a February 2021 Federal Register Notice and an April 2021 Tribal Listening Session. The forecast for the CIIHE cooperative agreement funding opportunity is posted on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

We recognize that the CIIHE's work must be focused on and informed by the needs of AI/AN Tribal Nations to honor the government's federal Indian trust responsibility. To affirm the government-to-government relationship between AI/AN Tribes and OMH, a new CIIHE TAC will be comprised of Tribal delegates who are elected tribal officials or their authorized representatives. The CIIHE TAC member responsibilities will include providing input, guidance, and recommendations to OMH, which OMH will communicate to the CIIHE awardees. Your feedback as Tribal Leaders is crucial to forming the new CIIHE TAC's charter.

Please see the enclosure for the dates of each respective Regional Tribal Consultation session, a link to register in advance for the event, and the regional contact(s). We encourage you to sign up for and participate in these sessions so OMH can benefit from your recommendations as we develop the CIIHE TAC charter. Tribes also can submit written comments and suggestions to CAPT Damion Killsback, OMH Senior Advisor for Tribal Affairs, at Damion.Killsback@hhs.gov by **Friday, August 20, 2021**.

We take our commitment to honoring the nation-to-nation relationship with AI/AN Tribes very seriously. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you that supports OMH in achieving its mission to improve the health of AI/AN populations through the development of policies and programs that help eliminate health disparities.

Sincerely,

RADM Felicia Collins
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health
Director, Office of Minority Health

Enclosure:

ENCLOSURE: Dates of each respective consultation session, a link to register for the event in advance, and the Regional Contact(s):

• May 26, 2021: **Tri-Regional Consultation with Regions 6, 7, & 8**

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsd-GqqzwjHafdKmUZVtFrj1Ut3wIAQso>

Contact: Julia Lothrop; Julia.Lothrop@hhs.gov (Region 6)

Contact: Kit Wagar; Kit.Wagar@hhs.gov (Region 7)

Contact: Elsa Ramirez; Elsa.Ramirez@hhs.gov (Region 8)

• 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/vJIsdOqrrjwuE1FopJTydmaFmqiuZTABI_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/vJIsduurzgiGO90M4liEf75OXfauI5zLCY>

Contact: Paul Jacobsen; Paul.Jacobsen@hhs.gov

• August 9 – 12, 2021: **Region 9**

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdOyppjsuGpV6VYabm6IYwGDbaQVQvvY>

Contact: Schuyler Hall; Schuyler.Hall@hhs.gov