



Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

5600 Fishers Lane • Rockville, MD 20857

www.samhsa.gov • 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727)



August 7, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

This letter serves as an invitation to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Tribal Listening Session on Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Resources for Native Americans (BHSUDRNA). This program was authorized by the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023](#). However, no funds were specifically appropriated or budgeted to carry out the program. SAMHSA will initially hold a listening session on August 29, 2023, at 4:00 PM EDT. The listening session will provide an opportunity for SAMHSA to share information about the statutory requirements and engage with Tribal Leaders prior to the consultation.

Specifically, the listening session will seek recommendations and feedback on the following questions should these funds become available for BHSUDRNA:

- A. What factors should be considered in determining noncompetitive awards to each of the eligible entities including any health program administered directly by the Indian Health Service, a Tribal Health Program, an Indian Tribe, and a Tribal Organization? What methodology or formula should we use to determine the amount of an award and equitable distribution of awards among each eligible entity given their needs?
- B. An applicant must agree to submit program evaluation data under this program. What measures should be established to demonstrate outcomes and report data on results of services provided as required for participation in the program?
- C. How can the administrative process be streamlined to sufficiently address program requirements and facilitate assisting the eligible entities in submitting applications for funding?

You can register for the Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Resources for Native Americans **Listening Session** via the following link:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItfuitqDIvGJb-7z8G5vUTNjXjFDxOG8U>

SAMHSA will also accept written comments from Tribes on or before September 28, 2023. Comments can be emailed to otap@samhsa.hhs.gov.

SAMHSA looks forward to your participation and ongoing partnership. Please contact CAPT Karen Hearod, Director Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy, at 202-868-9931 or at otap@samhsa.hhs.gov with any further questions.

Sincerely,

/Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D./

Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary for Mental Health
and Substance Use