



# ARIZONA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN HEALTH CARE

## June 2024 Newsletter

***Mission statement:** The mission of the AACIHC is to advocate for increasing access to high quality health care programs for all American Indians in Arizona.*

### At-a-Glance

#### AACIHC Agency Updates

- American Indian Health-AHEC
  - Advisory Council Retreat
  - New Website Launching
- COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant Team Updates
  - Closer to Home Series
  - Virtual Training Series
- CDC-CCR Updates
  - Now is the Time: Integrating and Reimbursing CHR Services Withing Tribal Health and Social Systems
- AzHIP Updates
  - 2024 State-Tribal Epidemiology Summit Update

#### Legislative Updates

#### Grant Opportunity

- Indian Housing Block Grant

## AACIHC Agency Updates

## American Indian Health-AHEC Advisory Council Retreat

The American Indian Health – AHEC recently held its first AIH-AHEC Advisory Council Retreat in Flagstaff with Council members and staff in attendance. The AIH-AHEC Advisory Board’s role is pivotal in overseeing the planned objectives and ensuring success in its overall operations. As the AIH-AHEC embarks on the creation of the program’s Mission and Vision, we recognize the importance of assembling a diverse and knowledgeable Advisory Board. The primary focus of AIH-AHEC is to address the specific healthcare needs of the American Indian Health Care workforce and enhance youth pathway and professional development within our 22 Tribal Nations of Arizona in relation to community programs and current health facilities. The AIH-AHEC recently completed their first 3-Year Strategic Plan which began implementation this year. The Advisory Council will also serve as paths to other organizations and Tribe Communities as the AIH-AHEC attempts to reach out to all 22 Arizona Tribal Communities.



(Pictured left to right back row, Francene Larzelere Siquah, Dr. Navaz Dolasa, Jeff Axtell (staff) Dr. John Molina, Holly Figueroa)

(Front row Tashina Machain (staff) Timian Godfrey, Ernestine Nasingoetewa (staff)  
(Members not present include Agness Attakai, Dr. Michael Darragh, Kim Russell, Lillian Smith and Miguel Flores)

## New Website Launching

The American Indian Health-AHEC Team is excited to announce the launch of

their new website. This website will serve as the one stop location for all things resources, professional development, and more. Stay up to date and visit the new website:

[Visit the AIH-AHEC Website](#)

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## COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant Team

### Closer to Home Series

On May 4, Darien Fuller, our epidemiologist, joined the Strong Heart Study for their Star Wars-themed community health event to host a table, share health educational material, and hand out our Tribal Tangible Toolkits to community members. The team had an informational table set up with tables from other programs about digestive health, sobriety services, massage therapy, and other vendors. The COVID-19 Health Disparities grant team understands the importance of attending community events and plans to join additional summer events.



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### Virtual Training Series

# VIRTUAL TRAININGS



Learn more at:

<https://linktr.ee/aacihc.az.gov>

The AACIHC's Health Education team and the COVID-19 Health Disparities grant team holds virtual training sessions for:

- 1) Community members seeking to learn more about health topics, such as managing chronic diseases, health and wellness (e.g. nutrition and exercise), navigating the healthcare system, health insurance, and general health literacy topics (e.g. how vaccines work, what are viruses and how do they transmit from person-to-person, what is Personal Protective Equipment and how can you use it in your daily life?) etc.
- 2) Health care providers serving the American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) community.

All training sessions are held via ZOOM.

Things to note:

- Zoom training reminders are emailed via AACIHC email alert 1 week, 1 day, and 1 hour ahead of the scheduled training session.
- The training schedule is subject to change and participants will be notified of any changes.
- A brief Zoom tutorial is at the bottom of the training schedule, which can be found on our website here: [2024 Summer - AACIHC Training Schedule.pdf \(az.gov\)](#)

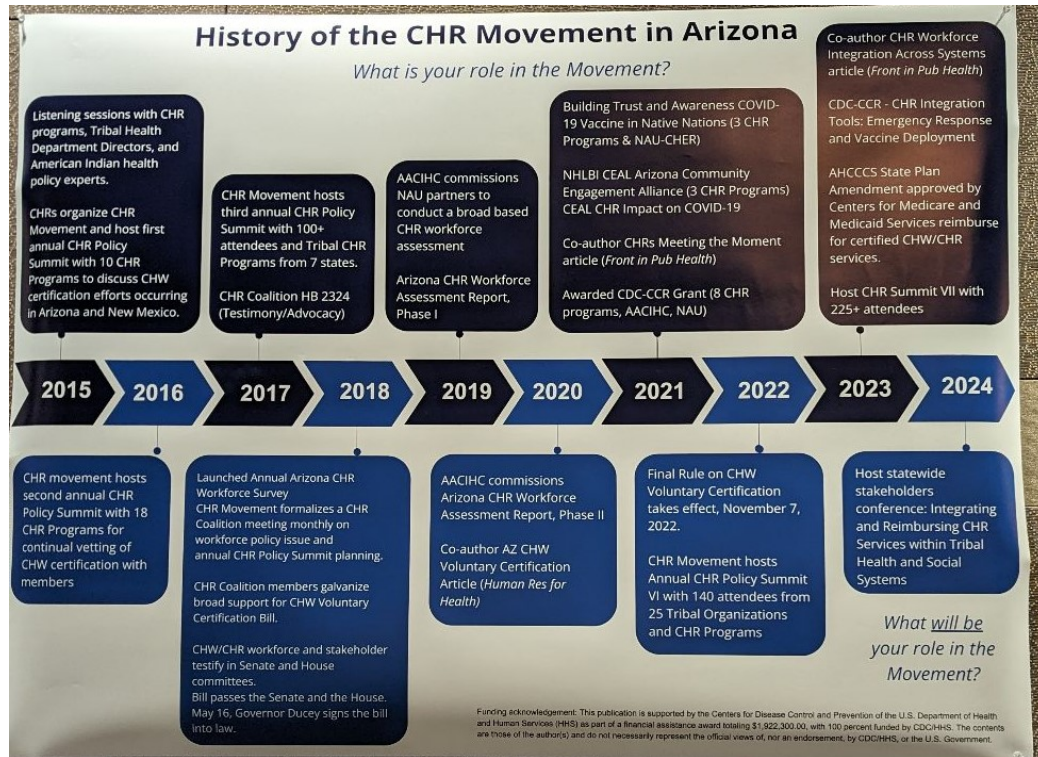


# CHR<sub>s</sub> WITH uS!

## CDC-CCR Updates

### Now is the Time: Integrating and Reimbursing CHR Services Within Tribal Health and Social Systems

On May 15th, the CDC-CCR CHR<sub>s</sub> WITH uS! Grant held the “Now is the Time: Integrating and Reimbursing CHR Services Within Tribal Health and Social Systems” Event at the High Country Conference Center in Flagstaff, AZ. The integration event convened CHR Directors, CHR<sub>s</sub>, and other champion healthcare professionals to discuss Medicaid reimbursement and billing processes for CHR<sub>s</sub>. There were many different panels and breakout sessions that focused on the different CHR Reimbursement Pathways and CHW Medicaid Billing in Tribal Settings. At this event, Commander Loretta Haven from the Indian Health Service Phoenix Area Office was able to discuss the National and Area IHS CHR Strategic Plan: Priority Area 3 Sustainability.



## AzHIP Updates

### 2024 State-Tribal Epidemiology Summit

We are thrilled to announce that the recent 2024 State-Tribal Epidemiology Summit was a tremendous success! Held on May 7, 2024, the summit brought together a diverse group of experts from Tribal programs and state agencies to engage in meaningful discussions. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the

planning committee members, participants, and speakers who contributed to the success of the summit. Your dedication and insights were invaluable.



### Artist Collaboration

We were honored to have artist Derrick Gonzales at the summit. Derrick transformed our discussions into powerful visual art, capturing the essence of our collaborative efforts.

## Legislative Updates



Every year, the AACIHC identifies and tracks legislative bills that may have a potential impact on the American Indian health care system in Arizona. Please see the information below on the bills we are currently tracking:

### MMIP Bills:

HB2764- long-term care; enforcement; memory care

- Sponsor: Representative Dunn
- **Bill Overview:** Requires the Director of the Department of Health Services (DHS) to establish by rule standards for memory care services

for assisted living facilities that are licensed to provide directed care services. Modifies DHS duties and authorities relating to oversight of health care institutions. Establishes requirements relating to Adult Protective Services (APS) investigations into abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult. Modifies the membership of the Board of Examiners of Nursing Care Institution Administrators and Assisted Living Facility Managers (NCIA Board). Establishes the Vulnerable Adult System Study Committee (Study Committee) and outlines Study Committee membership, duties and reporting requirements

- Status: Signed by the Governor on 04/08/2024

#### HB 2249: residential care institutions; inspections

- Sponsor: Representative Carter
- Bill Overview: Prohibits the Director of the Department of Health Services (Director) from accepting an accreditation report in lieu of conducting compliance investigations for a behavioral health residential care institution.
- Status: Died in the Senate

#### SB 1655- behavioral health entities, regulations

- Sponsor: Senator Hatathlie
- Bill Overview: Makes various changes related to the licensing, oversight and regulation of behavioral health entities (BHEs) and sober living homes.
- Status: Failed in the HHS committee.

#### HB 2205: fraud unit; investigations; annual report

- Sponsor: Representative Livingston
- Bill Overview: Specifies that monies appropriated to the Department of Insurance and Financial Institution (DIFI) for DIFI's Insurance Fraud Unit (Fraud Unit) are exempt from lapsing.
- Status: No movement since 03/19. Awaiting assignment to the Rules Committee agenda

#### HB 2587: adult protective services; reporting; records

- Sponsor: Representative Dunn
- Status: No movement since 03/19. Awaiting assignment to the HHS and Rules committee agendas.

#### SB 1361: sober living homes

- Sponsor: Sen. Carroll
- Bill Overview: Modifies requirements of the Department of Health Services (DHS) relating to the licensing, oversight and regulation of sober

living homes. Prescribes guidelines for the inspection and penalizing of sober living homes that are noncompliant with applicable state and local regulations. Repeals certified sober living homes.

- Status: No movement since 03/26

### **Oral Health Bill:**

#### SB 1037: AHCCCS; comprehensive dental care

- Sponsor: Sen. Shope
- **Bill Overview:** Expands Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) coverage of dental services, from only emergency dental care and extractions, to include coverage of comprehensive dental care for members age 21 and older.
- Status: Thus far, there has been no movement. Please see possible next steps.
- Next Steps: A Letter of Support for SB 1037 to be included in the budget was sent to the Governor's Office on Friday (04/19).

If you have any questions regarding AACIHC's Policy Initiatives, please reach out to: Corey Hemstreet, Legislative Specialist |

Email: [corey.hemstreet@aacihc.az.gov](mailto:corey.hemstreet@aacihc.az.gov)

## **Grant Opportunity**

### **Indian Housing Block Grant**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has a housing grant opportunity to help Tribes provide safe and affordable housing to their citizens. Award amounts vary between \$500,000 and \$7,500,000, and approximately 25 awards are anticipated to be awarded. The grant time frame is 5 years.

#### **Goals**

- Eligible AI/AN Tribes and tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs) who are awarded this grant, may use it to carry out a range of affordable housing activities.
- Grant funds may be used to develop, maintain, and operate affordable housing in safe and healthy environments on tribal lands and to carry out other affordable housing activities.
- Grant funds must be used to primarily benefit low-income Indian families.

#### **Eligible Applicants**



- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)

Please note that eligible applicants who are awarded under this funding opportunity may also provide subawards to other entities serving the grant's deliverables. For instances of subawards, HUD will assess the entity listed on the SF-424 throughout this competition.

***Eligible applications submitted by a TDHE on behalf of a Tribe(s) must include a tribal certification(s) or resolution(s) on official letterhead authorizing the TDHE to apply on behalf of the Tribe(s).***

***HUD will accept existing Indian Housing Plan (IHP) certifications that state that the tribe has delegated to the TDHE the authority to submit an IHP or application on behalf of the tribe without prior review by the tribe. The certification(s) or resolution(s) must be submitted with the application.***

## **Award Information**

- **Award Start Date:** December 30, 2024
- **Grant Application Due Date:** August 29, 2024
- **Award Length:** 60 months (5 years)
- **Award Amounts:** Between \$500,000 and \$7,500,000
- **Number of Available Awards:** Approximately 25
- **Funding Opportunity Number:** FR-6800-N-48
- **Subawards Allowed?** Yes

For more information, please read the funding opportunity below:

- **[Funding Opportunities | Indian Housing Block Grant \(IHBG\) Competitive Grant Program](#)**

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## **AACIHC's Office Location**



**Arizona Advisory Council  
on Indian Health Care  
AHCCCS | 801 E. Jefferson  
Street, MD 4600  
Phoenix, AZ 85034**

**Office #: (602) 542-5725**

*The AACIHC, utilizing its knowledge of Indian healthcare issues and tribal sovereignty, serves as a resource for Tribal governments and the State of Arizona, and supports prevention, training, education, and policy development as the keys to meeting the unique health care needs of the Arizona Indian population.*

**AZ Advisory Council on Indian Health Care  
602-542-5725**

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website



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