



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Prevention and Community Health
Post Office Box 47830
Olympia, Washington 98504-7830
711 Washington Relay Service

March 4, 2024

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders and Tribal Partners,

SUBJECT: Invitation for Collaboration - Health Equity Zone for Native Communities Submission Opening

In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we invite collaboration on the launch of the Health Equity Zone for Native Communities.

As I wrote to you on [October 25, 2023](#), [the Health Equity Zones Initiative](#) is a pilot initiative that reimagines how the Department of Health collaborates with communities through community driven decision making and innovative funding mechanisms. The initiative uses an impact led approach, recognizing that those most impacted by health inequities have the best understanding of the needs, strengths, and strategies to improve the health of their community. Please view this [HEZ WA Portal page](#) for information about how the design of the submission form and selection process were led by native community members in Washington. For dates and times of informational sessions, please click [here](#).

We are inviting Tribes, Tribal organizations, urban Indian organizations (or a collaborative of these entities) to [apply for the pilot phase](#) of the initiative, closing on *Wednesday, May 22, 2024*.

For additional information or to provide written feedback, please contact Health Equity Zones Manager Brianne Ramos at brianne.ramos@doh.wa.gov or 360-878-7892, or Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations Executive Director Candice Wilson-Quatz'tenaut at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov or 360-819-7626.

Sincerely,

Michele Roberts, MPH, MCHES
Assistant Secretary, Division of Prevention and Community Health

Cc: Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH - Secretary of Health - Department of Health
Candice Wilson Quatz'tenaut (Lummi) - Executive Director OTPHR - Department of Health
Kristopher Holiday - Chief of Strategic Partnerships - Department of Health
Elizabeth Perez - Chief of Public Affairs and Equity - Department of Health
Kristin Peterson - Chief of Policy, Planning and Evaluation - Department of Health
Jessica Todorovich - Chief of Staff - Department of Health
Lacy Fehrenbach - Chief of Prevention, Safety and Health - Department of Health
Katie Eilers - Office of Family and Community Health Improvement Director - Department of Health
Lydia Guy Ortiz - Community Workforce and Partnerships Section Manager - Department of Health
Brianne Ramos - Health Equity Zones Initiative Manager - Department of Health