



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
PO Box 47890 | Olympia, Washington 98504-7890  
Tel: 360-236-4030 | 711 Washington State Relay

May 16, 2025

**Re: Consultation- Tribal Foundational Public Health Services Funding Allocation for State Biennium 2025-2027**

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners, and Professionals:

In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and the [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we are inviting Tribes and partners to consult on the Tribal Foundation Public Health Services (TFPHS) funding allocation for the new biennium 2025-2027.

The purpose of this consultation will be to 1) reach consensus on the Tribal allocation of the General Funds-State and 2) review the terms and conditions of the TFPHS contracts for the new biennium. You may find our consultation materials from the previous biennium [HERE](#).

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the Washington State Legislature [conference budget](#) appropriated \$296,164,000 to FPHS in the General Funds-State. To summarize the budget for 2025-2027: There is a reduction of \$5 million for 2025, \$22 million for 2026, and \$22 million for 2027 with an increase in spending authority of \$10 million per year in 2026 and 2027. The FPHS Steering Committee reached consensus to not reduce the Tribal allocation, keeping it the same as the 2023-2025biennium. (see details below).

We invite your participation for DOH Tribal roundtables and consultation on the TFPHS allocation for state biennium 2025-2027 from new general state funds appropriated by the Washington Legislature:

Meeting Type	Date and Time	Zoom Information
Roundtable #1	Wednesday, May 28 <sup>th</sup> 2025 1:30 - 3pm at the TFPHS Workgroup	<a href="#">812 4252 8685</a> Passcode: 192616
Roundtable #2	Wednesday, June 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 3:00 - 4:30pm	<a href="#">849 7174 9218</a> Passcode: 311199
Consultation	<b>Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025</b> <b>3:30 - 5pm (after the HCA MTM)</b>	<a href="#">859 2761 3539</a> <b>Passcode: 240808</b>

**Summary**

In 2019, the Washington State legislature established the Governmental Public Health System in Washington State to include Sovereign Tribes and Indian Programs. This enabled state funding to be allocated to the Federally Recognized Tribes as part of the governmental public health system in accordance with [43.70.512 RCW](#).

The Executive Committee members of the American Indian Health Commission of Washington State (AIHC) serve on the FPHS Steering Committee with partners from each of the FPHS sectors (State Board of Health, Local Health Jurisdictions, and WA-DOH). As per [RCW 43.70.515](#), the Steering Committee certifies the agreement of allocations to the Washington State Office of Financial Management, then the funds are released to DOH for distribution.

## Background

The governmental public health system in Washington is a partnership between the four sectors of the governmental public health system: including sovereign Tribal Nations and Indian health programs, local health jurisdictions, the State Board of Health, and WA-DOH.

Tribal consultation was held for the 2019-2021 biennium, 2021-2023 biennium, and 2023-2025 biennium.

### FPHS Funding Distribution to Tribal FPHS sector:

Tribal Orgs/Tribes	2019-2021	2021-2023	2023-2025	2025-2027
Tribes		\$2,327,500 per year among 29 tribes	\$5,800,000 per year among 29 tribes	PROPOSED \$5,800,000 per year among 29 tribes
Tribal Organization	\$600,000 per year	\$1,838,750 per year	\$930,000 per year	PROPOSED \$930,000
% of total FPHS budget	4.26%	4.9%	4.15%	4.5%

Based on AIHC recommendation, the FPHS Steering Committee (SC) in March 2024 has recognized the inequity in the distribution of FPHS funds to the Tribal sector and has committed to working toward a 10% allocation. At the April 3, 2025, FPHS Steering Committee meeting, the SC members also reached consensus that should there be budget cuts from the legislature to FPHS while the Tribal allocation remains under 10%, the SC will prioritize not reducing the Tribal allocation.

### Anticipated Impact on TFPHS

DOH recognizes that the allocation of these funds impacts each Tribe, AI/AN people, Indian Health Programs, Urban Indian Health Organizations, and other Tribal partners. DOH recognizes the vital role that Tribes play as Tribal public health authorities, in the governmental public health system. And we are committed to collaborating and consulting with Tribes.

For additional information, please contact FPHS Director Jeff Ketchel, at [jeff.ketchel@doh.wa.gov](mailto:jeff.ketchel@doh.wa.gov), or Candice Wilson, Executive Director, Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), at [candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov) or 360-819-7626.

Best,



Jessica Todorovich  
Interim Secretary of Health  
Washington Department of Health

cc: Wendy Endress, Acting Chief of Staff, WA-DOH  
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH  
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