



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH
PO Box 47820 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7820
(360) 236-3000 • 711 Washington Relay Service

July 14, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

SUBJECT: Department of Health's New Climate and Health Section

In accordance with Chapter 43.376 RCW and the Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989, we invite collaboration with Indian tribes and tribal organizations in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affects Indian tribes and tribal people.

Please be advised that the Department of Health (DOH) has new resources through a Climate and Health Section in our Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences.

Purpose

The Climate and Health Section has a focus on increasing health equity through carbon reduction and climate adaptation. We are currently completing small grants that support climate change communications and engagement, county climate and health profiles, development of protocol for using portable air sensors during wildfire smoke events, and other adaptation planning work. We are interested in learning about opportunities to be a resource as tribal communities continue to address and adapt to climate impacts.

Anticipated Impact on Indians/Indian Health Programs/Urban Indian Health Organizations

Our goal is to work in partnership with tribal nations and tribal public health partners. We would appreciate any input or concerns you wish to share about how to ensure our work can have a positive impact on American Indian/Alaska Native people, Indian Health Programs, or Urban Indian Health Organizations.

Copies, Comments, and Questions

Our division will make copies of materials related to the Climate and Health Section's work upon your request as they become available. We also would appreciate any input or concerns that tribal representatives wish to share regarding this action. To request a copy of the materials specific to the action, or to provide comments, please contact Rad Cunningham, Program Manager and Senior Epidemiologist by telephone at 206-898-7661 or by email at rad.cunningham@doh.wa.gov.

Please contact Tamara Fife, our agency's Tribal Relations Director, by telephone at 360-870-8903 or by email at: tamara.fife@doh.wa.gov if you would like to request a formal consultation with the agency or if you have tribal-affairs related questions.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Johnson', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Laura Johnson, Director of the Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences

cc: Rad Cunningham, MPH, MPA
Lauren Jenks, MPH, CHES
Umair Shah, MD, MPH
Tamara Fife, MPH