

ANHB UPDATE



April 24, 2026

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STATE UPDATES



Notice of Tribal Consultation on PASRR Categorical Eligibility and Appendix K

On April 20, the Alaska Department of Health (DOH) issued [Notice of Tribal Consultation](#) on a proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) updating categorical eligibility for Preadmission Screening and Annual Resident Review in Nursing Facilities (PASARR), and updating the assessment tool cited in Appendix K to allow for the Department to transition to new assessment tools. If you would like ANHB to request a virtual “in-person” Tribal Consultation on this proposed SPA, please let ANHB know by May 1, 2026. Written comments on the SPA are due by close of business on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, to Eva Venema, Alaska Department of Health, 3601 C Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503, or eva.venema@alaska.gov.

RHTP Advisory Council Meeting

The Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) Advisory Council met on April 22 for the Alaska Department of Health (DOH) to share updates and hear feedback from the Council members. View the [meeting recording](#) and the [DOH update presentation slides](#). The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) holds the Tribal seat on the Advisory Council.

Operating Budget Moves to Senate

Last week, the Alaska House of Representatives passed [House Bill 263](#), its version of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 operating budget. Notably, the House version includes a \$33 million increase for Medicaid rates. [See a full summary](#) of what is in the House-passed version. This week, the Senate Finance Committee took up consideration of the operating budget, introducing a [first Committee Substitute \(CS\)](#) on April 22. The Senate’s CS further shrinks the size of the annual Permanent Fund dividend to avoid a deficit. Notably, the CS also removes funding for the Division of Public Assistance’s Virtual Contact Center, which streamlines the eligibility and application process for the state’s public assistance programs, including Medicaid.

Senate Approves Capital Budget

On April 21, the Alaska Senate passed [Senate Bill 214](#), the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Capital Budget. The capital budget, as distinct from the operating budget, covers infrastructure and facility construction and maintenance projects. The Senate’s version of the capital budget focuses on fixing deteriorating state buildings, including K-12 schools. The Senate version includes \$247 million in state general funds, up \$88 million from Governor Dunleavy’s initial proposal. The capital budget now goes to the House for consideration.

NIHB Strategic Planning Listening Session – Anchorage

2026 Meeting Dates

April 29-May 1, 2026

ANTHC Board of Directors Meeting
Anchorage, AK

April 30, 2026

Tribal CFO Workgroup
Anchorage, AK

May 1, 2026

Medicaid Task Force
Anchorage, AK

May 4, 2026

NIHB Strategic Planning Listening Session
Anchorage, AK

May 11-15, 2026

Final Negotiations
Anchorage, AK

May 12-13, 2026

Tribal Behavioral Health Directors Quarterly Meeting
Wrangell, AK

June 2-3, 2026

ANHB Quarterly Meeting
Sitka, AK

August 4-6, 2026

ANHB Mega Meeting
Anchorage, AK

August 16-21, 2026

NIHB Conference
Chandler, AZ

August 19-21, 2026

ANTHC Board of Directors Meeting
Anchorage, AK

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) will host an Anchorage listening session focused on their strategic planning process. The listening session will take place on May 4, 2026, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, at the Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center. [Register to attend.](#)

UAA and DOH Offer CAMS Trainings

Free Online Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS) is an evidence-based, suicide-focused treatment framework used to quickly reduce suicidal ideation. This model can be used from emergency rooms to private practice. The University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) has partnered with the Alaska Department of Health (DOH) to offer multiple trainings:

- [CAMS Part 1: Foundational Video Course \(3 credits\)](#)
- [CAMS Part 2: Live Online Role-Play Training \(7 credits\)](#)
- [CAMS Part 3: Live Online CAMS Consultation Calls](#)

Additionally, CAMS-4Teens™ is designed to provide guidance on adapting the CAMS Framework® for youth ages 12 and older. CAMS-4Teens™ is a 3-hour on-demand course exploring best practices in using the CAMs framework with teens and their parents. It is encouraged that participants take the 3-hour CAMS training prior to taking CAMs4Teens™. You can [register here.](#)

Registration Now Open for Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Conference: September 17-18, 2026

Registration for Improving Lives: The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Conference is now open. The conference will be held at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center on Thursday, September 17 and Friday, September 18, 2026. The Improving Lives Conference will meaningfully address behavioral health systems across Trust beneficiary groups and strengthen Alaska's continuum of care. The two-day conference will include plenary presentations and panel discussions, breakout sessions, exhibitors and resource tables, an evening reception, and several networking opportunities. [Register here.](#)

Registration Now Open for Pathways to Recovery Conference: May 12-14, 2026

Registration is now open for the [Pathways to Recovery Conference](#), which will take place from May 12-14, 2026, at the Hilton Downtown Hotel in Anchorage. Conference tracks include Overdose Prevention, Treatment & Recovery, and Connection to Care. This conference is co-hosted by the Alaska Department of Health, Division of Behavioral Health; the Alaska Behavioral Health Association; and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC). [Learn more and register here.](#)

Alaska MMIP Justice Summit and Red Dress Gala: May 27-29, 2026

The Missing, Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit (MMWIG2S) Alaska Working Group will host the Alaska MMIP Justice Summit and Red Dress Gala on May 27-29, 2026. This gathering is

November 18-20, 2026

ANTHC Board of Directors Meeting
Anchorage, AK

December 2, 2026

ANTHC Annual Meeting
Anchorage, AK

December 8-10, 2026

ANHB Annual Meeting & IHS Budget Formulation
Anchorage, AK

dedicated to addressing the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) through collaboration, education, healing, and justice-driven initiatives. The Alaska MMIP Justice Summit will take place on May 27-28 and the Red Dress Gala will take place on May 29. [Learn more and purchase tickets.](#)

Department of Family and Community Services Committee Vacancies

ANHB aims to be a mechanism for tribal consultation with the Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS). In that spirit, we are highlighting two current DFCS committee vacancies:

- Tribal Representative vacancy on the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC). More information and instructions on how to apply for the vacancy can be found [here](#).
- Western and Northern Alaska vacancies on the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). More information and instructions on how to apply for the vacancy can be found [here](#).

FEDERAL UPDATES



HHS Budget Formulation and STAC

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Annual Tribal Budget Consultation (ATBC) and the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting took place this week. HHS and Indian Health Service (IHS) leadership heard feedback from Tribal representatives on the President's proposed budget for HHS and IHS, as well as key issues such as the IHS proposed realignment. View the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 [President's Budget Request to Congress](#).

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Alaska Field Hearing

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA) will hold a field hearing session in Anchorage and Bethel. The Anchorage meeting, on May 5, will involve a roundtable discussion with representatives from Kipnuk and Kwigillingok focusing on their experiences following Typhoon Halong. The Bethel meeting, on May 6, hosted by the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC), will be a listening session for Tribal leaders that focuses on similar themes, including response, mitigation, resilience, and relocation programs serving Tribal communities.

Anchorage

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM (AKDT)

Location: Anchorage, AK (Location TBD)

Bethel

Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Hearing: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (AKDT)

Tribal Leader Listening Session: 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM (AKDT)

Location: Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation Blueberry Conference Room, 700 Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway, AK

House Appropriations Releases Budget Hearing Schedule

The House Appropriations Committee has released its Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget hearing and markup schedule. [View the schedule \(subject to change\)](#). The Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies – which includes the Indian Health Service (IHS) budget – will hold the Subcommittee Markup for the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Bill on Thursday, May 21, at 8:00 am ET. The Full Committee Markup is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, at 10:00 am ET.

IHS Releases Final Report on Tribal Consultation with HUD on Housing Infrastructure Needs and SFC Funding Restrictions

In an April 7 [Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#), the Indian Health Service (IHS) provided a final report on the December 16, 2024 Tribal consultation on whether to remove the restriction on using Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC) Program funding for sanitation facilities associated with Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-funded homes. The [consultation report](#) summarizes key policy considerations and background, Tribal feedback received during the consultation and through written comments, agency responses, and planned follow-up actions consistent with Indian Health Manual requirements. Ultimately, IHS recommended keeping the SFC program funding restriction.

IHS Releases Phase II Action Plan Update

On April 16, the Indian Health Service (IHS) released its [Phase II Action Plan](#), which provides an update on the agency's efforts to address the Government Accountability Office (GAO) high-risk designation and associated activities. The Phase II plan summarizes actions completed to date, those underway, and planned next steps, and how they correspond to the conditions of the GAO designation and its processes. This update follows the previously released December 2025 [Action Plan](#), which outlined the five areas of focus contributing to the GAO high-risk designation and their plan to address them. IHS will continue to provide updates and submit an end-of-FY 2026 Action Plan report to Tribes, UIOs, and the GAO, demonstrating the implementation process of the Phase II Action Plan and outlining next steps for FY2027.

CMS Schedules Listening Session on New Home and Community-Based Services Waiver

CMS has announced a National Listening Session on the new home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver in [Public Law 119 21](#). Effective July 2028, the new authority provides states another option for providing home and community-based services in Medicaid. The listening session will be held virtually on May 19, 2026, from 1:30-3:30 PM ET. [Register to attend and request a slot to provide oral/spoken comment](#). Registered participants who have not indicated their request to speak will not be permitted on the day. Comments can also be submitted to CMS at MedicaidReforms@cms.hhs.gov with the subject line "Comments on 1915(c)(11) Waiver Option".

The Voice of Alaska Tribal Health Since 1968

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