

ANHB UPDATE



September 25, 2026

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STATE UPDATES



RHTP Updates: Award Announcements & Anchorage Regional Planning Meeting

The Alaska Department of Health (DOH) continues to issue Year One funding awards while beginning to plan for the Year Two funding process. This week, ANHB attended the Anchorage Regional Planning Meeting, followed by a hybrid Applicant Convening focused on looking back at Year 1 lessons learned and ahead to Year 2. The RHTP Advisory Council also met on Wednesday of this week to discuss similar topics; a recording of the meeting can be found [here](#).

DOH continues to issue Year One funding announcements. A list of all projects awarded funding is available [here](#). To date, DOH has issued Notices of Intent to Award for a total of \$239 million in RHTP Year One funding. Approximately 28% of this funding has been awarded to ANHB members. ANHB will continue to analyze Year One funding as award announcements are made.

Notice of Tribal Consultation: Non-Citizen SPA

The Alaska Department of Health (DOH) has [announced a Tribal Consultation opportunity](#) on a proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) regarding changes to non-citizen Medicaid eligibility. These changes are in accordance with Section 71109 of the Working Families Tax Cut Act (WFTCA). Written comments regarding the proposed amendment are due no later than the close of business on **October 1st, 2026**, to Christal Hays, Alaska Department of Health, 3601 C Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503, or christal.hays@alaska.gov.

Notice of Proposed Changes: Behavioral Health 1115 Waiver Services Rates for Subacute Stabilization and Residential Services

The Alaska Department of Health (DOH) has released a Notice of Proposed Changes regarding regulatory revisions to Medicaid behavioral health 1115 waiver services rates for subacute stabilization and residential services. The regulatory changes are out for public comment with a deadline of October 21, 2026 for written comments. [View the public notice for more details.](#)

DOH and ANTHC Release Revised Healthy Alaskans 2030 State Health Assessment

On August 21, the Alaska Department of Health (DOH) and Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) released a [revised Healthy Alaskans 2030 State Health Assessment](#), a collaborative effort that identifies Alaska's most pressing health needs for the decade 2020-2030. The assessment serves as the foundation for

2026 Meeting Dates

September 28, 2026

ANHB Traditional Healing Workgroup
Virtual

October 2, 2026

U.S. Census Bureau Tribal Consultation
Virtual – [Register](#)

October 7, 2026

VA Alaska ITU Reimbursement Agreement Training and Utilization
Virtual

October 18-22, 2026

NCAI Annual Convention
Palm Springs, CA

October 22-24, 2026

Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention
Anchorage, AK

October 27, 2026

RHTP Regional Planning Meeting
Utqiagvik, AK

October 27-28, 2026

IHS CSC Advisory Workgroup
Sacramento, CA

October 28, 2026

ANHB CFO Workgroup
Anchorage, AK

October 29, 2026

Medicaid Task Force
Anchorage, AK

November 2, 2026

IHS National Tribal Advisory Committee

the [2030 State Health Improvement Plan](#), which tracks progress toward meeting those needs. The 2026 update includes some bad news, especially relating to obesity, childhood vaccination rates, and life expectancy. There is also some good news, including increased access to prenatal care, higher high school graduation rates, and decreased exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke. Alaska's state health improvement plan is the only one in the country led by a state-Tribal partnership.

FEDERAL UPDATES



U.S. Census Bureau Announces Tribal Consultation

The U.S. Census Bureau will hold a Tribal Consultation on **Friday, October 2, 2026**, from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM Alaska time (3:00 – 4:30 PM Eastern time) to hear from Tribal Leaders about the [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) issued on September 10, 2026. If adopted, the rule would fundamentally change how the 2030 census counts every person in the United States. Of particular note, the proposed rule would remove the Race/Ethnicity questions, thereby erasing all data about American Indian and Alaska Native populations in the country. This change would significantly impact funding for Indian Country and Alaska related to housing, community development, maternal health, and transportation. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) plans to put out a summary of the rulemaking and proposed talking points for the consultation and comment letters via NCAI.org. [Register for the October 2 Tribal Consultation here.](#)

GAO Issues Report on Tribal Water Infrastructure

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has completed a review of federal tribal water infrastructure assistance and released its report publicly. The report includes several recommendations to Congress, the Indian Health Service (IHS), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and other federal agencies. GAO conducted a site visit to Alaska as part of its review and met with ANHB membership in 2024. [Read the full report and recommendations here.](#)

Public Comment Opportunity: HRSA Tribal Consultation on 340B Drug Pricing Program Rebate Model Pilot

In an [August 28, 2026 Dear Tribal Leader Letter \(DTLL\)](#), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced Tribal Consultation on the proposed 340B drug pricing program rebate model pilot. The virtual Tribal Consultation session took place on September 16. However, HRSA will accept written testimony and comments at tribalconsultation@hrsa.gov through **October 1, 2026**.

On August 3, 2026, HRSA published a [revised 340B Rebate Model Pilot Program via the Federal Register](#). HRSA originally announced

(NTAC) on Behavioral Health
Virtual

November 17, 2026

RHTP Regional Planning Meeting
Juneau, AK

November 18-20, 2026

ANTHC Board of Directors Meeting
Anchorage, AK

December 2, 2026

ANTHC Annual Meeting
Anchorage, AK

December 8-9, 2026

HHS STAC Meeting
Washington, DC

December 8-10, 2026

ANHB Annual Meeting & IHS Budget Formulation
Anchorage, AK

2027 Meeting Dates

February 9-11, 2026

ANHB Mega Meeting
Juneau, AK

March 23-24, 2027

ATHC Pre-Negotiations
Anchorage, AK

May 10-14, 2027

ATHC Final Negotiations
Anchorage, AK

a pilot program in July 2025 but withdrew the proposal after it was challenged in federal court. In February 2026, the agency issued a Request for Information seeking stakeholder feedback on the potential use of rebates to effectuate 340B ceiling prices. The Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) [submitted comments](#) urging HRSA to exempt Indian Health Providers from any rebate model due to the unique federal trust responsibility and operational impacts on Tribal health programs. The revised pilot retains the core structure of the 2025 proposal while adding some operational safeguards and reporting requirements.

IHS Initiates Tribal Consultation on Loan Repayment Program

In a [September 24, 2026 Dear Tribal Leader Letter \(DTLL\)](#), the Indian Health Service (IHS) announced Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer on modernizing the Loan Repayment Program (LRP). The IHS seeks feedback on LRP application requirements, recommendations for simplifying or improving the application and annual reporting processes while maintaining the appropriate program accountability, and requests input with identifying potential deficiencies, barriers, or unnecessary burdens associated with the IHS LRP. The deadline to provide written comments is **October 23**. Comments can be submitted to consultation@ihs.gov.

IHS to Hold Listening Session on Health Care Facilities Construction Priority System

In a [September 24, 2026 Dear Tribal Leader Letter \(DTLL\)](#), the Indian Health Service (IHS) announced it will be holding an informational listening session on the IHS Health Care Facilities Construction Priority System and the remaining projects on the IHS Facilities Construction Priority List. The listening session will take place on **October 20** from 4:30 – 6:00 PM PDT, during the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Annual Convention and Marketplace in Palm Springs, California.

Congress Passes Continuing Resolution Extending Government Funding to December 11, 2026

On September 1, the House of Representatives passed a short-term [continuing resolution](#) (CR) to extend federal government funding to December 11, 2026. The Senate previously passed the CR in early August by a wide margin before sending it to the House. The President signed the CR into law on September 2. In addition to continuing funding for government programs, the CR contains a provision delaying implementation of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) [proposed rule](#) to revise 2 C.F.R. Part 200's Uniform Guidance, which would affect changes to the federal grantmaking process and has seen broad push-back.

VA Schedules Alaska ITU Reimbursement Agreement Training and Utilization

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) ITU Reimbursement Agreement Program Office along with the Alaska VA Health Care

System (VAHCS) and Western Region Payment Operations will be providing a training session to Alaska Tribal health program staff that provide healthcare services to eligible Veterans. The office also intends to gather feedback on agreement utilization, challenges, and issues. This meeting will take place on **October 7, 2026**, from 9:00 to 11:30 AM [over Microsoft Teams](#).

IHS September 9, 2026 Dear Tribal Leader Letter

On September 9, 2026, the Indian Health Service (IHS) issued a [Dear Tribal Leader Letter \(DTLL\)](#) with updates on the recent passage of the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2027, and clarifications on its impact on IHS funding. IHS will begin to distribute Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 funds to IHS programs, Tribal Health Programs, and Urban Indian Organizations on October 1, 2026. Because IHS receives advance appropriations, the Continuing Resolution (CR) passed on September 2 impacts only activities that did not receive advance appropriations, which include health care facilities and sanitation facilities construction among others. Under the CR, IHS also has the authority to fully fund all Contract Support Costs and Payments for Tribal Leases due during the Continuing Resolution period.

OTHER UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Funding Opportunity: ANTHC Behavioral Health Youth & Family Prevention Subaward RFP

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) Behavioral Health Department has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Healing Pathways for Strong Communities (HPSC) Youth & Family Prevention Subaward. Through funding provided by the SAMHSA Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) grant, ANTHC will award approximately \$375,000 annually to support community-driven prevention initiatives that strengthen youth, families, and communities through culturally grounded approaches to wellness, resilience, and substance misuse prevention. Eligible applicants include Tribes, Tribal organizations, and community-based organizations serving Alaska Native/American Indian (AN/Al) youth and families. [See the full RFP for more information.](#)

BBAHC President/CEO Robert J. Clark Announces Retirement

Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC) President/CEO Robert J. Clark has announced his retirement following more than five decades of service. ANHB thanks Mr. Clark for his many years of service and for his dedicated advocacy on behalf of the BBAHC region as well as the entire Alaska Tribal Health System through his role as Chair of the Association of Tribal Health Directors. BBAHC has shared that the Board of Directors is leading a thoughtful transition process focused on maintaining leadership continuity, operational stability, and meaningful engagement with employees,

Tribal leaders, communities, and other stakeholders. [View BBAHC's full press release here.](#)

ANTHC Announces Transfer of Ownership of ANMC

On September 4, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) announced that the Indian Health Service (IHS) has officially transferred ownership of the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) to ANTHC. ANHB congratulates ANTHC, Southcentral Foundation, and the Alaska Tribal Health System on this historic achievement. The transfer of ownership took decades to secure and was achieved thanks to the advocacy of Tribal leaders and the Alaska Tribal Health System. For more details on the transfer of ownership of ANMC, [read ANTHC's media release here.](#)

ANHB Workgroups

ANHB encourages participation in its workgroups. Please see below a list of current ANHB workgroups. If you would like yourself or someone from your team added to any of these workgroups, please let us know by emailing anhb@anhb.org. If you have questions about workgroup focus or time commitment, please reach out to us as well.

- **Medicaid Task Force (MTF):** Convenes in May and October with the Alaska Department of Health (DOH) to address Medicaid issues and the Medicaid Open Items list.
- **Medicaid Eligibility Workgroup:** Monthly workgroup with the Alaska Department of Health to address the Medicaid application backlog, Division of Public Assistance (DPA) modernization, and related areas of concern.
- **Medicaid Travel Policy Workgroup:** Quarterly or ad-hoc workgroup with the Alaska Department of Health focused on Medicaid travel issues at the policy level.
- **Tribal CFO Workgroup:** Monthly or quarterly workgroup of Tribal CFOs and policy analysts regarding common issues including Appendix A.
- **Legislative Committee:** Develops ANHB's State and Federal policy priorities annually in fall and winter. Meets weekly during State Legislative Session to formulate ANHB advocacy strategies and build consensus on state and federal engagement.
- **Rural Health Transformation Program Workgroup:** Ad-hoc Tribal workgroup focused on shared concerns around the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP).
- **Village Built Clinic Workgroup:** Ad-hoc workgroup with the Indian Health Service (IHS) on funding for Village Built Clinics (VBCs).
- **HR 1 Workgroup:** Bi-weekly workgroup to share knowledge and build consensus around Tribal priorities related to the implementation of H.R. 1 and engage with the Alaska Department of Health.
- **Traditional Healing Workgroup:** Joint workgroup with the Alaska Department of Health on amendment of Alaska's 1115 waiver to allow for Traditional Healing services.

The Voice of Alaska Tribal Health Since 1968

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