# 2023 State Legislative Priorities

Seattle Indian Health Board (SIHB) ensures the health and well-being of urban American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities by providing culturally attuned healthcare and human services; conducting data research through its research division, Urban Indian Health Institute; and collaborating with tribal, community, and local partners.

### Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP)

**Address violence against Native women and people.**
- Support HB 1177/SB 5137: Establishing a cold case investigation unit under the Attorney General to support MMIWP.
- Renew and extend the MMWIP Task Force through June 30, 2025.
- Support an $8.3 million investment for Indigenous survivors of human trafficking to enhance access to wraparound services.

### Indian Health Care

**Address healthcare system disparities.**
- Support a $1 million budget request for SIHB’s detox center.
- Support a $305,039 budget request for expansion of SIHB’s dental services.
- Provide $12.4 million from the Distributor Opioid Abatement Settlement Account for tribal communities.
- Support HB 1348/SB 5189: Establishing behavioral health support specialists.
- Protect the 340b program and high-priced pharmaceutical drugs from being carved out of Medicaid Managed Care.
- Permanently extend telehealth provisions for Medicaid reimbursement.
- Support the authorization of Dental Therapists.
- Support the reimbursement of Traditional Health Services.*
- Support dual certification and licensing of behavioral health practitioners.
- Invest in community-based behavioral health infrastructure.

### Economic Empowerment

**Address inequities in the distribution of wealth.**
- Support HB 1399: Establishing a Native American scholarship program.
- Support HB 1045: Establishing a Guaranteed Basic Income.
- Support HB 1075/SB 5249: Expanding the Working Families Tax Credit.

---

**Supporting Priorities**

**Urban Indian Health**
- Improve coordination with the Indian Behavioral Health System.
- Exclude tribal data from public records requests made to state agencies.
- Support developing tribal and urban Indian community toolkits for suicide prevention.
- Support developing cross-system Native-focused home visiting projects.
- Support reproductive rights in carceral settings.

**Community Health Centers (CHC)**
- Increase investments in the Washington Health Corps for recruiting primary care and behavioral health providers.
- Request CHCs keep overpayments made by the Health Care Authority.
- Support a one-time request to hold clinics harmless when they missed targets due to extraordinary pandemic response needs in their communities.

**Housing**
- Support SB 5202/HB 1149: Using capital expenditures to reduce homelessness.
- Support SB 5118: Promoting low-income housing development.
- Invest $400 million into the Housing Trust Fund.

**Healthy Food Access**
- Support HB 1238/SB 5339: Providing free school meals for all K-12 students.
- Increase state investment in the SNAP program.
- Request increased funding to support Washington’s Food Banks.

---

*SIHB implemented a first-of-its-kind Traditional Indian Medicine reimbursement pilot thanks to a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) block grant received by the Washington State Department of Health.