

2024 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 our research division, Urban Indian Health Institute; and collaborating with tribal and community partners.

Indian Health Care

Address healthcare system disparities.

- Support a \$1 million appropriation from the Local and Community Project: Behavioral Health Facilities program for the renovation of our 92-bed inpatient facility, Thunderbird Treatment Center.
- Support HB 1877: Improving coordination and recognition with the Indian Behavioral Health System.
- Support HB 2075: Concerning licensing of Indian health care providers as establishments.
- Support HB 2350/SB 6172: Requiring birth doulas demonstrate knowledge related to culturally congruent care for certification.
- Secure additional funding for Apple Health Expansion to provide all eligible individuals with access to coverage.
- Support investments in the Tribal Foundational Public Health Services program.
- Protect the 340b program and high-priced pharmaceutical drugs from being carved out of Medicaid Managed Care.
- Support the reimbursement of traditional health services through Medicaid and managed care organizations (MCOs)*.
- Support dual certification and licensing of behavioral health practitioners.
- Invest in community-based behavioral health infrastructure.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP)

Address violence against Native women and people.

- Support SB 6186: Concerning disclosure of certain recipient locations to the Washington state patrol.
- Support HB 1555/SB 5642: Concerning extradition of persons to and from Indian jurisdiction.

Economic Empowerment

Address inequities in the distribution of wealth.

- Support HB 1045: Creating the evergreen basic income pilot program.
- Support HB 1094/SB 5125: Creating the Washington future fund program.
- Support HB 1075/SB 5249: Expanding eligibility for the Working Families' Tax Credit to everyone age 18 and older.
- Increase funding for cash assistance programs

Supporting Priorities

Community Health Centers (CHC)

- Invest \$4 million in the operating budget to expand funding for the Department of Health's school-based health center (SBHC) grant program.
- Invest \$1.2 million in the capital budget to fund three SBHC capital projects in five districts.
- Invest \$752,190 in capital funding for new and expanded oral health facilities at four community health centers.
- Increase investments in the Washington Health Corps for recruiting primary care and behavioral health providers.

Housing

- Support HB 2114: Improving housing stability for tenants.
- Support HB 1388: Prohibiting predatory residential rent practices.
- Increase investments in the Washington State Housing Trust Fund to increase the availability of affordable housing.
- Invest in shelters to maintain bed capacity despite the loss of American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Healthy Food Access

- Increase state investment in the SNAP program.
- Increase funding to support Washington's Food Banks.

*SIHB implemented a first-of-its-kind Traditional Indian Medicine reimbursement pilot.

