2022 State Legislative Priorities

Seattle Indian Health Board (SIHB) ensures the health and well-being of urban American Indian and Alaska Native 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 Girls (MMIWG)**

Address violence against Native women and girls.
- Support HB 1725 Concerning the creation of an endangered missing person advisory designation for missing Indigenous persons.

**Indian Health Care**

Address healthcare system disparities.
- Support a $3 million capital budget request for facility acquisition and construction for the relocation of SIHB's Substance Use Disorder (SUD) inpatient treatment facility, Thunderbird Treatment Center.
- Support the authorization of Dental Therapists Initiative to provide urban American Indian and Alaska Native people and low-income and rural communities with high-quality dental care.
- Amend the Indian Behavioral Health Act to update involuntary commitment laws to include tribal governments.
- Support the inclusion of tribal administrations in Long-Term Services and Support Program.

**American Indian and Alaska Native Relationship Priorities**

Honor trust and treaty obligations to Native citizens.
- Amend the Public Records Act to exempt tribal and American Indian and Alaska Native data to support Indigenous Data Sovereignty.
- Support legislation to create an engagement process between state agencies and urban Native organizations.

**Foundational Public Health Services**

Fund foundational public health systems.
- Support $147 million with a plan to sustainably scale up to $450 million each biennium from the Department of Health’s Foundational Public Health Services budget.

**Supporting Priorities**

**Urban Indian Health**
- Support HB 1881: Creating a new health profession for birth doulas.
- Support SB 5129: Concerning the possession of vapor, vapor products, and tobacco.
- Continue investment in culturally attuned programming including Traditional Indian Medicine.*
- Invest in behavioral healthcare workforce.
- Invest in Community Health Centers (CHC).
- Support dual licensure of mental health and substance use counselors.

**Housing Stability and Affordability**
- Support HB 1866: Apple Health and Homes Act to prescribe individuals with housing.
- Invest $400 million from the capital budget in affordable housing.
- Fully fund the implementation of HB 1220 supporting emergency shelters and housing.

**Economic Well-being**
- Support HB 1861/SB 5752: Creating the Washington Future Fund Trust Fund Program.
- Invest $5 million for the Working Families Tax Credit.
- Support fixes to WorkFirst Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

*SIHB is implementing a first-of-its-kind Traditional Indian Medicine reimbursement pilot thanks to a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Mental Health block grant received by the Department of Health