

CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE GOOD HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN INDIAN COUNTRY FUNDING

POSITION STATEMENT

The 21 Member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA) support FY2027 funding for the Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC) program at \$30 million. The GHWIC program is funded through the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the purpose of improving American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribal health, focused on health promotion and chronic disease prevention.

KEY POINTS

-  The FY2026 President Budget request proposed **eliminating the NCCDPPH** and associated funding for the GHWIC program.
-  The GHWIC initiative supports traditional, community-chosen activities to **build resilience and strengthen connection to culture**.
-  The GWHIC strategies improve health outcomes through:
 - Food Access
 - Diabetes Prevention
 - Cultural Connectedness
 - Policies, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) Changes



BACKGROUND

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) has been a recipient of the GHWIC cooperative agreement since fiscal year 2014 and has served twenty-four (24) Tribes in the Phoenix-Tucson Indian Health Service Region. ITCA provides direct funding to seven (7) Tribes in Arizona, four (4) Tribes in Nevada, and one (1) Tribe in Utah totaling over \$700,000 in fiscal year 2025-2026. ITCA coordinates and provides work group meetings, trainings, technical assistance, Community of Practice calls, webinars, and site visits to support all 12 Tribal subawardees.

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Position Statement

The 21 Member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA) supports FY2027 funding for the Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC) program at \$30 million. The GHWIC program is funded through the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP), for the purpose of improving American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribal health, focused on health promotion and chronic disease prevention.

Key Points

- The FY2026 President Budget request proposed eliminating the NCCDPHP and associated funding for the GHWIC program. Congress supported the office and increased funding for the GHWIC program at \$27 million.
- The GHWIC initiative supports traditional, community-chosen activities to build resilience and strengthen connection to culture. In addition, it establishes and enhances clinical care linkages, and multi-disciplinary team-based care working with clinical and community resources.
- The GWHIC strategies improves health outcomes through:
 - **Food Access:** According to the Office of Minority Health, from 2016-2021, American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) households were over two and half times likely to experience very low food security, as households nationwide. In this same report, adults who face food insecurity are 2-3 times more likely to develop type 2 diabetes.
 - **Diabetes Prevention:** The CDC's National Diabetes Statistics Report for 2023, indicated diabetes among American Indian's were the highest (13.6%) among the Nation's population.
 - **Cultural connectedness:** According to the 2023 Surgeon General's Advisory on the *Healing Effects of Social Connectedness and Community*, communities with stronger social connectedness experience better health outcomes, attract new partnerships, and show increased participation in public health activities
 - **Policies, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) Changes:** Implementing and strengthening policy to expand access to healthier foods, address commercial tobacco use, support workplace breastfeeding, and improve community environments to create safe spaces for families to gather and exercise, play a critical role in promoting and sustaining healthy behaviors.

Background

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) has been a recipient of the GHWIC cooperative agreement since fiscal year 2014 and has served twenty-four (24) Tribes in the Phoenix-Tucson Indian Health Service Region. ITCA currently provides direct funding to seven (7) Tribes in Arizona, four (4) Tribes in Nevada, and one (1) Tribe in Utah totaling over \$700,000 in fiscal year 2025-2026 to implement activities under the three GHWIC strategies. In addition, ITCA coordinates and provides work group meetings, trainings, technical assistance, Community of Practice calls, webinars, and site visits to support all 12 Tribal subawardees.