

DEDICATED AND SUSTAINED FUNDING STREAMS FOR TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS INCLUDING PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NEW WORLD SCREWORM

POSITION STATEMENT

The 21 Member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA) strongly request that preparedness funding and other resources that support New World Screwworm (NWS) surveillance, prevention, and control, be made available to Tribes to protect the public's health on Tribal Lands from this current emerging threat. Tribes should have equal opportunity to enhance infrastructure by bolstering local NWS control programs.

KEY POINTS

-  **Prioritize Tribal NWS preparedness** as part of the H.R.3806 "New World Screwworm Preparedness Act of 2025" (119th Congress).
-  **Provide NWS facilities** under the "Strengthening Tactics to Obstruct the Population of Screwworms Act" or the "STOP Screwworms Act" (H.R.3392, S.1751) (119th Congress).
-  **Include NWS prevention and mitigation veterinary strategies** within the Veterinary Services to Improve Public Health in Rural Communities Act to support Tribal NWS preparedness efforts (119th Congress).



BACKGROUND

The Department of Homeland Security, National Biosurveillance Integration Center, reported in February 2025 that NWS has emerged 100 miles from Laredo, Texas, in Eastern Mexico, and 1,500 miles from the Mexico/Arizona border in Calima, Mexico. In Arizona, several Tribes live along and within a few hundred miles of the border and have Tribal Members that reside in Mexico, and/or travel frequently across the border for family and cultural reasons. Tribes in Arizona need equal access for NWS prevention, control, and treatment by including Tribal Governments and jurisdictions.

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Position Statement

The 21 Member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA) strongly requests that preparedness funding and other resources that support New World Screwworm (NWS) surveillance, prevention, and control, be made explicitly and directly available to Tribes in order to protect warm-blooded animals and the public's health on Tribal Lands from this current emerging threat. Tribes should have equal opportunity to enhance infrastructure by bolstering local NWS control programs to support preparedness, and, in the same manner as States, counties, cities, and territories. This could be accomplished, in part, by:

Key Points

- Prioritizing Tribal NWS preparedness at the same level as other jurisdictions as part of the H.R.3806 “New World Screwworm Preparedness Act of 2025” (119th Congress).
- Providing Tribes with equal access to establish NWS facilities, including sterile fly facilities, under the “Strengthening Tactics to Obstruct the Population of Screwworms Act” or the “STOP Screwworms Act” (H.R.3392, S.1751) (119th Congress).
- Including NWS prevention and mitigation veterinary strategies (i.e., fly and myiasis surveillance, all warm blooded animal NWS prevention strategies, and treatment strategies for all warm blooded animals) within the Veterinary Services to Improve Public Health in Rural Communities Act to support Tribal NWS preparedness efforts (119th Congress).
- Providing Tribes direct access to Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement funds and associated supplemental funds via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). PHEP funds are directly available to states, local governments or the bona fide agents in four major metropolitan areas, and United States (US) territories and freely associated states, but not all Tribes.
- Passing CDC PHEP funds through the states’ to Tribes is not an efficient method to address Tribal public health emergencies and prevent deaths.
- Strengthening Tribal public health infrastructure and protect the public health by supporting S.1995 – Public Health Infrastructure Saves Lives Act (118th Congress), which includes a 3% funding set-aside for Tribal Health Departments and Epidemiology Centers.

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