

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST: NATIVE AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTERS FOR HEALTH

POSITION STATEMENT

The 21 Member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA) support continued, sustained, and increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) program. The NARCH program is essential to advancing Tribal-led, culturally grounded research that improves health outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.

KEY POINTS



Reduces Health Disparities: NARCH supports Tribal-led research that directly addresses health inequities in AI/AN communities.



Develops the AI/AN Workforce: NARCH provides training and mentorship opportunities that increase AI/AN representation in biomedical, behavioral, and public health careers.



Improves Health Outcomes: Research supported by NARCH leads to culturally appropriate, evidence-based interventions that improve the health and well-being of Tribal members.



BACKGROUND

NARCH funding enables Tribes and the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. to develop research capacity, infrastructure, and leadership. In Arizona, the NARCH program has strengthened partnerships with the Arizona Tri-Universities. The program ensures research is ethical, community-driven, and aligned with Tribal priorities. The President's FY2026 budget request included a proposal to reduce the National Institute of Health budget by over 40% from the previous year, reducing funding for programs such as NARCH.

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Position on Issue:

The 21 Member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA) support continued, sustained, and increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), and the Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) program. The NARCH program is essential to advancing Tribal-led, culturally grounded research that improves health outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities. NARCH grants are used by Tribal governments and Tribal organizations to form research partnerships between Tribes and academic institutions, and workforce development programs for AI/AN students in biomedical and public health fields.

Key Points

- **Reduces Health Disparities:** NARCH supports Tribal-led research that directly addresses health inequities in AI/AN communities by aligning research with community-identified priorities.
- **Builds Trusted Research Partnerships:** The program strengthens collaborations between Tribes and research institutions, creating a network of scientists and professionals committed to AI/AN health.
- **Develops the AI/AN Workforce:** NARCH provides training and mentorship opportunities that increase AI/AN representation in biomedical, behavioral, and public health careers.
- **Improves Health Outcomes:** Research supported by NARCH leads to culturally appropriate, evidence-based interventions that improve the health and well-being of Tribal members.
- **Supports Tribal Sovereignty:** NARCH empowers Tribes to lead research efforts, maintain ownership of data, and build sustainable research infrastructure.

Background

NARCH funding enables Tribes and the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. to develop research capacity, infrastructure, and leadership. In Arizona, the NARCH program has strengthened partnerships with the Arizona Tri-Universities, advancing Tribal health research, and training the next generation of AI/AN scientists. The program ensures research is ethical, community-driven, and aligned with Tribal priorities. The President's FY2026 budget request included a proposal to reduce the National Institute of Health budget by over 40% from the previous year, reducing funding for programs such as NARCH.