

Indian Health Program (IHP) Activities

Health and Safety Code 124575 through 124595 directs DHCS to maintain a program for American Indians and their families. To meet these mandates, the IHP provides technical assistance and training to American Indian health clinics. IHP also coordinates with similar programs of the federal government, other states, and voluntary programs and conducts studies on the health and health services available to American Indians and their families throughout the state per the statute. Additionally, IHP administers the American Indian Infant Health Initiative (AIHI) and manages a Tribal Emergency Preparedness program via an inter-agency agreement with the California Department of Public Health-Emergency Preparedness Office (CDPH-EPO).

Highlights of IHP's Activities Include:

- Training and technical assistance via site visits, webinars, and phone consultation to clinics on quality assurance/improvement, infection control, licensing and certification issues, program development, billing, and accreditation
- Administrative support for the American Indian Health Policy Panel (AIHPP). The AIHPP is a mandated advisory body that provides advice regarding the level of resources, priorities, criteria, and guidelines for improving the health status of American Indians in California
- Emergency preparedness training and on-site technical assistance to Indian Health clinics and communities on surge capacity, assessing unique risks and threats, incident command systems, building community partnerships, developing collaborations with local public health officers, developing continuity of operations plans, working effectively with tribal governments, and developing individual clinic emergency plans
- Provides information and seeks input from Tribes and Indian health clinics on proposed changes to the Medi-Cal program as required by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 utilizing various communication methods including written notifications, webinars, face-to-face meetings, and teleconferences
- Maintains list serve of Tribes and Indian health clinic designees for dissemination of information and funding opportunities
- Responsible for Medi-Cal administrative functions including assisting in the development of Medi-Cal policies affecting Indian health programs, review of Medi-Cal provider manual updates, Medi-Cal system changes, bill analysis, and annual tribal health clinic rate changes
- Research and development of Indian health clinic Medi-Cal utilization profile
- Provides presentations on Indian health related Medi-Cal and DHCS activities to Indian health programs, tribal stakeholders, and federal partners