



About the Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty (CTS)

Who We Are. The Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty (CTS) is a unified alliance of more than 30 non-profit Tribal organizations across the United States, as well as several additional ally entities, serving Tribal Nations, Tribal citizens, and Tribal communities. Some CTS member Tribal organizations advocate on behalf of specific Tribal Nation members nationally or regionally, and some advocate on behalf of Indian Country in enumerated subject matter areas. All CTS member Tribal organizations are committed to advancing the inherent sovereign rights and authorities of Tribal Nations and ensuring the United States fulfills its trust and treaty obligations. Many also provide programmatic services and technical assistance to their Tribal Nation members. CTS was formed in the spirit of unity in a moment that demands coordination and cooperation, and all member Tribal organizations share in the leadership and responsibilities of the effort.

How We Were Formed. CTS member Tribal organizations began collaborating in the early weeks of the second Trump term to address impacts of the Administration's broad, sweeping actions. These actions inadvertently undermined Tribal sovereignty and the United States' trust and treaty obligations—despite the Administration's policy priorities being unrelated to us. Initially formed as the Coalition Group, the Tribal organizations put a more formal structure in place, rebranded, and formally launched the Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty in April of 2025, affirming their commitment to unified advocacy and rapid response.

Our Purpose. CTS serves as a powerful collective voice engaging with federal law and policy makers on behalf of Indian Country. CTS offers a framework that enables Tribal organizations to build consensus on key messages, thereby allowing them to speak with a unified voice on behalf of Indian Country to the Administration and other stakeholders. The goals of CTS are to: (1) offer a strong educational foundation regarding the origins, basis, and principles of Tribal Nation-U.S. diplomatic relations; and (2) proactively get a seat at the table to influence policy decisions in a manner that promotes and protects Tribal Nations' inherent sovereign rights and interests.

Our Message. CTS communicates the following message to the Administration regarding collateral impacts on Tribal programs.

- Indian Country is being unintentionally swept up in the Administration's broad implementation of its unrelated policy priorities.
- Tribal programs are distinct from other federal programs. They fulfill the United States' trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations, Tribal citizens, and Tribal communities—obligations for which we prepaid with our lands and resources. These obligations are political in nature.
- We have important shared priorities with the Administration that we would like to pursue in partnership, but we have been using all our energy to protect existing Tribal programs from inadvertent harm.
- We have four requests that we believe will help protect existing Tribal programs: first, engage in Tribal consultation—*prior* to taking action—to better understand where within the federal government direct and essential services and funding are being provided to Indian Country and how to uphold ongoing legal obligations to Tribal Nations; second, affirm in writing that federal services and funding delivered to Tribal Nations and Tribal citizens and communities are provided in recognition of our unique political status and in furtherance of the United States' trust and treaty obligations and related statutory mandates; third, exempt from pauses or reductions all federal funding and services delivered in fulfillment of trust and treaty obligations; and last, exempt from workforce reductions or hiring freezes all federal employees whose roles deliver on trust and treaty obligations.

