



September 5, 2025

Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Street SW
Washington, DC 20201

Sent electronically to: secretary@hhs.gov

RE: Indian Country Request for Information

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

On behalf of the undersigned Tribal organization members of the Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty (CTS), we write to request information and data about the status of federal funding streams and federal workforces that deliver on the United States' trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations, Tribal citizens, and Tribal communities.

All presidential transitions bring with them significant changes in personnel, policy, and procedure, and the first six months of the Trump Administration have also brought such changes. In fact, if anything, the current Administration has undertaken and more quickly implemented more changes than previous administrations. The net effect has, in some cases, been a lack of reliable information about certain aspects of federal agency operations that the Tribal Nation governments, Tribal citizens, and Tribal communities our organizations serve rely upon to make informed decisions.

As you are aware, the United States delivers on its trust and treaty obligations through a patchwork of programs, services, and funding streams, which not only include strictly "Tribal programs," but other, broader programs and services that Indian Country relies upon as well. It is for that reason we are requesting a broad dataset from HHS to truly assess the full scope of impacts to Indian Country. In an effort to ensure that Tribal Nations and Tribal-serving organizations have the most updated and accurate information available to make informed decisions, we respectfully request the most current data, guidance, and information on the following:

- Each funding stream administered by HHS including federal grants—that was paused or frozen, is frozen, or is likely to be frozen in the future, and the current status of each of those funding streams, including their amount and dates of their pauses.
- Each funding stream administered by HHS that is a new funding opportunity, but for which no notice has gone out because they are under review.
- Each funding stream and program administered by HHS that has been terminated or has a planned termination, their termination dates, and the current status of each of those funding streams and programs, including the amount of funding remaining at the time of termination or expected to remain at the time of termination.
- The status of the HHS workforce especially with respect to federal staff who work on programs serving Tribal Nations, Tribal citizens, or Tribal communities, including a list of those offices and the positions within them when fully staffed. Please include information

about currently filled positions, positions that used to be filled but are currently vacant, an indication of whether any of those now-terminated or vacant positions are expected to be reinstated with any applicable timelines for said reinstatements, and a list of any positions that are expected to become vacant in the future with any applicable timelines as to when that is expected to take place.

- Any planned reorganizations of HHS that would eliminate, consolidate, or move offices or programs, especially with respect to offices or programs that serve Tribal Nations, Tribal citizens, or Tribal communities.
- Any additional information and data on changes HHS is considering or has already undertaken that may impact programs serving Tribal Nations, Tribal citizens, or Tribal communities.

Thank you for taking the time to consider and respond to these requests. We stand ready to answer any questions you may have about them or otherwise assist in getting updated and accurate information to Indian Country.

Sincerely,

American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)
Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association (GPTCA)
National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA)
National Indian Head Start Directors Association (NIHSDA)
National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC)
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB)
United South & Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF)