

April 2025

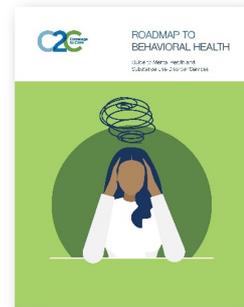
Spotlight: Coverage for SUD services

Marketplace plans cover substance use disorder (SUD) services as essential health benefits. Visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) for more information about the Marketplace coverage benefits and protections available to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Need an outreach and education resource to help bolster efforts addressing the U.S. opioid crisis? Download the [Roadmap to Behavioral Health: Guide to Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services](#) (PDF, 738 KB, 21 pp). Revised earlier this year, the guide:

- Lists common signs of a behavioral health condition
- Explains how to choose a behavioral health care provider and schedule an appointment
- Provides a checklist to use when preparing for that appointment
- Offers tips for staying on the road to recovery

In March 2025, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) renewed the public health emergency for the national opioid crisis. HHS made the initial declaration in October 2017 and extended it for the first time in December 2024. Such extensions allow HHS to continue expanded options in response to the opioid crisis.



April: National Infant Immunization Week

Babies need immunizations, too!

Babies should be immunized based on a schedule that spans the first several years of their lives to get protection from preventable diseases, like polio, measles, hepatitis B, and meningitis.

During their next well-child visit, ask your Indian health care provider what your baby needs to stay protected so you can enjoy all the snuggles with peace of mind.

Visit [HealthCare.gov/coverage](https://www.healthcare.gov/coverage) or call **1-800-318-2596**.



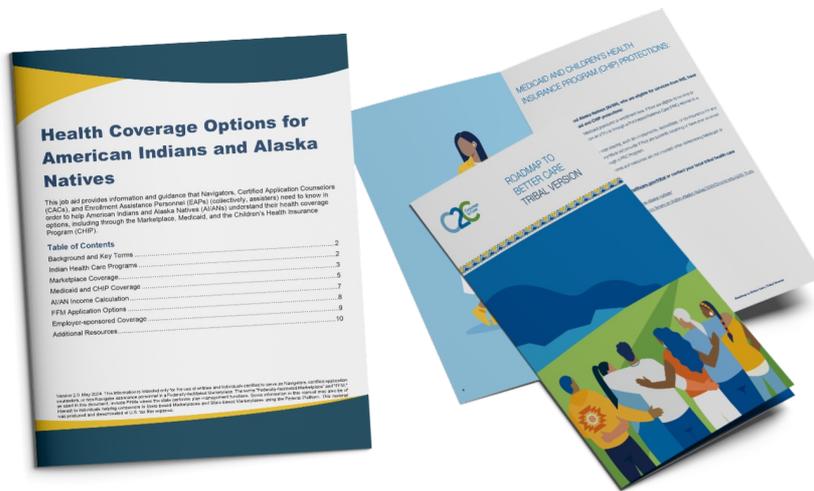
Share this ad in your newsletter or on your website. For more information, please visit CMS's [Outreach and Education Resources page](#).

 Post it

Need help keeping track of your child's vaccines? Contact your Indian health care provider today.

#CMSNativeHealth

CMS tribal products



Access these online, tribal-specific resources anytime:

- [Health Coverage Options for American Indians and Alaska Natives](#) (PDF, 208 KB, 10 pp) provides an overview of certain tribal protections in the Marketplace, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program.
- The [tribal version of the Roadmap to Better Care](#) (PDF, 3.3 MB, 27 pp) explains what health care coverage is and how to use it to stay well.

Health observances

National Infant Immunization Week: April 21–28

In observance of National Infant Immunization Week, share [strategies to help make routine vaccination visits less stressful](#) (PDF, 214 KB, 1 p) for young children and their caregivers.

Found at [VaccineInformation.org](#), a project of [Immunize.org](#), the strategies include:

- **Before the visit** – To decrease injection pain, consider applying a numbing cream where the child will be receiving the vaccine. Apply the cream about 30–60 minutes before the injection.
- **During the visit** – Speak calmly and confidently about what is happening and why it's important.
- **During the vaccination** – Hold the child and distract them with something like a story, song, or picture.
- **After the visit** – Consider giving the child medicine to help with pain or fever, if needed.

Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program cover childhood immunizations. For more information, visit [Medicaid.gov](#) and or [HealthCare.gov](#)

Additional resources

Protecting people from hantavirus infection

In Colorado, New Mexico, and other western states, deer mice carry a strain of hantavirus that may spread to people and have potentially dangerous health consequences.

Inhaling airborne hantavirus particles from mouse droppings increases our risk for illness, which may quickly become life-threatening. Because specific treatment for hantavirus isn't available, prevention is key.

[The Navajo Epidemiology Center's short YouTube video](#) provides the following recommendations to help protect people from hantavirus infection:

- Seal up homes to keep mice out
- Wear gloves, use disinfectant, and take other precautions when cleaning up mouse

- droppings
- Avoid disturbing logs and trees where mice like to nest
- Store garbage away from the house

Notably, [the Healthy Homes, Healthy People program](#) has successfully reduced Navajo Nation residents' risk of exposure to hantavirus.

If you suspect you or a family member may have hantavirus, immediately contact your Indian health care provider for help to reduce the risk of spreading the virus to others.

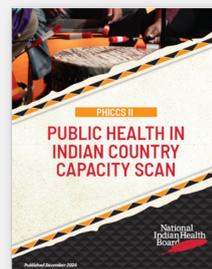
NIHB releases report on public health capacity

The [second Public Health in Indian Country Capacity Scan](#) (PHICCS II, PDF, 7.7 MB, 120 pp) is available online.

This report summarizes survey findings on the capacity of tribal organizations to deliver essential public health services. The findings help:

- Identify needs and strengths
- Determine how to effectively allocate resources
- Establish a baseline to measure progress over time

PHICCS II follows up on National Indian Health Board's (NIHB) 2020 PHICCS survey findings.



Funding opportunities

JHCIH summer institute scholarships

Priority Deadline: April 18, 5 p.m. Eastern

General Deadline: May 16, 5 p.m. Eastern

[View the JHCIH summer institute funding opportunity](#)

The Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health (JHCIH) is offering scholarships for its 2025 summer institute, which includes the following courses:

- Indigenous Perspectives on Environmental Health – June 9–11, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Eastern, in-person in Washington, DC, and online via Zoom
- Introduction to American Indian Health Research Ethics – June 23–27, 1–5 p.m. Eastern, online via Zoom
- Early Childhood Research in Tribal Communities – July 21–25, 1–5 p.m. Eastern, online via Zoom

Indigenous health leaders and health professionals who serve tribal communities are encouraged to apply.

Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation grants

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

[View the Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation funding opportunity](#)

The Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation—the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's charitable arm—offers grants for projects that directly impact Alaska Native people, programs, or places. Preference is given to projects focused on:

- Improved access to care
- Children's behavioral health
- Rural health care

Calendar of events

Webinars on early childhood preventive care

CMS invites all interested staff from state Medicaid and CHIP programs and managed care plans, pediatric care providers, public health agencies, and other quality improvement partners to take part in [a webinar series on early childhood preventive care](#). Each webinar will be held from **2–3 p.m. Eastern**.

- April 14 – Addressing Barriers to Well-Child Visits and Preventive Care: Promising Approaches to Transportation in Medicaid and CHIP
- May 5 – State Medicaid and CHIP Experiences Promoting Preventive Care through Well-Child Visits in Early Childhood
- June 2 – Overview of the Improving Preventive Care in Early Childhood Affinity Group and Expression of Interest Process

Telebehavioral health webinars

The Indian Health Service TeleBehavioral Health Center of Excellence (TBHCE) is sponsoring the following [tele-education webinars](#) for health care team members:

TBCHE webinar series, 12 p.m. Eastern

- April 22 – Helping People Manage Problematic Feelings
- May 13 – Helping Clinicians Engage in Self-Care and Self-Compassion
- May 27 – Helping Psychotherapists and Prescribing Clinicians Team to Best Support the People They Serve

Program Sustainability webinar series, 12 p.m. Eastern

- May 12 – Value of Data and Evaluation for Informed Decision Making, Community Education, and Sustainability
- June 9 – Planning Financial Strategies for Program Success and Sustainability

Annual NCUIH conference

April 23–24

Washington, DC

[Register by April 11 for the NCUIH conference](#)

Urban Indian organization (UIO) staff, health care professionals, policymakers, community leaders, and advocates are encouraged to attend the annual National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) conference. The day before the conference, NCUIH will offer training to UIO boards of directors. Additionally, UIOs are invited to participate in **Capitol Hill Day April 25**.

AAIP Cross Cultural Medicine Workshop

April 25–26

Albuquerque, New Mexico

[Register for the AAIP workshop](#)

This year's Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) Cross Cultural Medicine Workshop will include two tracks—self-care and Indigenous medicine. The workshop will feature elders, traditional healers, and Indigenous experts. Medical students, hospital staff, counselors, program staff, and other health care professionals are invited to attend.

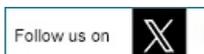
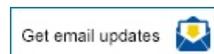
2025 Preparedness Summit

April 29–May 2

San Antonio, Texas

[Register for the Preparedness Summit](#)

“Pathways to Recovery in the Aftermath of Disasters” is the theme of this year's Preparedness Summit. Hosted by the National Association of County and City Health Officials and its partners, the event helps build communities' capacity to respond to and recover from public health emergencies.



Contact us

Do you have news to share? Send it to coveringic@kauffmaninc.com for possible inclusion in an upcoming newsletter. Contact us with other comments or feedback, too.

About the newsletter

Covering Indian Country is published by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Division of Tribal Affairs to share resources, success stories, and best practices with the people who connect tribal communities to health care coverage.

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