



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

October 27, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

**SUBJECT: Opioid Settlement Tribal Set-Aside Implementation CONSULTATION
CLOSE OUT**

On August 8, 2023, the Health Care Authority (HCA), held a Tribal consultation on the Opioid Abatement Settlement Tribal Set-Aside Implementation Plan. A listening session and roundtable were held in July prior to consultation. HCA greatly appreciates all Tribal elected officials and Tribal health leaders that participated in any of these meetings, where we gathered very important feedback to inform the implementation plan and scope of work for this funding set aside allocation to Tribes and Urban Indian Health Programs (UIHP)s.

Background

Funding through the Opioid Settlement Abatement are a result of Washington State litigations to opioid pharmacy and manufacture settlements awarded at the end of 2022. These settlements will be used to combat the opioid epidemic. For more information on the settlements, please see the Attorney General's Office (AGO) website at [Opioid Pharmacy & Manufacturer Settlements | Washington State](#).

During the 2023 Legislative Session, opioid settlement dollars were appropriated for use in the upcoming 2023-2025 biennium. Opioid settlement funding provisos are contained in the final conference budget from the 2023 regular session and [E2SSB 5536](#) during the special session. These appropriations were assigned across four agencies: the Health Care Authority, Department of Health, Labor and Industries, and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (see settlement allocations attachment). State opioid settlement funds include the recommended distribution to Tribes of more than \$15 million dollars, as a result of the Consultation held on October 20, 2022, on the planning for the opioid abatement settlement plan recommendations. In addition to these state funds, opioid settlement funds are also being distributed directly to cities and counties across the state from multiple settlements. Tribes are encouraged to engage with the local governmental entities in their regions. Please note, the state has no influence over how these city and county funds are used or distributed.

For more information regarding the opioid settlement funds in the state budget settlement please see the following links:

- [Final Conference Budget Report](#)

- [Second Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5536](#)

A summary of feedback from attendees and meeting materials can be found in the meeting notes on our website. [Consultations and meetings | Washington State Health Care Authority](#)

Copy available

All documents related to this consultation including the full draft Application can be found at [Consultations and meetings | Washington State Health Care Authority](#).

Comments and questions

To return any comments regarding Opioid Abatement, please contact Kris Shera, State Opioid Coordinator, via email at kris.shera@hca.wa.gov.

For questions or comments regarding the Indian Nation Agreement and Amendment Scope of Work for these funds, please contact, Lucilla Mendoza, Tribal Behavioral Health Administrator via email at lucilla.mendoza@hca.wa.gov.

Please contact Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, via email at aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov, if you have tribal affairs-related questions or concerns.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,



Charissa Fotinos, MD, MSc
Medicaid & Behavioral Health Medical Director



Keri Waterland, Ph.D., MAOB
Assistant Director
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery

cc: Michael Langer, Associate Director, DBHR, HCA
Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, OTA, HCA
Lucilla Mendoza, Tribal BH Administrator, OTA, HCA
Kris Shera, State Opioid Coordinator, DHBR, HCA