



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

April 4, 2022

Dear Tribal Leader:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS or Department) is initiating Tribal Consultation related to the policy directives outlined in Executive Order (E.O.) 14053—Improving Public Safety and Criminal Justice for Native Americans and Addressing the Crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People.

As the President noted in the E.O., “Native Americans face unacceptably high levels of violence, and are victims of violent crime at a rate much higher than the national average.” While these instances of violence are deplorable and require a swift response, we want to focus on the root causes of violence to work towards prevention. Section 5 of the E.O. calls on the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with Tribal nations, to develop a comprehensive plan to support prevention efforts that reduce risk factors for victimization of Native Americans and increase protective factors by enhancing the delivery of services to victims, survivors, and their families and advocates.

Key elements of the plan must address:

1. Strategies for improving mental and behavioral health;
2. Providing substance abuse services;
3. Providing family support, including high-quality early childhood programs for victims and survivors with young children;
4. Preventing elder abuse, gender-based violence, and human trafficking; and
5. Strategies to encourage culturally and linguistically appropriate, trauma-informed, and victim-centered service delivery to Native Americans, including for survivors of gender-based violence.

The plan shall also include community-based strategies that improve community cohesion and cultural preservation, as well as educational programs to increase empowerment and self-advocacy.

The Department wishes to consult with Tribal governments to solicit their comments and recommendations on policy directives that HHS should include in the comprehensive plan.

A virtual Tribal Consultation session will be held on April 20, 2022 from 3:00-6:00PM eastern.

Please register in advance for the Tribal Consultation session at the following link:  
[https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltf-2trzsJHljBop7eh\\_XGux83tKQowkc](https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltf-2trzsJHljBop7eh_XGux83tKQowkc)

The Department will develop questions for Tribal leaders' consideration, which will be distributed via e-mail to all registered participants two weeks prior to the Tribal Consultation session.

You may submit written comments by e-mail to [consultation@hhs.gov](mailto:consultation@hhs.gov) by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, May 20, 2022. Please use the subject line: Policy Directives Outlines in Executive Order (E.O) 14053. If you have any questions regarding this Tribal Consultation, please contact Michelle Sauve, Executive Director, Secretary's Intradepartmental Council for Native American Affairs, at [michelle.sauve@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:michelle.sauve@acf.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

Xavier Becerra