



January 16, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to share a vital resource developed by the Indian Health Service (IHS) to help our patients overcome barriers when accessing cancer care services in our communities. We are building an interactive web map that shows our patients and providers where cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment are available. The web map will help our American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) patients to visually search for cancer services near home, and health care providers can use the map to plan appointments and referrals. Our Tribal and Urban health care cancer subject matter experts will populate the web map with the locations of cancer services, based on their discretion.

Cancer remains a significant health concern for AI/AN populations, with disparities in early screening, diagnosis, and treatment. Early detection through screening, a timely diagnosis, and access to appropriate treatment can make a positive difference. Recognizing the need for proactive solutions, the IHS has developed this cancer web map for patients, providers, hospitals, clinics, and Tribal health organizations to provide a visual overview of locations for cancer-related services.

This mapping initiative aims to improve cancer outcomes by:

- Enhancing access to testing, screening, and treatment programs for patients.
- Strengthening partnerships among hospitals, clinics, and Tribal health organizations.
- Improving coordination of care for patients.
- Promoting culturally appropriate resources to support patients and families navigating cancer diagnoses and treatments.

By working together, we can tackle cancer disparities and enhance community health outcomes. Your leadership and involvement are crucial to ensuring that all AI/AN patients can access the screenings, treatments, and support they need to be healthy.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of your community. If you need additional information, please contact Carlynne Worsham, IHS Office of Public Health Support, Geographer, at Carlynne.Worsham@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

Roselyn Tso -S

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Roselyn Tso
Director