

## **CRIHB Legislative Priority Setting for 2009**

The California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB) held its 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Board of Directors Meeting in October, 2008 at the Tachi Palace in Lemoore, CA. CRIHB Board members, the Tribal Government Consultation Committee, and other pertinent stakeholders gathered to discuss federal and state legislative priorities for 2009. Legislative priorities for the next year were openly discussed between all present parties. Upon the conclusion of the discussion, a survey was administered to quantitatively assess the top priorities of the group. These priorities will be used by the CRIHB legislative staff to focus their legislative efforts. These results will also be useful to other organizational stakeholders in focusing on program and policy efforts.

For more information on these legislative priorities please contact James Crouch, MPH, Executive Director or Mark LeBeau, MS, Health Policy Analyst, at 916-929-9761.

### **Top Priorities**

#### **State Priorities**

1. Maintain/increase State Indian Health Program budget
2. Maintain/increase substance abuse funds (CalWORKs) for Tribal Health Programs
3. Enhance the Medi-Cal program to benefit Indian beneficiaries
4. Enhance Indian healthy families outreach and enrollment processes
5. Ensure the continuance of the Tribal TANF program
6. Secure Tribal Health Program access to mental health service funds
7. Support amendment to change state budget making process
8. Enable out-of-state providers to work for Tribal Health Programs and bill Medi-Cal while applying for state licensure on a time limited basis

#### **Federal Priorities**

1. Reauthorize Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA)
2. Increase IHS appropriations, including funds for CA CHS demonstration project
3. Enhance the Medicaid/Medicare/SCHIP program to benefit Indian beneficiaries
4. Secure Tribal Health Program access to home healthcare for elders services
5. Use Level of Need Funding appropriation formula in distributing funds
6. Support Medicaid/Medicare provisions of IHCA as stand alone bill
7. Secure Tribal Health Program access to information technology services
8. Increase alcohol and substance abuse program fund