



CALIFORNIA RURAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD, INC.

Indian Health Program Funding Increase and Long Term Funding in State Budget Bill

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On Thursday, June 15, the California State Legislature approved a state budget that includes \$23,204,000 in ongoing funding for the Indian Health Program (IHP) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 and into the future.

“The strong budget position of the IHP has been built by lawmakers championing the initiative, with strong support from Tribes, Tribal clinics, California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB), other Indian organizations, and State administrators,” said Lesley Sherman-Hunt, CRIHB Chair.

The overall \$311.7 billion budget bill was forwarded to Governor Newsom, where it will sit while the Legislature and Governor finalize additional details of the agreement.

“Reestablishing the IHP with ongoing funding has been a priority for CRIHB since funding was cut in 2009, and we are excited to finally achieve this goal. We couldn’t have done it without the participation and advocacy efforts of Tribal leaders and give special thanks to Assemblymember Ramos for his help securing these funds,” said Dr. Mark LeBeau, CRIHB CEO.

IHP Background: The mission of the IHP is to improve the health status of American Indians living on reservations and rancherias, and in rural and urban communities throughout California. Health services for American Indians are based on a special historical legal responsibility identified in treaties with the U.S. government. California voluntarily accepted this responsibility by adopting Public Law 83-280 in 1954, which allowed for State jurisdiction of Indian affairs. The legislative authority for the program is Health and Safety Code, Sections 124575 – 124595 and Title XVII Chapter 3.1, Section 1500-1541.

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