



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

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

April 11, 2025

Dear Tribal Leaders:

SUBJECT: Termination of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) ARPA and COVID Mitigation Grants

In accordance with chapter 43.376 RCW and the Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989 regarding collaboration with Indian tribes in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affect Indian tribes and the Tribal Consultation and Communication Policy of the Health Care Authority (HCA), the HCA seeks your input and partnership to advance initiatives impacting Tribal communities.

Purpose

On March 24, 2025, HCA received notification from SAMHSA, our federal health partner, regarding immediate termination of some COVID federal health services grants including, including any COVID related grant funds such as the COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and COVID mitigation grants. This notice impacted funding we expected to continue through September 30, 2024.

On April 1, 2025, Washington State, along with 24 other States filed suit against the federal government regarding the notification of grant termination. You can read the [Washington State's declaration for the case here](#). On April 3, 2025, a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order (TRO), directing the U.S. Health and Human Services to temporarily reinstate a variety of public health, mental health, and substance use disorder funds that were allocated to states during the COVID-19 pandemic. This TRO is valid through April 17, 2025. On April 9th, our legal team began sending letters to all contractors, including Tribes within the Indian Nation Agreements, who accessed ARPA grant dollars, to rescind our previous letter of suspension for APRA grant dollars.

We understand that this situation can be stressful and creates a great deal of uncertainty. We recognize that this affects the important work you do and the communities you serve. Our goal is to be as transparent and supportive as possible as we navigate this together. Our team is continuing to work to determine the impact on your programs, and we request that you send information regarding impacts to HCA.

As of now, you are welcome to continue working under the ARPA grant as we await our next court date on April 16, 2025. In the meantime, please submit any outstanding invoices to your program managers as soon as possible, this will help us to determine the scope of the impacted programs and services.

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If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Aren Sparck at aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teesha Kirschbaum', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Teesha Kirschbaum
Division Director

cc: Leah Coberly, Deputy Director, DBHR, HCA
Aren Sparck, Administrator, OTA, HCA
Christine Winn, Deputy Administrator, OTA, HCA
Lucilla Mendoza, Tribal Behavioral Health Administrator, OTA, HCA