



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

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

April 29, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

SUBJECT: Indian Nation Agreement Restatement Consultation Closeout

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 13, 2025, HCA sent a Dear Tribal Leader Letter (DTLL) announcing the request for Consultation for HCA's work to restate the Indian Nation Agreement (INA). Main purposes of the INA Restatement were to update key sections that have changed over the duration of the INAs in the last 6 years and close out existing agreements that have expanded exponentially.

Overall, HCA intends to maintain much of the INA General Terms and Conditions (GTC) and programmatic statements of work, bringing the INA up to date while creating structural and process improvements. Key updates include:

- Change name from Indian Nation Agreement to Sovereign Nation Agreement (SNA).
- Update agreement structure to improve organization and clarity of various statements of work through a task order structure called Service Level Agreements (SLA).
- Update monitoring section to align with new [risk assessment](#) process negotiated in 2023.
- Add INA negotiated terms within the original Schedule 1 Statement of Work for Behavioral Health Services to the new SNA GTCs to align across all SLAs. This includes:
 - Quarterly reporting timelines by payment options, including Advance Payment, Cost Reimbursement, and Lump Sum payment types.
 - Annual Plan.
 - An SLA template for all behavioral health statements of work.

HCA provided four work sessions, including a roundtable prior to the Consultation. Based on the feedback provided, HCA updated the SNA draft prior to Consultation. In Attachment 1 below, you can find a summary of feedback that includes HCA responses and agreement changes due to the feedback.

Next Steps:

HCA's goal is to close out the INAs by June 30, 2025, and open new SNAs by July 1, 2025, using the agreed upon template.

We thank all Tribal leaders and staff that work on INAs as well as the American Indian Health Commission for participating in feedback during this Consultation process. We documented representation from eighteen Tribes, including Tribal attorneys, grants and contracts, program managers, directors, and Tribal leaders.

In addition to the Consultation process, HCA will begin an INA/SNA *workgroup starting May 2025* to continue discussions for INA/SNA improvements outside of the agreement language that was discussed during the Consultation process.


Comments and Questions

Please see the Consultation meeting minutes, final PowerPoint slide deck, and Consultation close-out letter. [Consultations and meetings | Washington State Health Care Authority](#).

We deeply value your partnership and look forward to our continued partnership on behavioral health agreements.

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

Sincerely,



Aren Sparck
Administrator
Office of Tribal Affairs

cc: MaryAnne Lindeblad, Interim Director, EXO, HCA
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