



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

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

July 15, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

SUBJECT: Sovereign Nation Agreements Fiscal Year 2026 Updates

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 to inform and request input on the following matter.

Purpose

HCA's Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA), Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) and Office of Contracts and Procurement (OCP) are reaching out to share important and time-sensitive updates regarding our funding agreements impacting the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026 Indian Nation Agreement (INA) restated this year as Sovereign Nation Agreements (SNAs).

During our Monthly Tribal Meetings and INA Restatement Consultation, our teams shared the plan to close out the original INAs to restate and implement a new SNA. Our teams have successfully met this timeline, and you received a copy for your signature in June 2025.

The next phase is to issue the individual [Service Level Agreements \(SLAs\)](#) which include funding for the operation of specific programs. During our Consultation, our teams committed to reducing delays in funding for the upcoming year, however we are experiencing a delay in all contracts due to the late signing of the state budget and volume of contracts requested by HCA programs, over 160 contracts and SLAs have been requested by the OTA alone.

Our teams are currently working closely with several departments to develop SLAs with several having the effective date of July 1, 2025.

Background and Purpose

The INA was completed through negotiation with Tribes during formal Consultation in October 2019. INA had two main components, including the umbrella agreement that is focused on the General Terms and Conditions (GT&Cs) of the INA and several scopes of work for behavioral health services. On April 17, 2025, OTA completed a Consultation on the INA Restatement Umbrella Agreement, newly named the Sovereign Nation Agreement. The SNA will replace the INA effective July 1, 2025. [See Consultation meeting details.](#)

Please contact Henry Roy, Tribal Affairs Contract Portfolio Manager, by email at henry.roy@hca.wa.gov if you have any related questions or concerns.

Tribal Leader

July 15, 2025

Page 2

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aren Sparck', with a stylized, cursive script.

Aren Sparck, Chevak Native Village Qissunamiut Tribal Member
Tribal Affairs Administrator
Office of Tribal Affairs

cc MaryAnne Lindeblad, BSN, MPH, Interim Director
Taylor Linke, Chief of Staff, EXO, HCA
Louis McDermott, Chief Operations Officer, EXO, HCA
Megan Atkinson Assistant Director Financial Services and Healthcare Purchasing, FSHPA, HCA
Teesha Kirschbaum, Division Director, DBHR, HCA
Annette Schuffenhauer, Chief Legal Officer, DLS, HCA
Christine Winn, Deputy Tribal Affairs Administrator, OTA, HCA
Lucilla Mendoza, Tribal Behavioral Health Administrator, OTA, HCA
Andria Howerton, Deputy Section Manager Contracts OCP, HCA