



CENTRAL COUNCIL  
*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*  
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building  
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

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CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA  
Eighty-Seventh Annual Tribal Assembly  
April 20-22, 2022  
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 22-12

Title: Invest in Behavioral Health Infrastructure for Urban Indian Organizations

By: Seattle Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 34,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, historical trauma, systemic oppression, poverty, inadequate healthcare, behavioral health workforce shortages, and the COVID-19 pandemic have all contributed to the increased risk of drug usage in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service (IHS) lacks inpatient behavioral health facilities in the Portland Area for AI/AN communities; and

WHEREAS, urban Indian organizations (UIO) in the IHS Portland Area provide outpatient behavioral health services and offer one inpatient behavioral health facility to meet the needs of the 76% of AI/ANs in urban areas; and

WHEREAS, AI/AN people have the highest substance use rates among all single racial and ethnic groups in the United States, including 11.2% of AI/AN reporting a substance use disorder (SUD), 8.3% of AI/AN reporting an alcohol abuse disorder, and 25.9% of AI/AN reporting illicit drug use; and

WHEREAS, the overdose mortality rate for AI/ANs is 30.8% higher than non-Hispanic whites, at a rate of 41.4 per 100,000; and

WHEREAS, the opioid pandemic has disproportionately impacted AI/AN communities due to pharmaceutical drug distributors targeting AI/AN communities resulting in thousands of overdose deaths; and

WHEREAS, of those in need, 24.8% of AI/ANs access SUD treatment and 24.9% of AI/ANs access illicit drug use treatment, which is higher than any other racial or ethnic group; and

WHEREAS, the lack of investment in inpatient behavioral health facilities has detrimental effects on AI/AN communities impacting Indian Country's ability to meet the demand for intervention services; and

WHEREAS, investments in UIO behavioral health facilities will provide culturally-attuned and integrated care for AI/AN populations resulting in improvements in health outcomes for AI/AN people;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Seventh Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened April 20-22, 2022, hereby support investment in Urban Indian organizations (UIO) behavioral health facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tlingit & Haida President shall send letters in support of investments for UIO inpatient behavioral health facilities to the Alaska delegation in Washington, D.C.

ADOPTED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022, by the Eighty-Seventh Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

**CERTIFY**

  
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President Richard J. Peterson

**ATTEST**

  
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Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata