



Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

5600 Fishers Lane Rockville, MD 20857

www.samhsa.gov 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727)



October 2, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader:

This letter serves as an invitation to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (HHS/SAMHSA) virtual Tribal Consultation on updates to the SAMHSA Tribal Consultation Policy (TCP). Before any action is taken that will significantly affect Indian Tribes, it is the policy of SAMHSA to consult with Indian Tribes to the extent practicable and permitted by law. The Tribal Consultation session provides an opportunity for government-to-government dialogue.

SAMHSA is beginning to modernize the TCP. This is necessary because the current policy was approved in 2016 prior to the reorganization of SAMHSA under the 21st Century Cures Act. The way information is shared and how SAMHSA collaborates with Tribes and Tribal Organizations is different in our current environment as compared to pre-COVID. An update is also needed to align the SAMHSA TCP Policy with the 2023 HHS TCP.

During Tribal Consultation, SAMHSA is seeking feedback for the following specific questions:

- How can SAMHSA enhance the following tribal consultation processes:
 - Amplify opportunities for Tribes to request consultation.
 - Notification timeframe (30 calendar days) or methods (DTLL, mailing, broadcast e-mail, Federal Register Notice).
 - Available consultation mechanisms (information mailer, virtual and/or in-person meetings, or participation in HHS meetings).
 - Reporting of outcomes (90 calendar days in report format).
- What other areas of the draft SAMHSA TCP can be strengthened to ensure responsiveness and engagement with Indian Country?

Comments are welcome on other topics relevant to tribal consultation, as well.

There will be two virtual Tribal Consultations. You can register for the Tribal Consultation at the links listed below.

- Wednesday, November 6, 2024, [from 3:00-4:30 PM ET](#)
- Thursday, December 5, 2024, [from 1:00-2:30 PM ET](#)

In addition to considering input during these two virtual consultations, SAMHSA will accept written comments from Tribes until 5:00 PM ET on January 6, 2025. Comments can be emailed to otap@samhsa.hhs.gov.

SAMHSA looks forward to your participation and ongoing partnership. Please contact CAPT Karen Heard, Director, Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy, at 202-868-9931 or otap@samhsa.hhs.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary for Mental
Health and Substance Use