

## OTAP Overview

### What is the Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy (OTAP)?

OTAP is an office within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration's (SAMHSA) Office of Policy, Planning and Innovation (OPPI), which serves as the primary point of contact for tribal governments, tribal organizations, federal departments and agencies, and other governments and agencies on behavioral health issues facing American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) in the United States.

### What does OTAP do?

OTAP leads and supports SAMHSA-wide actions that facilitate efficient and effective delivery of resources and services to tribal communities. OTAP's work involves consultation, outreach, education, and engagement of tribes, tribal organizations, federal partners, and other stakeholders. In addition, OTAP is responsible for carrying out the responsibilities delineated in the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) of 2010.

### How is OTAP Organized?

OTAP is staffed with a Director who oversees policy and operations matters for the office. OTAP includes the Senior Advisor of Tribal Affairs and staff within the Office of Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse (OIASA), which consists of a Director, Youth Programs Officer, Communications Lead, and Tribal Action Plan Lead.

### Federal Partners

OTAP works closely with a host of federal partners that seek to improve the wellness of Native Communities. Among OTAP's partners are other components within the Department of Health and Human Services (Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, Indian Health Service, Administration for Native Americans, Administration for Community Living, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), Department of Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education), and the Department of Justice (Office of Justice Programs, Office of Tribal Justice). OTAP oversees various committees, including the SAMHSA Tribal Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC), SAMHSA AI/AN Team (SAIANT), and the Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse (IASA) Inter-departmental Coordinating Committee.

### OTAP's List of Ten Actions

In the near term, OTAP will focus on the following:

1. Development of a SAMHSA Tribal Behavioral Health Policy Agenda that is developed in concert with tribal leaders, representatives of tribal organizations, SAMHSA Centers and Offices, and federal partners.
2. Promote and facilitate tribal, federal, state, and local collaborations and actions that address the behavioral health needs of Native youth.
3. Work to increase the number of SAMHSA grants that are awarded to tribes.
4. Support efforts to improve the availability of data to assist tribes in their application for federal grants and manage their SAMHSA grant projects.

5. Oversee and effectively manage implementation of the revised SAMHSA Tribal Consultation Policy.
6. Establish a SAMHSA AI/AN Communications Strategy to more effectively reach and engage tribal leaders on issues that may have an impact on their communities.
7. Support the development of a tribal affairs landing page on the SAMHSA website to facilitate access to information that is pertinent to tribal leaders and tribal communities.
8. Fulfill SAMHSA's TLOA responsibilities through the OIASA, which seeks to improve federal agency coordination and achieve meaningful progress on the reduction of alcohol and substance abuse among the AI/AN population.
9. Engage with the SAMHSA TTAC to identify AI/AN behavioral health priorities and shape the agency's policy agenda.
10. Ensure progress on the SAMHSA Tribal Behavioral Health Agenda through the SAIANT.

### **Contacting OTAP**

Please send inquiries to OTAP at the following e-mail address: [otap@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:otap@samhsa.hhs.gov).