



U.S. Public Health Service and Indian Health Service Strategic Priorities to Protect American Indian and Alaska Native Community Health



The [U.S. Public Health Service \(USPHS\) Commissioned Corps](#) in partnership with the [Indian Health Service](#) (IHS) has launched a seven-year strategic plan to improve safe drinking water access and sanitation in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

This partnership builds upon the momentum set by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which provides \$3.5 billion to the IHS to develop critical infrastructure, including a safe supply of drinking water, reliable sewage systems, and solid waste disposal facilities. It also aligns with actions made by the [Administration](#) to deliver clean water and additional [HHS](#) efforts to create consistent access to water supplies, with an overall goal of improving essential infrastructure, advancing health equity and increasing wellbeing within Tribal Communities.

The strategy was developed by a workgroup established by the HHS Office of the Surgeon General and is led by the USPHS Commissioned Corps Headquarters, the IHS Division of Commissioned Personnel Support and IHS Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction.

The efforts focus on increasing staffing support for Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC) Program work at IHS through targeted recruitment and retention of Public Health Service officers with expertise in engineering, environmental health, and health services.

The plan concentrates on five (5) strategic priorities:

Priority #1: Immediate Staff Support for SFC Program Work at IHS

Priority #2: Increase Active Duty Engineer and Environmental Health Officers at IHS

Priority #3: Engineer and Environmental Health Officer Retention

Priority #4: Accelerated Commissioning for Engineer and Environmental Health Applicants

Priority #5: Increasing the Commissioned Corps Engineer and Environmental Health Officer Category Pipeline

Public Health Service officers will assist tribes in the planning, design, and construction of water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure serving tribal homes. They will also provide technical assistance to tribes to support the operation and maintenance of these facilities.

With each priority, key performance indicators or KPIs have been developed to assess progress towards each goal.

For more information on the IHS-CCHQ strategic plan, please contact:

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