

Community of Health Planning and Tribal Engagement

Washington's 29 Tribes are among the partners Community of Health (COH) grant awardees should reach out to for participation in planning. The COH Planning Grant Opportunity Announcement emphasized broad engagement to include multi-sector stakeholders and government entities. Tribal governments were included as a recommended participant within the COH planning process, and the State wants to take a more active role in supporting Tribal engagement over the course of the Accountable Community of Health (ACH) initiative.

The State is applying lessons learned early on in the COH planning process to ensure broad engagement over the course of the ACH initiative. This includes the development of a more robust Tribal engagement plan, including guidance and messaging to assist with local Tribal engagement. As this plan is being developed, COH planning grantees are encouraged to consider the following:

- **Tribal engagement will continue to be a priority.** Tribal engagement is a priority within the Healthier Washington initiative, and the ACH initiative is a key component of the State's plan. HCA is currently developing a Tribal coordination plan, but this should support, not supplant, local engagement efforts. One of HCA's goals is to provide clarity surrounding the COH planning effort and ACH initiative, including the value proposition.
- **Tribal engagement is not exclusive.** Each Tribe within your proposed region should be recognized as an independent governmental entity. Communities should reach out to each Tribe and allow each Tribe to decide whether or not they will participate and how they will coordinate their participation.
- **Tribal governments are not stakeholders.** The State maintains relations with the Tribes on a government-to-government basis, and, in this sense, COHs and future ACHs serve as a venue for Tribes to interact with the State.