



December 1, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader,

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is seeking your feedback and recommendations on a draft document entitled, "American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Worker Safety and Health Strategic Plan, 2022-2031," which can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docket/review/docket345/default.html>. To collect this feedback, NIOSH is hosting a tribal consultation session on February 3, 2022, from 4:15 to 6:00 PM EST. Registration for this consultation is required. You can register here: <https://cdc.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItdeipqzIvGgMKRWjU6mOIfMiRxs3dggw>.

The AI/AN strategic plan was developed with input gathered over years of collaboration with tribal leaders and tribal occupational safety and health professionals including two tribal occupational safety and health workshops and site visits to Indian Country. Other partners were also instrumental in the development of this draft plan, including NIOSH, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). NIOSH is committed to working with federally recognized tribal governments on a government-to-government basis and strongly supports and respects tribal sovereignty and self-determination for tribal governments in the U.S. The current CDC tribal consultation policy is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/tribal/consultation-support/tribal-consultation/policy.html>.

NIOSH is hosting this meeting to receive input from federally recognized tribes on the development of an American Indian and Alaska Native Worker Safety and Health Strategic Plan. AI/AN workers account for 2.7 million or 1.8% of the total U.S. workforce. National data on occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities among AI/AN workers are scarce, and there is limited research on worker safety, health and well-being in tribal communities. NIOSH is proposing research and outreach activities to enhance worker safety and health in tribal communities and requests input on the draft "American Indian and Alaska Native Worker Safety and Health Strategic Plan, 2022-2031."

Specific questions on which we invite your feedback are listed below.

- Does the plan address the most pressing occupational safety and health concerns for the AI/AN workforce? If not, what would you suggest be included or removed, and why?
- What recommendations do you have for NIOSH for partnering with tribal nations to conduct the activities described in this plan?
- What other organizations may have an interest in collaborating with NIOSH to improve occupational safety and health for AI/AN workers?
- How might NIOSH improve communication with tribal nations regarding worker safety and health issues?
- What support may be needed to address occupational safety and health concerns for the AI/AN workforce?

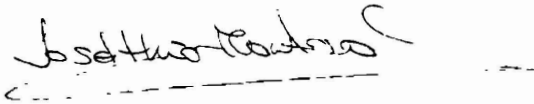
These topics will be open for discussion at the tribal consultation session on February 3, 2022. For those who would also like to send written remarks, please send your testimony no later than 5:00 PM EST on February 24, 2022, by email to [niocindocket@cdc.gov](mailto:niocindocket@cdc.gov); or by mail to

Sherri Diana, NIOSH Docket Office, 1090 Tusculum Avenue, MS C-34, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226-1998. All submissions must include tribal affiliation and Docket number (NIOSH 345). All relevant comments, including any personal information provided, will be posted without change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Howard", written over a horizontal line.

John J. Howard, MD  
Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health,  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "José T. Montero", written over a horizontal line.

José T. Montero, MD, MHCDS  
Director, Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention