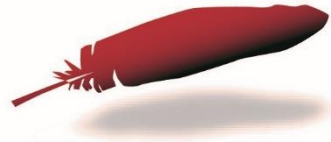


National Indian
Health Board



*Cross-Jurisdictional Considerations for
Addressing Zika and Other Public Health
Threats*

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National Indian Health Board

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The National Indian Health Board

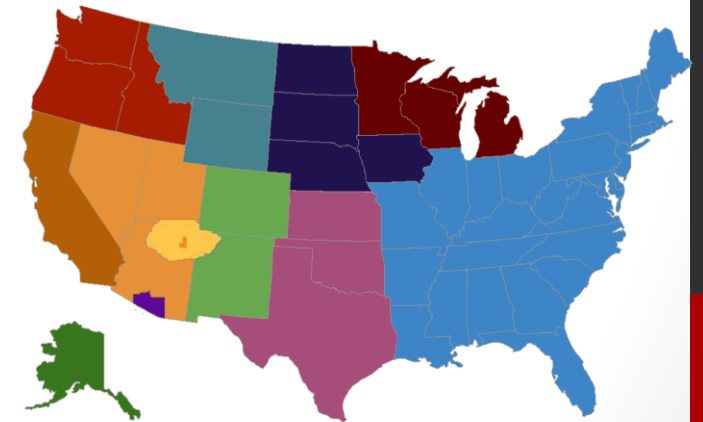
Purpose: To advocate on behalf of all federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes to ensure the fulfillment of the trust responsibility to deliver health and public health services as assured through treaties, and reaffirmed in legislation, executive orders and Supreme Court cases.

Mission Statement: One Voice affirming and empowering American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples to protect and improve health and reduce health disparities.



The National Indian Health Board

- Serves and advocates on behalf of **573** federally recognized Tribes
- Works with ~ **300** Tribal Health Departments
- Works with Area Regional Organizations/ Health Boards to better serve all federally recognized Tribes



The National Indian Health Board



Advocate & Protect

NIHB works to protect sovereignty, self-governance & the treaty rights of Tribes in all matters pertaining to health & public health.



Policy Analysis

NIHB monitors & develops health care & public health policies to ensure the U.S. Congress & federal agencies do no harm.



Formulate Policy & Budget

With the guidance of Tribal Leaders, federal Tribal advisory committees & subject matter experts, NIHB assists federal agencies in developing policies to best meet the needs of Indian Country.



Communicate

NIHB maintains communication through Area Indian Health Boards, national Indian organizations, & Tribes to serve all American Indian & Alaska Native people.



Awareness Raising

NIHB consistently plays a major role in elevating the visibility of Indian health care & public health issues, a long time struggle shared by Tribes, the federal government & private agencies.



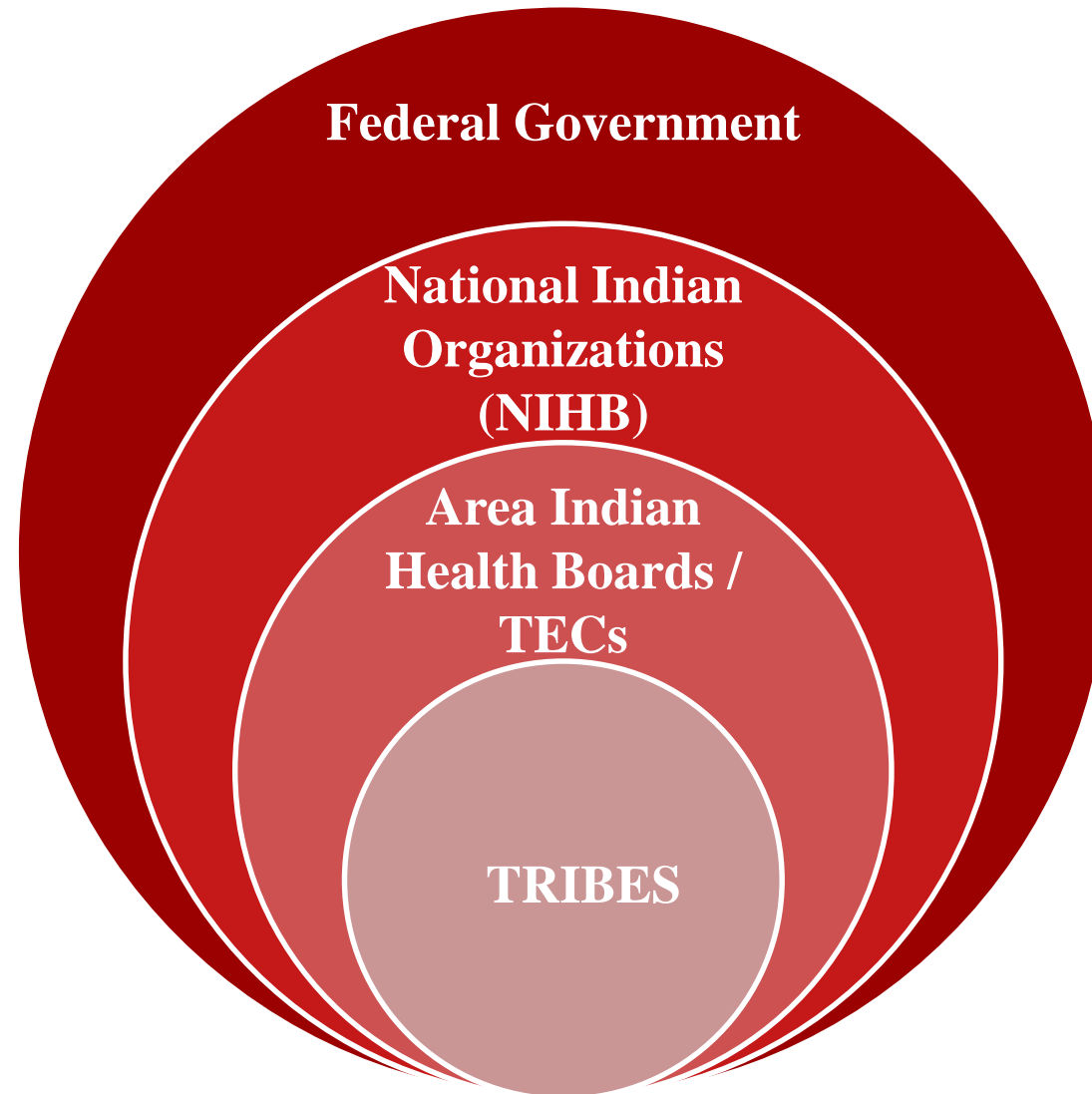
Leadership Development

Through conferences, summits, & other national meetings, NIHB creates a space for Tribal leaders, experts, & funders to network & build the future leaders that will promote & support the well-being of Indian Country.



Public Health Work in Indian Country

- **State and county health departments-** role and involvement in Tribal public health varies



Roles

- IHS and Tribes- primary health care providers
- Tribes- provide public health services and are 1st responders
- National & Regional Tribal Orgs- support, help build capacity, surveillance
- Entire federal government has a trust responsibility to Tribes



Reasons to foster State – Tribal Relations

Common interests

- Responsibility to deliver PH services and ensure health of citizens

Similar status

- Authority to exercise police powers, which encompass public health authorities

Leveraging Resources

- Avoid duplication of services; ensure tailored responses that will work in communities



Compelling Reasons for Tribes to Engage with States

Sovereignty

- Tribes can negotiate with states to provide services and determine appropriate programs

Input

- Increase decision making in planning and implementation of programs that serve AI/AN people

Jurisdiction

- Complicated and confusing jurisdictional issues can be negotiated before a crisis



Compelling Reasons for States to Engage with Tribes

Duty

- Tribal citizens are entitled to the rights and benefits of state (and federal) citizens

Increased reach

- Working with Tribes can allow state resources to get to hard to reach areas especially in extremely rural areas

Increased efficacy

- Tribes can administer programs that are culturally tailored and appropriate



Persistent Barriers

- Lack of understanding regarding Tribes as governments with authority and responsibility for Tribal citizens
- Lack of understanding regarding Tribal capacities (which can vary greatly)
- Complicated, sometimes unclear jurisdiction

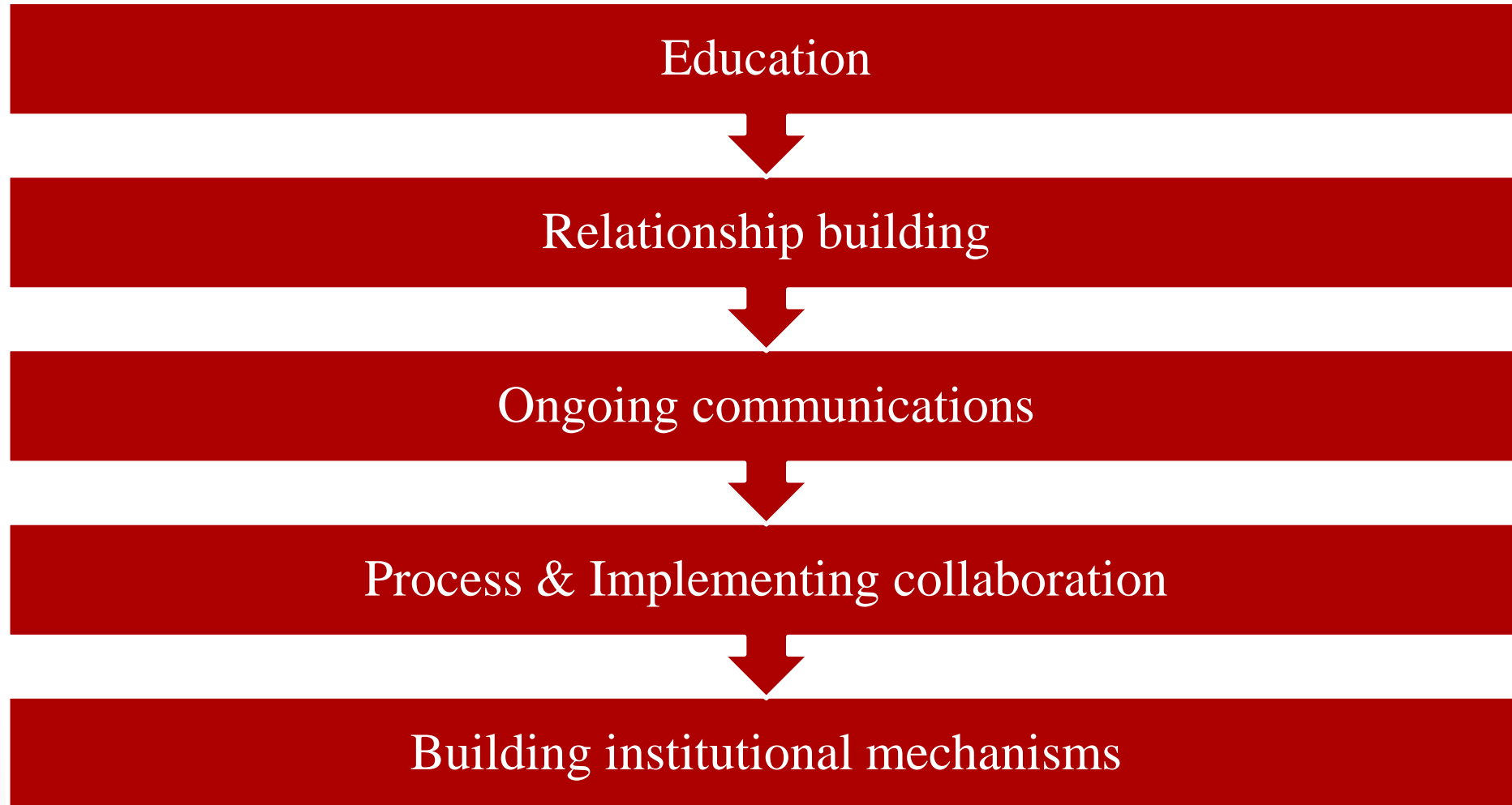


Persistent Barriers

- Lack of trust
- Relationships between state and Tribal leaders and staff can be lacking or adversarial
- Tribes may be reluctant to engage with states because of fear it will diminish government – to- government relationship with the federal government



Strategies to Foster Partnerships



Education

- Tribes are sovereign governments and have inherent public health authority
- States have multi-layered state bureaucracy – education to navigate that bureaucracy can help
- States need to learn about the assets, needs and priorities of Tribes (by meeting people where they, many of these aspects can be understood)
- Many differences and variations in Tribal Nations and communities



Relationship Building

- Recognizing the need to overcome mistrust and troubled histories
- Relationships need to be built before a crisis occurs
- Need for in-person meetings, especially when forming relationships
- Need to commit adequate staffing and resources (and recognize that turnover may be an issue)
- Need for internal coordination at the Tribe or state



Communications

- Need to communicate regularly for situational awareness
- Need for ongoing and dedicated forums that can foster information sharing
- Sharing information about resources available will ensure the resources flow to all citizens
- Tribes can provide unique perspectives and solutions
- Tribes are in the best position to share information with their citizens
- Other Tribal Organizations can assist in the flow of information to Tribes
- Dear Tribal leader letters



Process

- Planning should always include Tribes (ensure feedback from Tribes before programs are developed)
- Track activities and commitments
- Conduct regular review and assessment of policies and programs related to state-tribal relations and provision of services
- Gather recommendations for improvement
- Implementing – have understanding and agreement of how work will flow, triggering events, responsibilities, etc.



Building Institutional Mechanisms

Creates certainty, stability and sustainability, especially in times of political transition. Some essential, best and promising approaches include:

- Authorizing legislation (and appropriations) to allow for: agreements between states, their operating divisions, and Tribes (contracts, MOUs, or MOA)
- Committees or commissions or offices to carry out state-tribal affairs
- Tribal liaison positions



Building Institutional Mechanisms

Some essential, best and promising approaches include:

- Protocols for regular engagement – i.e. - Annual or Bi-Annual Summits
- Regular trainings for state staff
- State recognition /partnership events (recognizing and affirming Tribal governments and partnerships)
- Tribal impact analysis for policies and programs



Discussion, sharing and questions





Thank you!

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