

Office of Head Start

Introducing the Tribal Request for Information (RFI)

April 9, 2024

1:00pm – 2:00pm ET



Meet the Team: Office of Head Start



Captain Tala Hooban
Deputy Director



Jessica Bialecki
Director
Policy and Planning Division



Todd Lertjuntharangool
Regional Program Manager
Region XI/AIAN



Agenda

Purpose of RFI

Tribal RFI topics

How to submit feedback

Timeline of engagement

We're Listening

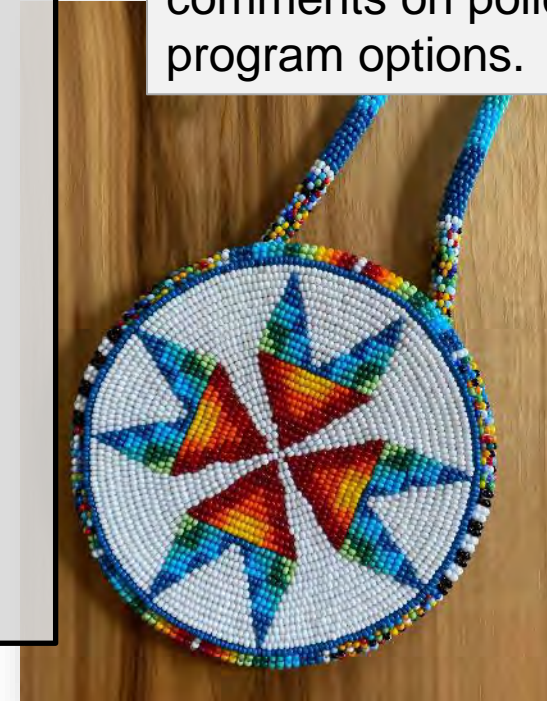


Tribal Request for Information

What is the purpose of the OHS' Tribal RFI?

- Understand how OHS can better support AI/AN grantees in implementing Head Start programs
- Honor Tribal Sovereignty and the government-to-government relationship
- Collect in-depth feedback on Head Start implementation in Tribal communities

RFI is a formal process to gather public comments on policy and program options.



Differences between the recent NPRM and RFI

NPRM

Tribal RFI

Audience: All Head Start grant recipients

Audience: AI/AN Head Start grant recipients and others impacted by AI/AN Head Start requirements

60-day public Comment period closed January 19, 2024

180-day public comment period ends **September 16, 2024**

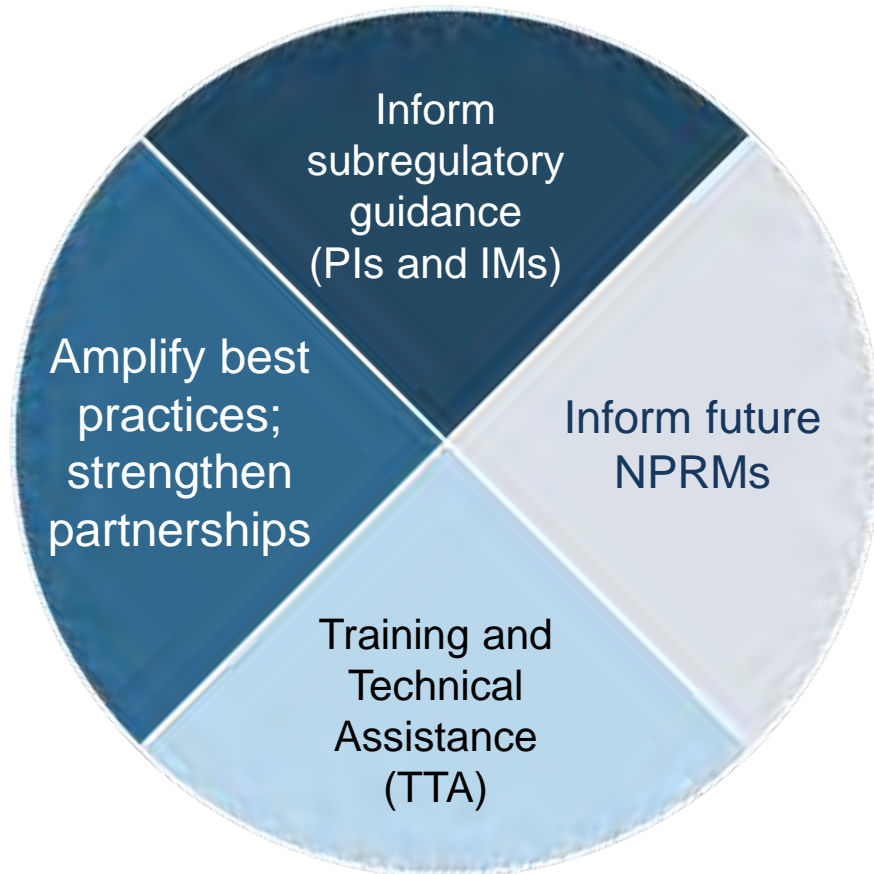
Anticipate releasing a Final Rule in 2024

Can inform future rulemaking



Possible Impacts

What are the possible areas of impact of the Tribal RFI?



Frequently Used Acronyms

OHS = Office of Head Start

RFI = Request for Information

NPRM = Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

PI = Public Instruction

IM = Information Memorandum

TTA = Training and Technical Assistance

Where can I find the Tribal RFI?

The Request for Information was published in the Federal Register on **March 18, 2024.**

The RFI can be found here:



What's included in the Tribal Request for Information?

The Tribal RFI seeks feedback on:

Section A. Eligibility	Section H. Training and Technical Assistance
Section B. Program Options	Section I. Partnerships in State Systems
Section C. Quality Environments	Section J. Facilities
Section D. Child Health and Safety	Section K. Fiscal Operations
Section E. Tribal Language Preservation, Maintenance, Revitalization, and Restoration	Section L. Early Childhood Systems
Section F. Family and Community Engagement	Section M. Other Topics
Section G. Workforce	



Section A. Eligibility

The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act (also known as the FY 24 budget appropriations) allows AIAN Head Start programs the flexibility to serve children regardless of family income, using their selection criteria to prioritize families for enrollment.



Seeking Comment

What **supports, guidance** or **TTA**, do programs need to implement this change?

Section B. Program Options

Recipients can design a program structure that works for the community they are serving whether that is through center-based, home-based, family child care, or an approved locally designed option (LDO).



Seeking Comment

Are there **successful LDOs**, or **program design choices**, that are being utilized to meet the needs of tribal children, families and staff?

Section C. Quality Environments

Programs are required to implement developmentally appropriate, research-based early childhood curricula that are based on scientifically valid research and aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF).



Seeking Comment

Do the requirements around curricula adequately reflect **Indigenous culture and language**?
How can they be improved?

Section D. Child Health and Safety

Programs must provide services to promote health, behavioral health, and safety for children and families. To support healthy environments, each program must establish and maintain a Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC).



Seeking Comment

Would it be helpful if OHS **coordinated with Indian Health Service (IHS)** to address some of the challenges with developing and maintaining HSACs?

Section E. Tribal Language Preservation, Maintenance, Revitalization, and Restoration

Programs that serve AIAN children are permitted to integrate efforts to preserve, revitalize, restore, or maintain the tribal language for those children. Such language preservation efforts may include full immersion in the tribal language for the majority of hours in the classroom.



Seeking Comment

How can regulations and policies be improved so that **Tribal elder and community leaders** are able to participate in **language preservation**?

Section F. Family and Community Engagement

Family engagement and involvement is the cornerstone of the Head Start model, as demonstrated in several sections of the Head Start Act and the HSPSS.



Seeking Comment

Are the HSPSS **clear** and **culturally appropriate** for engaging parents and families?

Section G. Workforce

Head Start programs report difficulties recruiting and retaining staff, and bold steps are being taken to address the workforce crisis.



Seeking Comment

How could OHS regulations be **improved to support** the workforce and teacher qualifications in AI/AN Head Start programs?

Section H. Training and Technical Assistance (TTA)

There OHS-funded TTA centers that provide support to AI/AN programs:

**Early Child Development, Teaching and Learning
Parent, Family, and Community Engagement**

**Health Behavioral Health and Safety
Program Management and Fiscal Operations**

Region XI TTA Providers



Seeking Comment

Are existing **TTA resources, materials, and funding** helpful for AI/AN programs?

Section I. Partnerships in State Systems

Head Start Collaboration Offices (HSCOs) exist to strengthen partnerships with school systems to improve curricula, assessment, and instruction for children.



Seeking Comment

Do AI/AN programs need **more support** with interfacing with state systems and national programs?

Section J. Facilities

AI/AN Head Start programs report a need for facility improvements, including both major or minor renovations.



Seeking Comment

Are there any **suggestions for improvements** for current regulations, processes, and TTA supports related to AI/AN Head Start facilities?

Section K. Fiscal Operations

The Financial and Administrative Requirements include 15 percent administrative cost limitation and 20 percent federal match requirement (Head Start Act, Part 1303)



Seeking Comment

What improvements could be made to **better support** Tribes in fiscal management and oversight?

Section L. Early Childhood Systems

Head Start, Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) and the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) have different funding sources, standards, regulations and governance structures.



Seeking Comment

Are there provisions of the HSPSS that **inhibit or promote coordination** or integration across systems?

Section M. Other Topics

- ❑ We understand that there are specific topics that are meaningful and may not have been addressed in the current RFI.
- ❑ Feedback and proposed solutions are welcome on regulations and processes that interfere with AI/AN Head Start programs.



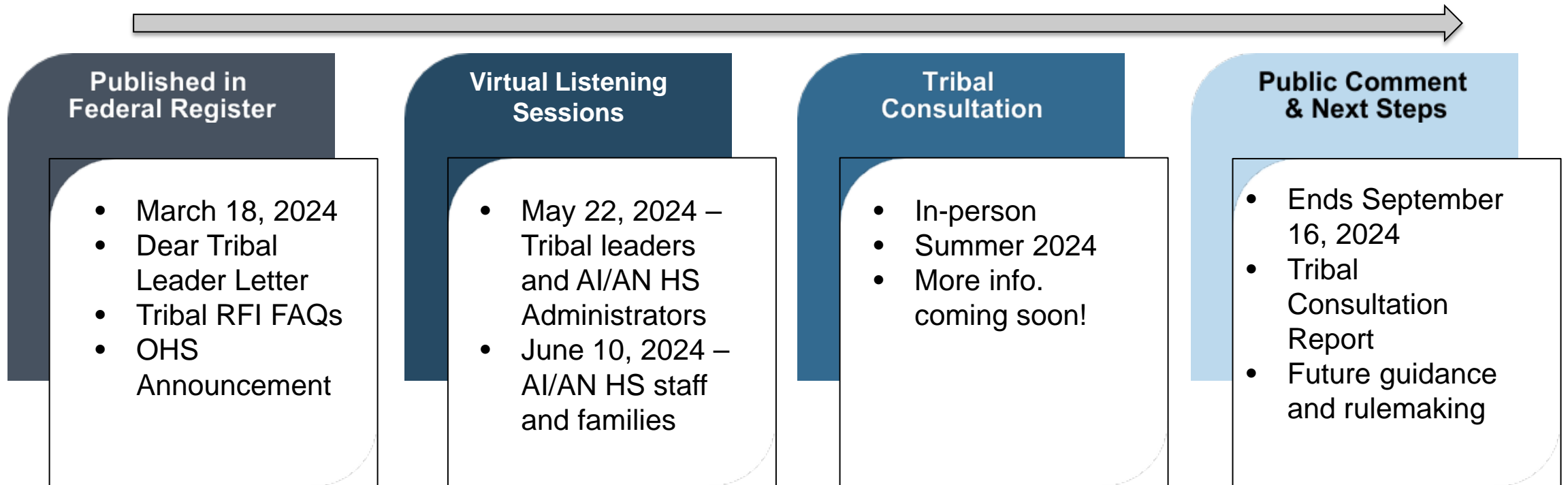
Submitting Comments on the Tribal RFI

- Comments must be submitted to [federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov) or emailed to AIANheadstart@acf.hhs.gov with “OHS Tribal RFI” in the subject line.
- All comments received are a part of the public record and will be posted for public viewing on <https://www.federalregister.gov>, without change.



Tribal RFI Timeline

Public comments submitted to [federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov) and emailed to AIANheadstart@acf.hhs.gov through September 16, 2024



Any last questions?

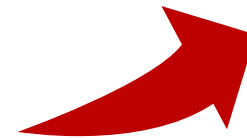


We want to hear from you!

Public comments are accepted until **September 16, 2024.**

ECLKC Resources

- Link to full RFI in Federal Register
- Link to Tribal RFI
- Dear Tribal Leader Letter
- Tribal RFI Fact Sheet
- OHS Tribal Listening Sessions and engagement activities
- Recording of this webinar (soon)
- Videos from Director Garvin (soon)



Scan to visit the Tribal RFI webpage on the ECLKC!

Send questions and/or submit public comments to AIANheadstart@acf.hhs.gov



Thank you for joining us today!



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Office of Head Start

