

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Urging the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to Release Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) Funding to Tribes and to Ensure Public Health Funding is Awarded Directly to Tribal Governments

Resolution No. 25-23



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Batton
Chief



David W. Hill
Principal Chief



Sena Yesslith
Chief

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole Nation, representing approximately 877,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the ITC recognizes and acknowledges the inherent public health authority of the Five Civilized Tribes;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as part of the U.S. Government, holds a federal trust responsibility to Tribal Nations and must ensure that funds appropriated by Congress for Tribal public health purposes are distributed equitably and without delay; and

WHEREAS, the CDC's Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) program was established to strengthen public health capacity and data modernization efforts across all jurisdictions, including Tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, under the current structure, the CDC has awarded funding to the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI), a non-Tribal intermediary, to administer PHIG subawards to Tribes for public health infrastructure and data modernization activities; and

WHEREAS, despite Tribes being approved awardees under this program, NNPHI has not released PHIG funding to Tribes, and Tribes have been instructed to pause PHIG-related activities, while state and local health departments have already received and are utilizing their PHIG funding; and

WHEREAS, this delay and inequitable treatment undermine Tribal efforts to build sustainable public health systems, disrupt critical program planning, and hinder long-term data modernization and infrastructure development needed to protect the health of Tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, providing public health funding through third-party entities rather than directly to Tribal Nations is inconsistent with the federal government's trust and treaty obligations, diminishes Tribal sovereignty, and undermines the special nation-to-nation relationship between Tribes and the U.S. Government.

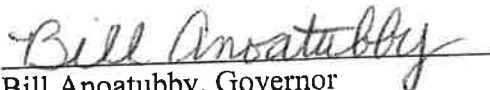
The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

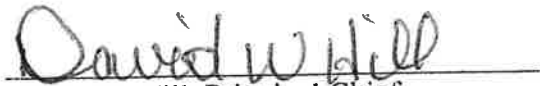
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, that the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes strongly urges the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to immediately release the Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) funding to Tribes that have already been awarded funding, either directly from CDC or through immediate action requiring NNPHI to do so; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Inter-Tribal Council urges the CDC and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to prioritize direct funding mechanisms for Tribal governments in all current and future public health programs, thereby affirming Tribal sovereignty, upholding the federal trust responsibility, and strengthening the nation-to-nation relationship.

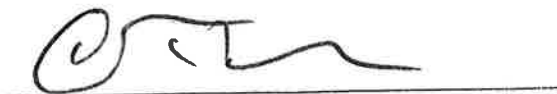
CERTIFICATION


The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Durant, Oklahoma on this 10 day of October, 2025, by a vote of 24 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


David W. Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary Borton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation


Sena Yesslith, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma