

FEHB Program for Tribes

- The Affordable Care Act (ACA) allows certain eligible tribes and tribal organizations to purchase Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program coverage for their employees.
- The first 15 tribes started participating in May of 2012.
- We now have over 60 participating tribes and tribal organizations, approximately 11,000 enrollees and 22,000 covered lives across 16 states (with the heaviest concentration in Alaska and California).
- The six members of the tribe team members are assigned to individual tribes and tribal organizations to process their applications, guide them through their initial enrollment into the FEHB, and to answer any questions they may have.
- The tribe team also works closely with the National Finance Center (NFC). NFC maintains the tribal enrollment system, called the Tribal Insurance Processing System or TIPS. Tribes use the TIPS web portal to manage enrollments and billing through electronic funds transfer.
- The tribe team also works with the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). These organizations assist us in verifying tribe eligibility and help us get the word out to tribes about the FEHB Program.
- The tribe team has developed a comprehensive outreach plan that includes participating in many outreach activities and events to get the word out to tribes and tribal organizations.
 - The team attends and speaks at Native American conferences around the country hosted by organizations, such as the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), the National Native American Human Resources Association (NNAHRA), and the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET).
 - Recently, we attended the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) conference in Anchorage, Alaska and over the next couple of months we are attending and speaking at a NNAHRA conference in Nashville and the NIHB conference in Albuquerque.
 - The team also conducts full training sessions for tribal human resources staff on the FEHB Program and the TIPS system. Since May of 2012, we have trained approximately 300 tribal human resources staff. Over the next few months we are conducting training in Billings, Montana for 24 attendees; in Nashville, TN; Albuquerque, NM; and here in DC at OPM.
 - This past May, we presented a webcast on the FEHB Program hosted by The National Congress of American Indians in collaboration with the National Indian Health and Outreach.
 - The team is also developing an interactive online training program.