



## 2026 Tribal Self-Governance Conference

**Next Gen of Tribal Self-Governance: Turning Change into Opportunity**

April 7–9, 2026 | Wild Horse Pass Resort & Casino | Chandler, Arizona

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### Monday, April 6 – Arrival & Welcome

Registration (3 – 7 pm)

Check in and pick up conference materials.

Welcome Reception (5 – 7 pm)

*Event Lawn*

Kick off the conference with an informal evening on the event lawn. Enjoy light appetizers, a cash bar, music by DJ Rudy Indigenous, and the opportunity to connect with colleagues from across Indian Country.

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### Tuesday, April 7

All-Day Opportunities

**DOI Self-Governance Database: Technical Assistance (9 am – 5 pm)**

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Welcome Breakfast (8:00 – 9:30)

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Morning Breakouts (9:45 – 10:45 am)

**How Are Tribes Using Artificial Intelligence?**

**Federal Indian Law 101: Understanding the Tribal–Federal Relationship**

**Speaking With Impact: Advancing Tribal Priorities in Washington**

**Indian Health 101**

**Using Tribal Authorities to Lead Public Land Stewardship (Tribal Only)**

**Self-Governance: Lessons from Recent Tribal Transitions**

**Alaska Area Tribal Delegation Meeting (INVITE ONLY)**

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## Late Morning Breakouts (11:00 am–12:00 pm)

**Negotiation and Mediation: Indigenous Approaches to Resolving Conflict**

**Audit Requirements Under ISDEAA**

**What Is Self-Governance Authority—and How Is It Different from Self-Determination and 477?**

**Social Media Strategy: Measuring Impact and Navigating the Algorithm**

**Strengthening Tribal Health Through Strategic Revenue Management**

**Alaska Area Tribal Delegation Meeting (INVITE ONLY)**

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## Lunch Break (12 – 1:30 pm)

Lunch is on your own, and attendees are encouraged to explore the variety of dining options available throughout Wild Horse Pass. On-site choices include Fullhouse Café, Ling & Louie's Asian Bar and Grill, a food court with FatBurger and Rizzo's pizza, and a food truck located on the event lawn.

Additional dining options are available within a short drive or by delivery, including restaurants at the Phoenix Premium Outlets, Rudy's Country Store and Bar-B-Q, and other nearby locations. Please plan accordingly and enjoy the break before afternoon sessions resume.

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## Afternoon Breakouts (1:30–2:45 pm)

**One on One Technical Assistance on Using Tribal Authorities to Lead Public Land Stewardship**

**Self-Governance at DOI**

**Accounting for Self-Governance Funds**

**Artificial Intelligence & Data Infrastructure**

**Understanding Section 105(l) of ISDEAA**

**Core Concepts: Communication Training Based on Tribal Values**

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## Late Afternoon Breakouts (3:15–4:45 pm)

**Telling Your Own Story: Demonstrating the Power of Self-Governance**

**Public Health Campaigns: Developing an Effective Message**

**Self-Governance's Impact on Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community**

**Changes to Contract Support Costs Policy After San Carlos Apache**

**Building Tribal Workforce Capacity**

**Understanding the Federal Appropriations Process**

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## Wednesday, April 8

### All-Day Opportunities and Side Events

**DOI Self-Governance Database: Training & Technical Assistance (9 am – 5 pm)**

**Self-Governance and Philanthropy – INVITE ONLY (9 am –11 pm)**

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### Plenary Session (9:15 am – 12 pm)

*Showroom*

Opening ceremonies

Leadership discussions with HHS/IHS, DOI, and Treasury

Premieres of *For Our People* stories highlighting Tribal innovation and Self-Governance in action.

Discussions on key priorities for Tribal Nations, including final rules on the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act, behavioral health programs, and more

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### Lunch (12 – 1:30 pm)

Lunch will be provided, offering a chance to step away from sessions and enjoy time together in a more informal setting. Attendees will also be treated to a live musical performance by Connor Chee, whose work blends contemporary piano with Indigenous influences.

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## Afternoon Plenary (1:30 – 2:30 pm)

*Showroom*

Continued discussions on key priorities for Tribal Nations, including opportunities for philanthropic partnerships, Section 105(l), and stewardship/management of public lands

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## Afternoon Breakouts (3 – 4:30 pm)

**Tribal Consultation: Non-BIA Programs**

**Q&A With HHS and DOI Leadership**

**Understanding the Role of ICE and Tribal Nations**

**Update from Department of Veterans Affairs**

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## Evening Event (5:30 – 9 pm)

**Heard Museum Evening Reception (Ticketed)**

Enjoy a special evening at the Heard Museum featuring dinner, private gallery access, live performances, and Native artist demonstrations. Transportation provided; tickets are limited.

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## Thursday, April 9

### All-Day Opportunities

**Beading and Fringing Workshop (8:30 am – 4 pm)**

This all-day Beading and Fringing Workshop offers attendees the opportunity to stop by at their convenience for hands-on, one-on-one instruction and time to work on a beading or fringing project. Whether you are new to beading and fringing or looking to refine your skills, instructors will be available throughout the day to provide guidance, answer questions, and share techniques.

**DOI Self-Governance Database: Training & Technical Assistance (9 am – 5 pm)**

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## Morning Breakouts (9 – 10 am)

**Updates from IHS and DOI Offices of Self-Governance**

**8(a) Contracting**

**Understanding Tribal and Residual Shares**

## From Transition to Transformation: CSKT's Self-Governance Journey

### Tiwahe Initiative Update

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#### Plenary Session (10:15 am – 12 pm)

#### *Showroom*

Leadership discussions with Department of Transportation

Premieres of *For Our People* stories highlighting Tribal innovation and Self-Governance in act

Discussions on key priorities for Tribal Nations, including legislative updates and CMS reimbursement for traditional healing practices.

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#### Lunch Break (12 – 1:30 pm)

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#### Afternoon Breakouts (1:30 – 2:45 pm)

##### **DOT Non-Typical Funding Opportunities**

**Advancing Tribal Sovereignty Through Partnership: Tools, Strategies, and Opportunities with the Coalition of Tribal Sovereignty**

**Using Pre-Award/Startup Funding to Start or Expand Your Own Health Clinic and Pharmacy**

**Energy Sovereignty Through TERAs and Tribal Utility Authorities**

**Community Health Aide Program**

**From Federal Obligation to Indigenous Innovation: Building the Future of Native K-12 Education**

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**Late Afternoon Breakouts (3:15 – 4:30 pm)**

**Leveraging PRC Funds to Expand Access Through Marketplace Insurance**

**Understanding Impacts to Self-Determination and Self-Governance from Changes in the Budget Process**

**Tribal Pharmacy Consortia and Fair Access to Drug Pricing**

**Updates on the IHS EHR Modernization**

**Using a Consortium Approach for Expanding Tribal Administration of BIA's Realty Program**

**Leveraging the Power of Partnership**

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*Agenda subject to change.*