



2026
TSG CONFERENCE
NEXT-GEN OF TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE
TURNING CHANGE INTO OPPORTUNITY

**CONFERENCE
PROGRAM**



**APRIL 7-9, 2026 | WILD HORSE PASS RESORT &
CASINO | CHANDLER, ARIZONA**

**Monday, April 6 – Arrival & Welcome
Registration (12:00–6:00 PM)
Check in and pick up conference materials.
Location: Hotel Lobby**

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

All-Day Opportunities

Registration (7:30 AM – 5:00 PM)

Location: Hotel Lobby

Tribal Delegation Meetings

Private, pre-arranged meetings between Tribal Nations and federal agencies, including IHS and DOI, to discuss priorities, issues, and opportunities. Coordinated directly with IHS and DOI.

DOI Self-Governance Database: Training & Technical Assistance (10:00 AM – 5:00 PM)

Location: Ocotillo

Schedule a session for hands-on support with the DOI Self-Governance Database. Federal staff will be available throughout the day to answer questions, provide demonstrations, and help participants use the system more effectively.

Breakfast Provided (8:00 – 9:30 AM) – Event Lawn
Morning Breakouts (9:30 – 10:30 AM)

How Are Tribes Using Artificial Intelligence?

Location: Palo Verde A

Hosted in partnership with Arizona State University's American Indian Policy Institute, explore how Tribal Nations are using AI to support governance, service delivery, data management, and communications.

Traci Morris, Executive Director of the American Indian Policy Institute, Arizona State University

Mari Hulbutta, Director of Data Stewardship, Chickasaw Nation (invited)

Paula Starr, Chief Information Officer, Cherokee Nation

Speaking With Impact: Advancing Tribal Priorities in Washington

Location: Acacia C&D

Learn practical strategies for engaging Congress and the Administration, shaping clear messages, and navigating political change while advancing Tribal priorities and Self-Governance goals.

Kayla Gebeck, Principal, Giizhik Law

Mary Pavel, Partner, Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, LLP

Indian Health 101

Location: Palo Verde B

Hosted in partnership with the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), a foundational overview of the federal–Tribal relationship in health care, including the legal basis for federal obligations and how those responsibilities are carried out today.

A.C. Locklear, CEO, NIHB

Jamie-Lee Marks, Vice President, Policy & Advocacy, NIHB

Garrett Lankford, Director, Federal Relations, NIHB

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

Location: Acacia A

Hosted in partnership with Native Americans in Philanthropy, examine how Tribes are using ISDEAA and other authorities to lead co-stewardship and co-management of public and ancestral lands. Panelists will share strategies, challenges, and lessons learned.

Shawn Watts, Supreme Court Justice, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, & Executive Director, Tribal Stewardship and Sovereignty Network

Rachel Brown, Senior Advisor for Conservation and Strategic Partnerships, Native Americans in Philanthropy

Natalie Landreth, Partner, Nashoba Consulting

Nada Culver, Partner, Nashoba Consulting

Sam Kohn, Partner, Kaplan Kosch, LLP

NOTE: One-on-one technical assistance for Tribes interested in co-management/co-stewardship opportunities will be offered from 12:00 – 5:00 PM in the Sunset Boardroom.

Self-Governance: Lessons from Recent Tribal Transitions

Location: Cholla

Hear directly from Tribal leaders who have recently negotiated Self-Governance agreements. The session focuses on planning, readiness, negotiations, and practical lessons for Tribes considering new or expanded authorities.

Bobby Gonzalez, Chairman, Caddo Nation of Oklahoma

Victoria Kitcheyan, Councilmember, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

Michele Scott, Councilor, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

Assuming BIA Probate Functions: Tribal Innovation, Regional Service Models, and Lessons Learned

Location: Palo Verde C

This session highlights how Tribal Nations are exploring new approaches to address challenges within the BIA probate program, sharing perspectives on Tribal efforts to strengthen service delivery, reduce delays, and improve support for families navigating trust estate matters.

Jason Carrizosa, Chief Administrative Officer, Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Rachel Mendoza, Probate Supervisor, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community

Kelly Rael, Special Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior

Late Morning Breakouts (10:45 –11:45 AM)

Negotiation and Mediation: Indigenous Approaches to Resolving Conflict

Location: Palo Verde A

This session explores negotiation and mediation skills grounded in traditional Indigenous dispute-resolution practices, transformative theory, and Tribal approaches to relationship-based problem solving.

Shawn Watts, Supreme Court Justice, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, & Director, Mediation & Negotiation Clinic, University of Kansas School of Law

Candice Skenandore, Self-Governance/Grants Director, Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut

Karen Fierro, Self-Governance Director, Ak-Chin Indian Community

Understanding Tribal and Residual Shares

Location: Palo Verde B

This session provides an overview of Tribal and residual shares and how they are calculated, allocated, and managed within Self-Governance and Self-Determination frameworks.

Lindsay King, Chief Strategy Officer, Osage Nation Health System

Terra Branson-Thomas, Senior Policy Advisor, Clause Law, PLLC

Self-Governance Across the Federal Government – General Overview of Self-Governance Implementation Across Several Agencies

Location: Acacia A

This session explores recent efforts to expand and use self-governance agreements at the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as ongoing efforts to expand self-governance to more than 20 non-IHS programs within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Jay Spaan, Executive Director, Tribal Self-Governance

Kayla Gebeck, Principal, Giizhik Law

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

Developing a Social Media Strategy: Measuring Impact and Navigating the Algorithm

Location: Acacia C&D

Learn how to design intentional social media strategies, understand platform algorithms, and track meaningful metrics to strengthen digital engagement.

Harper Estey, Strategist, NUNA

Anthony LaFauce, Managing Director of AI Innovation, Clyde

Candace Hamana, Director of Tribal Relations, Office of Government and Community Engagement at Arizona State University

Moderator: Ricki McCarroll, Founder + CEO, NUNA

Strengthening Tribal Health Through Strategic Revenue Management

Location: Palo Verde C

A case study on how strategic third-party billing and revenue management can expand services, improve sustainability, and support Tribal health system growth.

Lisa Schlosser, Sr. Director Patient Accounts, Oyate Health Center, Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board

Sunny Colombe, Sr. Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board

Nico Shepherd, Senior Director of Patient Services, Oyate Health Center, Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board



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21st Century Planning: Building Strategic Plans That Actually Work

Location: Acacia B

Participants explore how to co-design governance and program plans that reflect tribal values while meeting federal compliance requirements, covering goal-setting, priority alignment, and building measurable outcomes.

Charles Dayton, Tribal Strategy

Special Event: Ribbon Cutting for Gila River Indian Community's Public Safety Building (105(l)) (11:45 AM – 1:30 PM)

Join the Gila River Indian Community for the ceremonial opening of its new 105(l) Public Safety Building, which will co-house Police, EMT, and Fire professionals, with transportation beginning at 11:45 a.m., the program starting around 12:15 p.m., and lunch provided. If you would like to attend, please rsvp to executivemail@gric.nsn.us.

Lunch Break (12:00 – 1:45 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.

Afternoon Breakouts (1:45– 3:00 PM)

Accounting for Self-Governance Funds: How Compacts Differ from Grants

Location: Acacia C&D

This session provides a focused overview of how Self-Governance funding differs from grants from an accounting and compliance perspective, discussing the statutory basis for Self-Governance funding and why applying grant-based rules can undermine flexibility and efficiency.

Linda Austin, Chief Operations Officer, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
Lawrence Barton, Treasurer, Oneida Nation

Afternoon Breakouts (1:45– 3:00 PM)

Section 105(l) of ISDEAA: Tribal Implementation and Federal Perspectives

Location: Palo Verde A

This two-part breakout session will provide a comprehensive look at Section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) and its role in supporting Tribal Self-Governance.

1:30 – 2:00 | The first panel will focus on the importance of Section 105(l) for Tribal Self-Governance, sharing experiences negotiating and implementing 105(l) lease agreements.

Geoff Strommer, Partner, Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, LLP
Delores J. Noble, M.Ed., Chairwoman, Sage Memorial Board of Directors

2:00 – 2:45 | The second panel will bring together federal representatives to discuss agency processes, policy considerations, and opportunities to improve coordination and timeliness.

Chris Poole, Area Director, Indian Health Service
Cody Seeton, Chief, Office of Tribal Leases, Indian Affairs, DOI

Core Concepts: Communication Training Based on Tribal Values

Location: Acacia A

Southcentral Foundation's Nuka System of Care emphasizes strong relationships between providers and customer-owners through its three-day Core Concepts training rooted in Alaska Native values of storytelling and listening.

April Kyle, President and CEO, Southcentral Foundation
Casey Cooper, CEO, Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority
Jerilyn Church, CEO, Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board

Federal Indian Law 101: Understanding the Tribal–Federal Relationship

Location: Palo Verde B

An introductory overview of Tribal sovereignty, the federal trust responsibility, and government-to-government relations designed for federal staff and partners seeking a practical foundation for working effectively with Tribal governments.

Larry Roberts, Attorney General, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut
Derrick Beetso, Professor of Practice & Executive Director, Indian Gaming and Self-Governance, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University

Self-Governance at the Department of the Interior (DOI): A Primer from the DOI Office of Self-Governance

Location: Palo Verde C

DOI's Office of Self-Governance (OSG) staff will provide an orientation to Self-Governance, as authorized under Title IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

Matt Kallappa, Acting Director, OSG, DOI
Vickie Hanvey, Program Policy Analyst, DOI

Recent Medicaid Updates and Other ACA/IHC Hot Topics

Location: Cholla

This session will address breaking updates on high priority "hot topics" in Medicare, Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act/Indian Health Care Improvement Act (ACA/IHCIA), and One Big Beautiful Bill Act Implementation.

Cyndi Ferguson, ACA/IHCIA Project Lead, Governmental Relations Advisor, Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, LLP
Elliott Milhollin, Partner, Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, LLP
Elizabeth Bailey, Governmental Relations Advisor, Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, LLP



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Contact Info: Eric Hirschler, 214-334-6161 or erich@mlrtribalsolutions.com

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

The Power of Storytelling

Location: Acacia A

This two-part breakout session will explore how multimedia and storytelling can serve as a powerful tool for education and driving meaningful change.

3:15 – 4:00 | This first panel “**Telling Your Own Story: Demonstrating the Power of Self-Governance**” explores why controlling the narrative matters and how Tribal Nations can use storytelling as a strategic tool to demonstrate the real impact of Self-Governance.

Jeremy Charles, Writer, Director, Producer, Pursuit Films

4:00 – 4:30 | This second session “**Public Health Campaigns: Developing an Effective Message**” focuses on how health systems can design public health campaigns that resonate with their communities and reflect Tribal values, culture, and priorities.

Meredith Raimondi, Senior Vice President of Policy and Communications, National Council of Urban Indian Health

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

Location: Acacia C&D

Tribal Self-Governance has empowered Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community to create a “Community of Caring” model focused on improving the “5 Determinants of Health” with a current goal to increase the average age of mortality from 52 to 57 years within five years.

Joseph Remitera, Health and Human Services Director, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

Changes to Contract Support Costs Policy After San Carlos Apache

Location: Palo Verde A

This session examines recent changes to Contract Support Costs (CSC) policy following the Supreme Court’s decision in *San Carlos Apache Tribe v. Becerra* and what those changes mean for Tribes operating under ISDEAA agreements.

*Rena Macy, Acting Director, Office of Indian Self-Determination and Self-Governance
Lloyd Miller, Partner, Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller & Monkman LLP*

Building Tribal Workforce Capacity

Location: Palo Verde C

This session explores strategies Tribal Nations are using to recruit, retain, and grow a strong workforce capable of supporting Tribal Self-Governance and long-term community health priorities.

Melanie Fourkiller, Director of Self-Governance and Health Policy, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Debbie Danforth, Comprehensive Health Division Director, Oneida Nation

Dr. Corey Bunch, Chief of Staff, Cherokee Nation

Understanding the Federal Appropriations Process

Location: Palo Verde B

This session provides an overview of the federal appropriations process and how funding decisions are made from the President's budget request to final congressional action.

Tyler Scribner, CEO, Tribal Sovereign Data

Elizabeth Molle-Carr, Cedar Rock Alliance

Elizabeth Malerba, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, United South and Eastern Tribes

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

Location: Cholla

Learn about the experiences of Tribes considering a consortium approach to assume administration of BIA's realty program in one Region.

Robert Smith, Chairman, Pala Band of Mission Indians

Sam Kohn, Partner, Kaplan and Kirsch, LLC

**Listening Session (5:00 – 6:00 PM)
Tribal Priorities for Injury and Overdose Prevention**

Location: Acacia B

Seven Directions, an Indigenous Public Health Institute based in Seattle, WA, is holding a listening session to facilitate a discussion on public health priorities on injury and overdose prevention among Tribes. This listening session is funded through the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

All-Day Opportunities and Side Events

DOI Self-Governance Database: Training & Technical Assistance (9 AM – 5 PM)

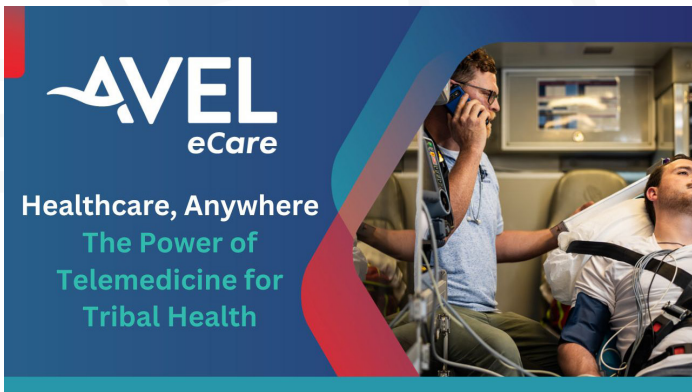
Location: Ocotillo

Drop in for hands-on support with the DOI Self-Governance Database. Federal staff will be available throughout the day to answer questions, provide demonstrations, and help participants use the system more effectively.

Self-Governance 101 for Philanthropy – INVITE ONLY SESSION (9:30 –10:30 AM)

Location: Acacia C&D

Tribal Self-Governance and Native Americans in Philanthropy are partnering to offer a session designed for philanthropic partners to deepen their understanding of Tribal Self-Governance authority.



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Our partnership with Global Medical Response has been instrumental in ensuring our community receives faster, more efficient emergency care.

Jason Carrizosa, Morongo Chief Administrative Officer

Come see us at **Booth 430** or contact us at TribalEMS@gmr.net or **360.609.7563**.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

Plenary Session in the Showroom (8:30am–12:00pm)

- 8:30** **Plenary Session – Doors Open**
Location: Showroom
- 8:50** **Posting of Colors – Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84**
Opening Prayer - Thurman “TJ” Loretto, 2nd Lt. Governor, Pueblo of Jemez
- 9:00** **Welcome and Digital Sovereignty Discussion**
Governor Stephen Lewis, Gila River Indian Community
Traci Morris, Executive Director, American Indian Policy Institute, ASU
- 9:20** **Turning Change into Opportunity: A Tribal-Federal Leadership Exchange**
Mark Cruz, Senior Advisor to the Secretary
Clayton Fulton, Chief of Staff, Indian Health Service
Dr. Kim Hartwig, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Indian Health Service
Chris Anoatubby, Lt. Governor, Chickasaw Nation
Michele Scott, Councilor, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
- 9:50** **Updates from the Department of the Treasury**
Fatima Abbas, Director, Office of Tribal and Native Affairs, U.S. Department of the Treasury
W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe
Anthony Hillaire, Chairman, Lummi Nation
Tyson Johnston, Councilmember, Quinault Nation
- 10:10** **Tribal Co-Stewardship of the Mendenhall Glacier Visitors Center – For Our People**
Premiere and Panel Discussion
Richard Peterson, President, Tlingit and Haida Tribes of Alaska
Jeremy Charles, Pursuit Films
Sahar Khadjenoury, Producer, First Nations Experience TV

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

Plenary Session in the Showroom (8:30am–12:00pm)

10:35

Working Together: Administration Updates and the Future of Tribal Self-Governance at the Department of the Interior

William “Billy” Kirkland, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior

Kennis Bellmard, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Economic Development, Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior

Jason Bruno, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management, Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior

*W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe
Tehassi Hill, Chairman, Oneida Nation*

11:00

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Secretary of Health and Human Services (Invited)

11:15

Connecting With Our Youth Suicide Prevention Program – For Our People

Premiere & Panel Discussion

Jerilyn Church, CEO, Oyate Health Center, Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board

Keaton Widow, Program Manager, Connecting with Our Youth Program

*Ryker Sixkiller, TSG Co-Host
Melanie Fourkiller, Director of Self-Governance and Health Policy, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and Treasurer, Tribal Self-Governance*

11:35

Michael Olsen, Associate Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior

11:50

Philanthropy & Tribal Nations: Building Strong Partnerships to Advance Sovereignty

Philanthropic Partner

Melanie Fourkiller, Director of Self-Governance and Health Policy, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and Treasurer, Tribal Self-Governance

Jay Spaan, Executive Director, Tribal Self-Governance

Erik Stegman, CEO, Native Americans in Philanthropy

Lunch (12:00 – 2:00 PM)

Location: Palo Verde A,B,C with additional seating on the Event Lawn

Enjoy a provided lunch with time to step away from sessions, *hear remarks from U.S. Senator Ruben Gallego* - the first Latino U.S. Senator to represent Arizona, and experience live musical performances by *Connor Chee* and *Lil Mike and Funny Bone*.

Connor Chee

Award-winning pianist and composer from the Navajo Nation, celebrated for blending classical piano with traditional Navajo musical themes. A prodigy who began piano lessons at age six, Chee made his Carnegie Hall debut at just 12 years old. Chee's albums earned multiple Native American Music Awards.

Lil Mike & Funny Bone

Lil Mike & Funny Bone also known as Mike Bone are the two Native American rappers from America's Got Talent. They have spent years on stage developing their skills not just as rappers but as performance artists & motivational speakers.

Afternoon Breakouts (2:00 – 3:00 PM)

Q&A with Federal Leadership

Location: Palo Verde A & B

Following the plenary updates from federal leadership, this session offers an opportunity to continue the discussion and dialogue, with participants able to ask questions, explore shared priorities, and discuss solutions to common challenges.

Panelists:

Mark Cruz, Senior Advisor to the Secretary

Clayton Fulton, Chief of Staff, Indian Health Service

Dr. Kim Hartwig, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Indian Health Service

Public Safety in Indian Country

Location: Cholla

This session will provide an overview of public safety efforts in Indian Country and the federal programs that support Tribal law enforcement and justice systems.

Charles Addington, Acting OJS Director, Department of the Interior

TIWAHE - Positioning Tribes to Lead in a Time of Change

Location: Acacia C&D

This session will share a decade-long update on Tiwahe, showing how Tribes have benchmarked the initiative to international models such as those in New Zealand and implemented it as an innovative framework to strengthen families.

BIA Division of Energy and Mineral Development: Services and Resources for Tribal Energy & Mineral Development

Location: Acacia A

This session provides an overview of Tribal Energy Resource Agreements that offer Tribes an opportunity to assume key functions associated with energy development, and the services offered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Division of Energy and Mineral Development (DEMD).

Johnna Blackhair, Deputy Bureau Director, Trust Services, BIA

Jennifer Reimann, Acting Branch Chief, Energy and Mineral Capacity Development, Division of Energy and Mineral Development, BIA

Late Afternoon Breakouts (3:15 – 4:30 PM)

Tribal Listening Session: Self-Governance & Non-BIA Programs

Location: Palo Verde C

A listening session focused on Self-Governance opportunities in non-BIA programs.

Q&A with Federal Leadership

Location: Palo Verde A & B

Following the plenary updates from federal leadership, this session offers an opportunity to continue the discussion and dialogue.

William "Billy" Kirkland, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior

Kennis Bellmard, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Economic Development, Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior

Jason Bruno, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management, Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior

Bryan Mercier, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Updates from the Department of Veterans Affairs (3:15 – 5:00 PM)

Location: Acacia C&D

A panel of leaders from the Veterans Health Administration and the Indian Health Service will provide updates regarding programs and services for Native Veterans as well as partnerships with Tribal governments and Tribal health programs, then will conclude with a workshop on reimbursement agreements.

Overview of the Department of Justice's Drug Diversion Control Program

Location: Acacia A

This session will overview how federal agents and diversion investigators partner with Tribal Nations to address opioid and fentanyl-related challenges, highlighting current drug trends, compliance in Tribal health systems, and best practices for security, recordkeeping, and safe disposal.

Danny Vo, Diversion Investigator, DEA
Justin Watt, Special Agent, DEA
Justin Jarvis, Special Agent, DEA
Jessica Perez, Diversion Program Specialist

Indian Health Service: EHR Modernization Update

Location: Cholla

Mitchell Thornbrugh, Chief Information Officer and Director of IHS Office of Information Technology, Indian Health Service

Evening Reception (5:15 – 9:00 PM)
Shuttles depart Wild Horse Pass at 5:15 PM
Heard Museum Evening Reception (Ticketed)

Join us for a special evening reception at the Heard Museum, one of the nation's most significant institutions dedicated to Native art, culture, and history. Transportation will be provided from Wild Horse Pass to the museum in Phoenix, offering attendees a unique opportunity to experience this landmark cultural space together.

Guests will enjoy dinner, private access to museum galleries, live musical and traditional dance performances, and demonstrations by local Native artists. This immersive evening celebrates the richness and diversity of Native cultures in the Southwest and highlights the Heard Museum's longstanding role as a steward and storyteller of Indigenous voices and creativity.

Tickets for this reception are available for purchase and are limited in number. Attendees are encouraged to secure tickets early to take part in this memorable cultural experience.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

All-Day Opportunities

Beading and Fringing Workshop (8:30 AM – 4:00 PM)

Location: Cholla

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 (9:00 AM – 5:00 PM)

Location: Ocotillo

Schedule a session for hands-on support with the DOI Self-Governance Database. Federal staff will be available throughout the day to answer questions, provide demonstrations, and help participants use the system more effectively.

Morning Breakouts (9:00 – 10:00 AM)

Updates from IHS and DOI Offices of Self-Governance

Location: Palo Verde A

This session provides updates from the Indian Health Service Office of Tribal Self-Determination and Self-Governance, the Department of the Interior Office of Self-Governance, and the Department of Transportation on current priorities, recent developments, and upcoming initiatives.

Rena Macy, Acting Director, OISS, IHS

Matt Kallappa, Acting Director, OSG, DOI

Milo Booth, Director, Office of Tribal Government Affairs, DOT

Self-Determination in Action: Federal Contracting as a Tool for Native Self-Determination

Location: Palo Verde B

Hosted in partnership with the Native American Contractor's Association (NACA), this panel offers a high-level overview of how Tribally owned federal contracting enterprises promote economic sovereignty, build institutional capacity, and generate sustainable revenue.

Quinton Carroll, Executive Director, NACA

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

Location: Acacia A

This session features a conversation with officials from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) reflecting on their transition into Tribal Self-Governance, including early challenges, key decisions, and how Self-Governance has evolved into a foundation for Tribal leadership.

*Michael Dolson, Chairman, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
 Ruth Swaney, Budget Director and Self-Governance Coordinator, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
 Patricia Hawkins, Budget Specialist, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes*

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

Location: Palo Verde C

This session explores how Native educators, tribes, and federal partners are reimagining K-12 education through language revitalization, food sovereignty, school leadership, and youth workforce initiatives.

Heath Clayton, Lead Executive Officer, National Fund for Excellence in American Indian Education



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Plenary Session in the Showroom (10:00 AM - 12:00 PM)

- 10:00** **Doors Open**
- 10:05** **Joe Tohonnie Jr. and the White Mountain Apache Crown Dancers**
- 10:15** **Working Together: Administration Updates and the Future of Tribal Self-Governance at the Department of Transportation**
 James Crawford, Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs, Department of Transportation

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S'klallam Tribe
Tyson Johnston, Councilmember, Quinault Nation
- 10:35** **Increased Self-Determination over Food Programs: For Our People Premiere and Panel Discussion**
 Melissa Gower, Senior Advisor, Policy Analyst, Chickasaw Nation

Tyson Johnston, Councilmember, Quinault Nation
Kayla Gebeck, Principal, Giizhik Law
- 10:55** **Technology, Sovereignty, and Service: Inside the Choctaw Nation's Drone Program**
 James Grimsley, Executive Director – Advanced Technology Initiatives, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Melanie Fourkiller, Director of Self-Governance and Health Policy, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- 11:10** **Integrating Traditional Stories into Behavioral Health – For Our People Premiere and Panel Discussion**
 Angie Wilson, CEO, Klamath Tribal Health & Family Services
 Devery Saluskin, Recovery Support Supervisor

Heather Washington, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community
Ryker Sixkiller, TSG Co-Host
- 11:35** **Turning Change into Opportunity: A Tribal-Federal Leadership Exchange**
 Kim Kovol, Principal Deputy Director, Administration for Native Americans

Anthony Hillaire, Chairman, Lummi Nation
Loni Greninger, Vice Chair, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

Plenary Session in the Showroom (10:00 AM - 12:00 PM)

11:55

Prediction Markets: A forward-looking Analysis of Key Legal Trends Poised to Influence Tribal Gaming

Danielle Finn, Director of the Indian Nations Gaming and Governance Program, William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada – Las Vegas
Kathryn Rand, Visiting Professor, William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada – Las Vegas
Steven Light, Senior Distinguished Fellow of Tribal Gaming Policy; Professor of Political Science and Public Administration, Co-Director of the Institute for the Study of Tribal Gaming Law and Policy at the University of North Dakota

Lunch Break (12:15 – 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.

Afternoon Breakouts (1:30 – 2:45 PM)

DOT Non-Typical Funding Opportunities

Location: Acacia A

The U.S. Department of Transportation will provide an overview of current funding streams, eligibility requirements, and priorities across DOT agencies, highlighting key Tribal transportation programs and additional DOT resources.

James Crawford, Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs, Department of Transportation
Milo Booth, Director, Office of Tribal Government Affairs, Department of Transportation
Ocfuske (O.J.) King, Tribal Affairs Specialist, Department of Transportation

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

Location: Palo Verde C

Explore the role of the Coalition of Tribal Sovereignty (CTS) in advancing Tribal sovereignty through coordinated advocacy, education, and practical tools designed to strengthen the Tribal-federal relationship.

A.C. Locklear, CEO, National Indian Health Board

Jay Spaan, Executive Director, Tribal Self-Governance

Kitcki Carroll, Executive Director, United South and Eastern Tribes

Ricki McCarroll, Founder + CEO, NUNA / CTS Communications Lead

Elizabeth Molle-Carr, Vice President, Intergovernmental Affairs, Cedar Rock Alliance / CTS

Using Pre-Award/Startup, 340B, and 105 (L) Funding to Start or Expand Your Own Health Clinic and Pharmacy

Location: Palo Verde A

This session will highlight how Tribal Nations are using 105(l), Pre-Award/Start-Up, and 340B pharmacy programs to fund and expand clinics, health programs, and Tribal pharmacies, with panelists walking through the process step by step and sharing candid lessons, challenges, and strategies from planning through implementation.

Sorab Boga, Director, Miccosukee

Derrick Brown, Facilities Manager, Mississippi Band of Choctaw

Tony Lucero, General Council, Picuris Pueblo

Forest Tahdoodahnippa, Chairman, Comanche Nation

Lindsey King, Self-Governance Director, Osage Nation

Moderators: Karen Knight, Partner, Face Rock Enterprises and Martha Knight, Face Rock Enterprises

Transforming the Health System through CHAP: Sustainability Strategies for Long Term Success

Location: Acacia B

As CHAP expands beyond Alaska, this session will focus on how Tribal Nations can build the infrastructure, governance, and investment to sustain the model for generations, exploring CHAP as a maturing health system rooted in Tribal sovereignty, cultural integrity, and community-driven design.

Tasha Mousseau, Vice President, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

Kelle Little, Chief Operating Officer Ko-Kwel Wellness Center

Callyn Gorneau, Behavioral Health Aide for Fort Peck Tribal Health

Moderator: Lisa Griggs, Tribal Community Health Provider Program Manager, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

Cross-Generational Leadership**Location: Acacia C&D**

This session explores how to lead across generations with respect, understanding, and savvy in today's workplace with diverse generational representation.

Bryan Harris, Tribal Specialist, Paradigm Shift

Late Afternoon Breakouts (3:00 – 4:15 PM)

NIHB Strategic Planning Session (3:00 – 5:00 PM)**Location: Palo Verde A**

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) will host a listening session at the 2026 Tribal Self-Governance Conference to gather Tribal leader and partner perspectives on the future of Tribal health and NIHB's role in advancing priorities over the next five years, with feedback directly informing NIHB's next strategic plan and refreshments provided.

Leveraging PRC Funds to Expand Access Through Marketplace Insurance**Location: Palo Verde B**

This session explores Tribal Sponsorship—using Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) funds to purchase health insurance for eligible patients—as an innovative approach to expand coverage, reduce financial barriers, and improve continuity of care.

Nico Sheppard, Sr. Director of Patient Services, Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board

Sunny Colombe, Sr. Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board

Understanding Impacts to Self-Determination and Self-Governance from Changes in the Budget Process**Location: Palo Verde C**

Explore impacts from an evolving federal budget process and discuss opportunities for improvement.

Kyle Key, Chickasaw Nation

Tyler Scribner, CEO, Tribal Sovereign Data

Tribal Pharmacy Consortia and Fair Access to Drug Pricing**Location: Acacia C&D**

This session highlights the creation of Tribal Procurement Partners, a Tribal Pharmacy Consortium formed in response to rising wholesale drug prices, sharing key findings and gaps in transparency around wholesaler contracts.

Jeff St. Louis, CEO, Native Purchasing Group

Thomas Siepka, RPh., MS FACHE, CEO, HCI – Healthcare Consultants, LLC

United in Purpose: Leveraging the Power of Partnership

Location: Acacia B

This panel features leaders from an Urban Indian Organization and two Tribally owned and operated health systems discussing the opportunities, benefits, and practical considerations of working with Direct Relief.

Kimberly Dutcher, Government Relations Advisor, Direct Relief
Cameron Chase, Director of Health, Tunica Biloxi Tribe
Megan MacKiernan, PA, Norton Sound Health Corporation

DOI Wildland Fire Program: Implications for Tribal Nations

Location: Acacia A

This session will provide an overview of recent changes within the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Wildland Fire Program and examine the implications for Tribal Nations engaged in fire management, fuels reduction, and natural resource stewardship.

Aaron Baldwin, Division Chief of Wildland Fire Management, National Interagency Fire Center
Juliette Jeanne, Wildland Firefighting Administrator Branch Chief

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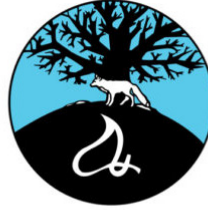
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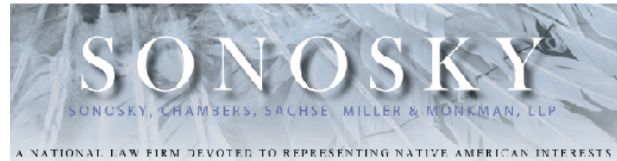
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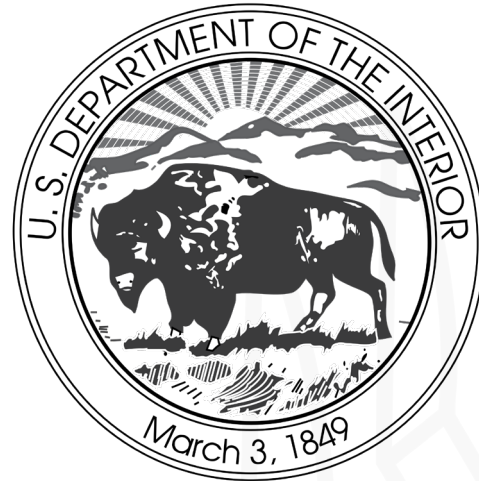
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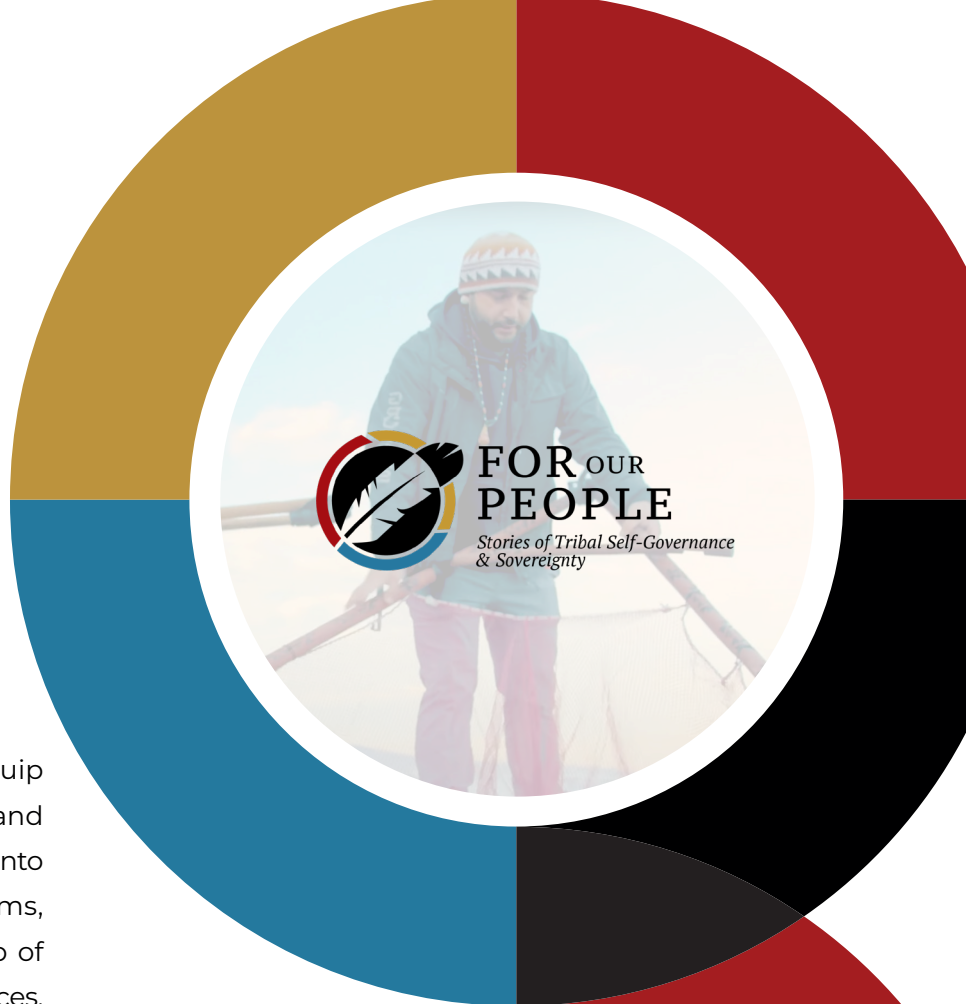
Supporting Scalable & Proven Models, Building a Portfolio for Systems Change

Tribal Self-Governance Certificate Program

TSG created the Certificate Program to equip leaders and practitioners with knowledge and tools to transform Self-Governance authority into tangible outcomes: stronger health systems, resilient economies, responsible stewardship of lands and waters, and improved public services. This program is 10-module, self-paced, online certification program provides a comprehensive self-governance foundation equipping leaders to navigate complex systems and deliver community-driven solutions.

Narrative Infrastructure for Scalable Social Impact: Solutioning via Sovereignty

For Our People is a national docuseries and strategic storytelling platform that reframes self-governance through a strengths-based lens. Each episode documents Tribal Self-Governance in action, highlighting innovation, leadership, and measurable results across Indian Country. **We are not simply telling stories. We are building narrative infrastructure that:** Protects critical funding streams; Strengthens Tribal advocacy capacity; Accelerates peer-to-peer replication; and Demonstrates community-led systems transformation.



A Portfolio for Systems Change

TSG advances Tribal-led solutions through interconnected initiatives that together strengthen the infrastructure that allows Tribal Nations to lead lasting change—building capacity, expanding opportunities, elevating Tribal-led innovations, and accelerating the spread of solutions that are already working.

Interested in enrolling or sponsoring the TSG Certificate Program? Have a Self-Governance story you want to tell?



Contact TSG Executive Director Jay Spaan directly at JayS@TribalSelfGov.Org.