



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Post Office Box 47890 | Olympia, Washington 98504-7890
711 Washington Relay Service

November 25, 2024

Re: Informative- Health Equity Zone for Native Communities Selection

Dear Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners, and Professionals:

We are writing today to provide information about the Health Equity Zone for Native Communities selection.

This communication follows the guidelines of [Chapter 43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and the [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#). We are informing you of the selection of the Health Equity Zone for Native Communities by the Indigenous Advisory Panel in October 2024. As we wrote to you on April 18, 2024, we invited Tribes, Tribal organizations, urban Native organizations, or a collaborative of these entities, to apply for the pilot phase of the Health Equity Zones Initiative.

The successful applicant is the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, and the identified Health Equity Zone are the ancestral lands of the Port Gamble S’Klallam, spanning Kitsap, Clallam, Jefferson, Mason, and San Juan counties. Health Equity Zones is a pilot initiative, and we are hopeful that its success will lead to more zones and opportunities for Tribes and urban Native communities across Washington.

For additional information, please contact Brianne Ramos, Health Equity Zones Manager, at brianne.ramos@doh.wa.gov or 360-878-7892 or Candice Wilson, Executive Director, Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov or 360-819-7626.

Sincerely,

Michele Roberts, MPH, MCHES
Assistant Secretary
Prevention and Community Health Washington
State Department of Health

cc: Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health, WA-DOH
Candice Wilson–Quatz’tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, WA-DOH
Katie Eilers, Director, Office of Family and Community Health Improvement, WA-DOH
Lacy Fehrenbach, Chief, Office of Prevention, Safety & Health Security, WA-DOH
Kristopher Holiday, Chief, Office of Strategic Partnerships, WA-DOH
Elizabeth Perez, Chief, Office of Public Affairs and Equity, WA-DOH
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, WA-DOH