



August 17, 2020

Dear Tribal Leader or Urban Indian Organization Leader:

We hope that you, your communities, and your loved ones are safe as you work to address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize that this is a difficult time for our country, and for Native communities in particular. While tribal leaders' focus is rightly on the immediate health of their citizens, it is our hope that by continuing to advance the research done at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), we can support discoveries that may help improve the health of all communities in the future. It is in that spirit that NIH is requesting tribal leaders' input on the *All of Us* Research Program's Draft Tribal Consultation Report before it is finalized later this year.

The *All of Us* Research Program, part of the NIH, was established to accelerate health research and medical breakthroughs to enable an era of precision medicine for all. Precision medicine is an approach to disease treatment and prevention that seeks to maximize effectiveness by taking into account individual variability in environment, lifestyle, and biological makeup. With the promise this research program represents for strategically addressing health challenges, it is our intent to respectfully engage with Tribal Nations about the inclusion of American Indian/Alaska Native populations in this program.

In 2017, *All of Us* established a Tribal Collaboration Working Group (TCWG) consisting of tribal leaders, researchers, and community members, and in 2018 the TCWG released a report outlining considerations for research partnerships with tribal communities. NIH initiated government-to-government consultation in May 2019 with a "Dear Tribal Leader" letter and took part in several HHS Regional Consultations to discuss the *All of Us* Research Program with tribal leaders. The program also held several listening sessions to engage community members. The consultation period ended on November 30, 2019. The *All of Us* Research Program's Tribal Consultation Report provides a list of twelve foundational commitments to Tribal Nations, a summary of the feedback heard during tribal consultations, responses from *All of Us* leadership, and specific actions the program will take in response. The Tribal Consultation Report Draft was reviewed by the *All of Us* TCWG and the NIH Tribal Advisory Committee and is available on the *All of Us* Tribal Engagement website ([AllofUs.nih.gov/TribalEngagement](https://allofus.nih.gov/TribalEngagement)).

We encourage tribal leaders to send written comments on the report to AoUTribal@nih.gov by Friday, October 16, 2020. We are sensitive to the disproportionate burden of COVID-19 related outcomes that tribal communities are facing. It is our hope that the 60-day comment period will allow tribal leaders time to review the report and provide their input. Feedback from tribal leaders will be carefully reviewed. Once the program's report is finalized, it will be publicly posted on the *All of Us* Tribal Engagement website. The Tribal Engagement website will continue to be updated with new information relevant to Tribal Nations.

We are committed to collaborating with Tribal Nations to advance precision medicine research and the future of healthier communities. Thank you for your consideration and interest in *All of Us*, and we hope your communities stay safe and healthy during this challenging time. We look forward to receiving your comments.

Sincerely yours,

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