

SUMMARY OF THE TRIBAL NATIONS ALLOCATION MATRIX

The Tribal Nation's allocation matrix is built around six data points: MMEs (morphine milligram equivalents) imputed to each Tribe; drug and prescription opioid overdose rates imputed to each Tribe; Indian Health Service (IHS) user population for each Tribe; citizenship population for each Tribe; relative poverty rates imputed to each Tribe; and relative cost of living imputed to each Tribe. Data are "imputed" to a Tribe by estimation based on population when the data is only available on a county or statewide basis. In the case of MMEs and drug overdose rates, the imputation of the data to a tribal population is multiplied by a "disproportionate impact" adjustment reflecting the higher incidence of opioid use disorder and prescription opioid overdose deaths in tribal communities.

Two computations are undertaken for all Tribes, and then combined together. 85% of a Tribe's matrix share is calculated by considering its imputed MME rate (50%), overdose rates (40%), and poverty rate (10%) as applied to its IHS user population. 15% of a Tribe's matrix share is calculated by considering the same three elements, similarly weighted, as applied to the Tribe's citizenship data. Once these two matrix results are combined, the resulting share is further adjusted by each Tribe's relative cost of living. COLA adjustments are done on a regional basis and are weighted at 10%, resulting in modest adjustments ranging from 1.3% down to 2.4% up.

The matrix allocates a single amount to all Alaska Tribes and inter-tribal organizations. Alaska Tribes and tribal organization are currently engaged in a process for suballocating the Alaska share of the matrix among the Alaska Tribes and tribal organizations. When this work is complete, the suballocations will replace the "Alaska" allocation in the matrix.

The matrix allocates individual amounts to each California Tribe, although four intertribal health care providers in California have also separately filed litigation. Each such intertribal provider is currently engaged in discussions with its respective Tribes. When those discussions are complete, allocations to the intertribal organizations may be added to the matrix with offsetting reductions to the shares currently assigned to their member Tribes.

All data used in the matrix are fixed except for tribal citizenship data and certain instances where the IHS user population number is imputed for certain tribes based on tribal citizenship data. For instance, some IHS service units contain multiple tribes. Unless the IHS or Tribes have itemized user counts by Tribe in these cases, the IHS service unit count was prorated among service unit Tribes in proportion to Tribal citizenship counts. Tribal citizenship data is subject to further verification and will be adjusted in the matrix, as necessary, once the verification process is completed. (This does not apply to total Alaska data, which is drawn from the U.S. Census.)