

## Indian Health Service (IHS) – Overview

The **Indian Health Service (IHS)** is a federal program that provides health care to **American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs)**. It offers medical services through hospitals, clinics, and other facilities across the U.S.

### Who is eligible?

You may qualify for IHS services if you are:

- A member of a federally recognized American Indian or Alaska Native tribe
- A descendant of a tribe and meet certain criteria
- Eligible through special treaties, laws, or agreements

Some non-Native people may also receive IHS care in limited cases, such as pregnant women carrying an AI/AN child or non-Native family members of eligible patients.

### What does IHS cover?

IHS provides basic health care services, including:

- ✓ Doctor visits & hospital care
- ✓ Preventive care (vaccines, screenings)
- ✓ Dental & vision services
- ✓ Mental health & substance abuse treatment
- ✓ Prescription medications
- ✓ Emergency medical services

### Important notes

- **IHS is not health insurance.** It provides care at IHS-run facilities, but services may be **limited based on funding** and availability.
- Many AI/ANs also enroll in **Medicaid, Medicare, or private insurance** to cover additional health care needs.
- If IHS facilities can't provide needed care, patients may be referred to outside providers through the **Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) program**, but this is **not guaranteed** due to funding limits.

### For more details

Visit the [Indian Health Service website](#) or contact a local IHS facility.