

## **Overview of ACIMM Recommendations: *Making Amends: Recommended Strategies to Improve the Health and Safety of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Mothers and Infants (2022)***

**June 26-27, 2024 Committee Meeting**



## Background

- ▶ In 2021 the Committee chose to focus on Indigenous infants and mothers, and spent over a year examining factors affecting birth outcomes among AI/AN people
- ▶ In September 2022, the ACIMM meeting was hosted by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community - the first Committee meeting ever held on Tribal land.
  - ▶ AI/AN experts, Tribal serving organizations, and people with lived experience presented to the Committee, and members finalized their draft recommendations on improving AI/AN birth outcomes.
- ▶ At the December 2022 ACIMM meeting, the Committee unanimously approved the recommendations and a report containing them was subsequently submitted to HHS Secretary Becerra: *“Making Amends: Recommended Strategies to Improve the Health and Safety of American Indians and Alaska Native Mothers and Infants”*

## Three Categories of Recommended Strategies

- ▶ Total of 59 recommendations in the report to the Secretary
  
- ▶ Recommendations fall into 3 categories:
  - 1) Make the Health and Safety of AI/AN Mothers and Infants a Priority for Action
  - 2) Improve the Living Conditions of AI/AN Mothers and Infants and Assure Universal Access to High Quality Healthcare
  - 3) Address Urgent and Immediate Health Challenges that Disproportionately Affect AI/AN Women Before, During, and After Pregnancy

## 1) Make the Health and Safety of AI/AN Mothers and Infants a Priority

- ▶ Sub-categories of recommendations:
  - ▶ Engage and center AI/AN communities as active, empowered leaders and decision-makers in working towards solutions (3 recommendations)
  - ▶ Mobilize federal, state, and local agencies and funding to end data invisibility and erasure (7 recommendations)
  - ▶ Prioritize short-term opportunities for action within HRSA and MCHB (4 recommendations)

## 2) Improve the Living Conditions of AI/AN Mothers and Infants and Assure Universal Access to High Quality Care

- ▶ Sub-categories of recommendations:
  - ▶ Evaluate, sufficiently fund, and improve the Indian Health Service (3 recommendations)
  - ▶ Expand and diversify the workforce (10 recommendations)
  - ▶ Strengthen approaches to adapt and augment social determinants of health (6 recommendations)

## 3) Address Urgent and Immediate Challenges that Disproportionately Affect AI/AN Women

- ▶ Sub-categories of recommendations:
  - ▶ Expand efforts to identify MMIWG and prevent its occurrence (7 recommendations)
  - ▶ Improve care of incarcerated pregnant and postpartum women (5 recommendations)
  - ▶ Expand violence surveillance and universal screening (9 recommendations)
  - ▶ Improve treatment of substance use and mental health problems (4 recommendations)

## Final Recommendation in Report

- ▶ Have Federal Advisory Committee meetings that are focused on issues of specific communities be held in those communities