



## **P. Benjamin Smith**

### **Deputy Director for Intergovernmental Affairs Indian Health Service**

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P. Benjamin Smith, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, is the deputy director for intergovernmental affairs for the Indian Health Service. The IHS, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the principal federal health care provider and health advocate for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

As the deputy director for intergovernmental affairs, Smith provides leadership on tribal and urban Indian health activities, in particular the implementation of the Title I and Title V authorities under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act and Title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, through oversight of the Office of Tribal Self-Governance, the Office of Direct Service and Contracting Tribes, and the Office of Urban Indian Health Programs.

Smith previously served as the director of the Office of Tribal Self Governance, where he oversaw all aspects of the administration of the Tribal Self-Governance Program, authorized by Title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

Prior to his federal service, Smith worked as a self-governance specialist for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, performing research, advisory services and consultation on health programs with national, state, and local health departments.

Throughout his career, Smith has received numerous awards, including the 2014 Arthur S. Flemming Award from the George Washington University Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, which honors outstanding federal employees for their exceptional contributions to the federal government. He has also received several IHS National Director's Awards for his contributions to tribal consultation activities, IHS Strategic Plan updates, and the agency lead negotiators curriculum.

Smith received his Master of Business Administration from George Washington University, a Master of Arts in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from American University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Brigham Young University. He is also one of the Navajo Nation's Chief Manuelito Scholars.