



James Craig | Policy & Partnerships Manager (SD)

James Craig joined CHAD in 2023 as Policy and Partnerships Manager in South Dakota. James is a citizen of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. He is the son of the late Arlene Gamble and Darin Craig. He is passionate about traditional foods, education, and public health.

In his role, James serves as the lead CHAD staff member on matters related to state-based South Dakota policy as well as federal policy impacting health centers and their communities. He promotes systemic change in support of CHAD's vision of, "Access to a high-quality system of health care for all Dakotans." James has experience working for tribal, state, federal, non-profit and Alaska Native Corporations formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA 1971). He is currently serving a three-year term as a director for Shee Atika, Incorporated, representing over 3,400 tribal stakeholders. James and his partner Sarah (and pets!) relocated from Portland, Oregon, to be closer to family. While he was there, he was working as a Tribal Liaison with the largest Coordinated Care Organization in the state within the Health Equity and Engagement department.

James is a first-generation college graduate and received his political science degree from Fort Lewis College in 2011. Remaining very active within the various communities, James served as the Native American and Indigenous Studies Student Board Representative. Later he completed the Master of Public Administration-Tribal Governance program at The Evergreen State College in 2016. James is excited to work with CHAD and partners to improve the health outcomes of all Dakotans.