



SEP 25 2018

Dear Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to inform you of the Indian Health Service's (IHS) progress to formally transfer the internal administration of the former National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) programs (former-NIAAA programs) from the IHS Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) to the IHS Office of Urban Indian Health Programs (OUIHP).

Originally, the former-NIAAA programs were among many awardees that received funds administered by the NIAAA, but the awards benefitting Indians and Urban Indians were transferred to the IHS in 1978 under an interagency agreement, and for Urban Indians, by statute in 1992. *See* 25 U.S.C. § 1660c. After the transfer to the IHS from the NIAAA, some of the awards to organizations serving Urban Indians were transferred to the OUIHP for administration, consistent with the IHS authorities under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA); such awards are funded pursuant to the Agency's discretionary budget line item for Urban Indian Health. Some of the former-NIAAA programs, however, have been administered separately by the IHS ASAP; these awards have been administered as part of the Agency's discretionary budget line item for Alcohol and Substance Abuse. Both approaches were consistent with the statute, which authorizes grants or contracts for the continuation of services being provided by these organizations, either as separate alcohol grants or contracts or in combination with Urban Indian Health funds. *See* 25 U.S.C. § 1660c.

For many years, the IHS has been asked by Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) to transfer the remaining former-NIAAA programs to the OUIHP, in part to ensure consistent administration of all funding for Urban Indian Health. In moving forward with this effort, on September 5, 2017, pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, Pub. L. No. 114-113, 129 Stat. 2242, 2568 (2015), the IHS announced the release of the 2017–2021 OUIHP Strategic Plan to guide transition efforts in the former-NIAAA programs (Goal Two; Objective 2.1). *See* Enclosure.

In 2017, the IHS identified seven remaining former-NIAAA programs for potential transfer. After review of the seven former-NIAAA programs, the IHS determined that two of the seven programs did not conform to the Urban Indian health requirements specified by the IHCIA and, therefore, are not appropriate for transfer to OUIHP. The remaining five former-NIAAA programs have been confirmed to meet the Urban Indian health requirements of the IHCIA, including meeting the UIO definition at 25 U.S.C. § 1603(29).

As a result, the IHS has transferred administrative oversight of these five programs from the IHS ASAP to the OUIHP. The IHS's transition of management of the current award funds and the transfer of funds from the IHS ASAP to the OUIHP will fully implement the transfer authorized by the IHCIA at 25 U.S.C. § 1660c – *Urban NIAAA transferred programs*. This will allow the

OUIHP, instead of the IHS ASAP, to administer the contracts of these five former-NIAAA programs. The IHS is only transferring administration of awards that are already being made to the former-NIAAA programs from the Alcohol and Substance Abuse budget line item. Therefore, no additional funding will be required for the transferred awards, and there is no change in the funding level to UIOs already funded through the Urban Indian Health budget line. See table below.

Former-NIAAA Program	Location	IHS Area
American Indian Council on Alcoholism, Inc.	Milwaukee, WI	Bemidji
Juel Fairbanks Chemical Dependency Services, Inc.	St. Paul, MN	Bemidji
Native Directions, Inc.	Manteca, CA	California
Kansas City Indian Center's Morningstar Outreach Program	Kansas City, MO	Oklahoma City
Native American Connections	Phoenix, AZ	Phoenix

Thank you for your continued support and partnership during this transfer. If you have any questions, please contact Rose Weahkee, Ph.D., Acting Director, OUIHP, by telephone at (301) 480-3184 or by e-mail at rose.weahkee@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHSA
Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service
Principal Deputy Director

Enclosure: OUIHP Strategic Plan 2017–2021 Goal 2 Objective 2.1