



OCT 23 2020

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

On behalf of the Indian Health Service (IHS), I am pleased to share an important update on short-term continuing appropriations for fiscal year (FY) 2021 that affects Tribal Health Programs¹ with performance periods starting within the current continuing resolution (CR) period for October 1 through December 11, 2020.

The IHS will pay Tribal Health Programs with performance periods starting within the CR up to the full FY 2020 base Secretarial amount. The IHS will make payments consisting of base Secretarial amounts as expeditiously as possible to Tribal Health Programs. However, for program funding that IHS distributes based on a formula, using either a workload or a level of need criteria (or a combination thereof), the IHS will make payments after it receives a final FY 2021 appropriation and completes distribution decisions. The IHS Programs, Services, Functions, and Activities Manual describes programs that use formulas (e.g., Sanitation Facilities Construction), available on the IHS Web site at:

https://www.ihs.gov/sites/selfgovernance/themes/responsive2017/display_objects/documents/2002-PSFA-Manual.pdf. If the final FY 2021 IHS appropriation differs from FY 2020 funding levels, the IHS will adjust funding for Tribal Health Programs accordingly. Adjustments resulting in decreases will require Tribal Health Programs to return applicable funding to the IHS.

While Tribal Health Programs will receive up to the full FY 2020 base Secretarial amount, programs operated by IHS, including contracts to Urban Indian Organizations, will continue to receive funding at the current CR funding level of 19.73 percent through December 11, 2020. The amount of funds available under the CR for programs operated by IHS or Urban Indian Organizations will not be reduced, as a result of the full FY 2020 base Secretarial amount payments for Tribal Health programs.

In the event a subsequent CR extends into January 2021 or beyond, the IHS anticipates providing payments to Tribal Health Programs on calendar year or other cycles affected by a short-term CR. I appreciate your continued support as we distribute these funds.

Sincerely,

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

¹ The term "tribal health program" means an Indian tribe or tribal organization that operates any health program, service, function, activity, or facility funded, in whole or part, by the Service through, or provided for in, a contract or compact with the Service under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. 25 U.S.C. § 1603(25).