



NOV 22 2021

Dear Urban Tribal Organization Leader:

On behalf of the Indian Health Service (IHS), I am initiating Urban Confer to seek your input regarding the allocation of \$210 million in additional funding allocated to the IHS from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), Pub. L. No. 117-2, 135 (March 11, 2021) and \$2.35 billion currently under consideration by Congress in the Build Back Better Act (BBBA), H.R. 5376, 117th Cong. (2021). These new funding sources are described below.

\$210 million for Public Health Workforce Activities from the ARPA

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services allocated \$210 million in additional ARPA resources for Public Health Workforce activities. The White House [announced](#) the allocation of these funds on November 10, 2021.

The \$210 million will support the following activities:

- \$92 million to provide nurses in Bureau of Indian Education schools;
- \$67 million to enhance public health capacity for IHS and Tribal Nations;
- \$45 million for additional IHS loan repayment awards; and
- \$6 million for core surveillance and epidemiology work for American Indian and Alaska Native populations.

\$2.35 billion in the BBBA

Congress is currently considering the BBBA, which includes \$2.35 billion in additional resources for a number of IHS programs. The bill currently includes the following:

- \$1 billion to address the 1993 Health Care Facilities Construction Priority List;
- \$945 million for Maintenance and Improvement projects;
- \$124 million for behavioral health services, including necessary facilities improvements;
- \$113 million for Facilities and Environmental Health Support activities;
- \$100 million for Urban Indian Organization construction;
- \$40 million for the Small Ambulatory Program; and
- \$25 million for Tribal Epidemiology Centers

Please make plans to join us on **December 15, 2021**, at the virtual Urban Confer session described below:

DATE:	Wednesday, December 15, 2021
TIME:	2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (EST)
TELEPHONE:	(833) 568-8864 Toll-free Meeting ID: 160 046 5373 Passcode: 070242
ZOOM INFORMATION:	Join the Zoomgov Meeting at: https://ihs-gov.zoomgov.com/j/1600465373?pwd=cWRYbHFxcDZVZDBLMVQ3NmJlS0NmZz09

I also encourage you to submit written comments on the two funding sources to urbanconfer@ihs.gov. Please use the Subject Line: American Rescue Plan Act and Build Back Better Act. The deadline to provide written comments is **Thursday, December 23, 2021**.

I look forward to your feedback and recommendations.

Sincerely,

/RADM Chris Buchanan, R.E.H.S., M.P.H./
Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS
Acting Deputy Director