



MAY 2 2011

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to provide you with my decision regarding the recent 2-year extension of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) as passed in H.R. 4994, the Medicare and Medicaid Extenders Act of 2010. After meeting with the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC), I initiated a consultation with Tribes on January 25, 2011 that requested input on the recommendations of the TLDC: 1) that the funding distribution for the SDPI remain the same for the additional two years (FY 2012-FY 2013); and 2) that a continuation process, and not a competitive process, be used to transition programs from current funding to the new funding available through the recent 2-year extension of the SDPI. The TLDC felt that given the short duration of the extension, the distribution of funding for these successful programs should remain the same.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all Tribes and Tribal organizations that sent responses regarding the extension of this very important funding. As you all know, the SDPI funding supports over 400 Community-Directed grants, the Diabetes Prevention and Healthy Heart Initiatives and various administrative costs, including data and infrastructure. The evaluation of the SDPI over the past 13 years has shown improvements in diabetes care, access to clinical, education and prevention services and outcomes.

It was evident from the input received that much has been accomplished with the SDPI funding at the health facility and community levels to address diabetes treatment and prevention. There was also a strong message that the work is not yet done and more needs to be accomplished to meet the challenges of diabetes prevention and treatment in our communities.

I have decided that the distribution of the SDPI funding will remain the same for FY 2012 and FY 2013 and that IHS will use a continuation process for renewals of grant funding for FY 2012 and FY 2013 since the SDPI programs just completed a competitive process in FY 2010. These decisions will ensure that the SDPI grants are continued in an administratively efficient and effective manner and that application processing will meet deadlines as required.

I want to thank you for your support of the SDPI as we work together to address diabetes treatment and prevention in our communities. If you have additional questions or comments, please contact Ms. Lorraine Valdez, Acting Director, Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention, at (505) 248-4182, or Ms. Tammy Bagley, Acting Director, Division of Grants Management, at (301) 443-5204.

Sincerely,

/Yvette Roubideaux/

Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H.
Director