



DEC 29 2020

Dear Urban Indian Organization Leader:

On behalf of the Indian Health Service (IHS), I am initiating Urban Confer to seek rapid input regarding the allocation of \$1 billion in COVID-19 resources included in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021.

Please make plans to join us on **January 4, 2021**, at the virtual Urban Confer session described below:

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>Monday, January 4, 2021</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (EST)
<b>CALL-IN INFORMATION:</b>	(888) 831-8976 Participant Code: 6142767
<b>ADOBE CONNECT:</b>	To join the meeting: <a href="https://ihs.cosocloud.com/r42c87qo6jnd/">https://ihs.cosocloud.com/r42c87qo6jnd/</a> Room Passcode: ihs123

Funds for IHS are appropriated in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Agency-Wide Activities and Program Support account, and the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund. Both appropriations include bill language directing the funds to be transferred to the IHS. Both appropriations also include specific language directing that any funds transferred through Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act funding agreements are provided on a one-time, non-recurring basis, and that they may only be used for the purposes identified in the statute.

**Vaccine-Related Costs (\$210 million)**

The bill provides \$210 million for IHS, Tribal, and urban Indian health programs to plan, prepare for, promote, distribute, administer, monitor, and track coronavirus vaccines to ensure broad-based distribution, access, and vaccine coverage.

**Testing and Related Activities (\$790 million)**

The bill provides \$790 million for IHS, Tribal, and urban Indian health programs for a variety of activities, including:

- Testing, contact tracing surveillance, containment, and mitigation,
- Support for workforce and epidemiology,
- Use by employers, elementary and secondary schools, child care facilities, institutions of higher education, long-term care facilities, or other settings,
- Scaling up testing by public health, academic, commercial, and hospital laboratories,

- Community based testing sites, mobile testing units, health care facilities, and other entities engaged in COVID-19 testing, and
- Other activities related to COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, surveillance, containment, and mitigation which may include interstate compacts or other mutual aid agreements for such purposes.

I also encourage you to submit written comments on the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act to [urbanconfer@ihs.gov](mailto:urbanconfer@ihs.gov) – Subject Line: Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. The deadline for written comments is **Friday, January 8, 2021**.

I look forward to your feedback and recommendations.

Sincerely,

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