



SEP 21 2020

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to initiate Tribal Consultation on the use of \$5 million from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 appropriations that the Indian Health Service (IHS) has allotted to support national Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) expansion. The IHS' FY 2020 budget is available for obligation through September 30, 2021.

On July 2, the IHS announced a new policy creating the national CHAP in the *Indian Health Manual* under Circular 20-06, located online at <https://www.ihs.gov/ihm/circulars/2020/community-health-aide-program/>. The IHS is working to address key implementation components to ensure our Tribal and Federal sites have the necessary tools to begin operating their respective CHAPs.

Utilizing comments from the 2016 consultation on the decision to expand, feedback received from Tribes in the 2019 consultation on the policy, and several suggestions raised through our CHAP Tribal Advisory Group, I invite your feedback and recommendations on the following:

- Exploring how available funding can be used to support Tribes and Federal facilities positioned to begin operating a CHAP;
- Supporting the development of National and Area Certification Boards to certify CHAP providers;
- Investing in training for CHAP providers; and
- Continuing community education on the value and integration of the CHAP into Tribal and Federal programs.

Please forward your comments on the national CHAP expansion Tribal Consultation by November 23, 2020, as follows:

- By E-MAIL to: [consultation@ihs.gov](mailto:consultation@ihs.gov) SUBJECT LINE: **National CHAP Expansion Funding**

During the Tribal Consultation period, the IHS Office of Clinical and Preventive Services (OCPS) will host virtual learning sessions to provide additional information on the newly established national CHAP, including information on the Agency's requirements for implementing a CHAP, and CHAP expansion activities to date. The dates and times for the learning session will be posted online on the IHS CHAP Web site at the link that follows: [www.ihs.gov/chap](http://www.ihs.gov/chap).

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Tribal consultation has been instrumental in our success thus far and I look forward to your feedback and recommendations.

If you have any questions about the CHAP, please contact Ms. Minette Galindo, Public Health Advisor, IHS by email at [ihschap@ihs.gov](mailto:ihschap@ihs.gov).

Sincerely,

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