



HHS Tribal Budget Consultation Meeting

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“Opening Remarks”

by

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Welcome to the HHS Tribal Budget Consultation Meeting.

The annual budget request of the Indian Health Service, as most of you know, is the result of a budget formulation and consultation process that involves IHS and tribal Indian health program representatives and providers from the local to the national level. This process is one the IHS is strongly committed to, and which we believe helps to ensure that the IHS budget is relevant to the health needs and priorities of American Indian and Alaska Native people.

The tribal priorities identified in the consultation process are also instrumental in informing senior officials of other HHS agencies of the health needs of the American Indian and Alaska Native population, so that they have the opportunity to include those priorities in their individual budget requests to HHS.

As the IHS focuses on renewing the Indian health system, we are highly encouraged by the attention and funding being directed at Indian health, and on national health, by President Obama and the new administration.

The fiscal year 2009 appropriated budget is approximately \$3.58 billion. This is a \$235 million, or 7 percent increase, over the fiscal year 2008 enacted budget. This includes \$168 million for current services such as employee salaries, inflation, population growth, and new facilities staffing. The budget also includes \$67 million for program increases and \$150 million for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

Some highlights are:

- \$25 million for contract health services
- \$15 million in Indian Health Care Improvement Act funds
- \$9.5 million for contract support costs
- \$7.5 million for domestic violence prevention
- \$4.2 million for facilities
- \$2.6 million for meth initiative
- \$2.5 million for health IT /telemedicine

The President's Budget builds upon resources provided for the IHS in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The President's 2010 budget blueprint includes "over \$4 billion" for the IHS:

- To support and expand the provision of health care services and public health programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives;
- To focus on improving individual health outcomes and promote healthy Indian communities;
- To address persistent health disparities; and
- To strengthen the Indian health system with sustained investments in health care services.

Within IHS, the tribal budget recommendations and health priorities have been completed for FY 2011. These recommendations and priorities will be the guide for IHS budget decisions throughout the FY 2011 budget formulation process. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocates a total of \$500 million for the IHS. This breaks down to:

- \$227 million for health facilities construction
- \$100 million in maintenance and improvements
- \$85 million for health information technology
- \$68 million for sanitation facilities construction, and
- \$20 million for health care-related equipment.

The IHS Spending Plan has been approved by OMB. Details will be made available as soon as the Implementation Plan is approved. HHS total allocation is approximately \$137 billion; \$22 billion of that is discretionary funds. An HHS Office of Recovery Act Coordination will ensure the "timely, organized, and transparent distribution" of funds. Details can be found at www.hhs.gov/recovery. Even monies not directly allocated to the IHS should filter down to Indian health.