

Director's Workgroup on Improving Purchased/Referred Care (PRC)

*Formerly Contract Health Services
(CHS) Workgroup*



California Representatives

Primary Tribal Representative

Chris Devers, Tribal Rep.

Pauma Yuima Band of
Mission Indians

Alt. Tribal Representative

Orvin Hanson, CEO

Indian Health Council, Inc

Primary Technical Representative

Jess Montoya, CEO

Riverside/San Bernardino County
Indian Health, Inc.

Alt. Technical Representative

Vacant

IHS Federal Representative

Toni Johnson, PRC Officer

California Area Indian Health
Service

PRC Workgroup Meetings

Virtual Meetings (Highlights)

- November 9-10, 2020
 - CHEF Draft Regulation
 - CHEF Online Tool Update
 - Using PRC to Pay No Show Fees (draft circular)
 - PRC Distribution Formula – California Reps
- March 16-17, 2021
 - CHEF Regulation
 - CHEF Online Tool Update
 - PRC Distribution Formula – California Area Request
 - Department of Veterans Affairs – PRC Issues

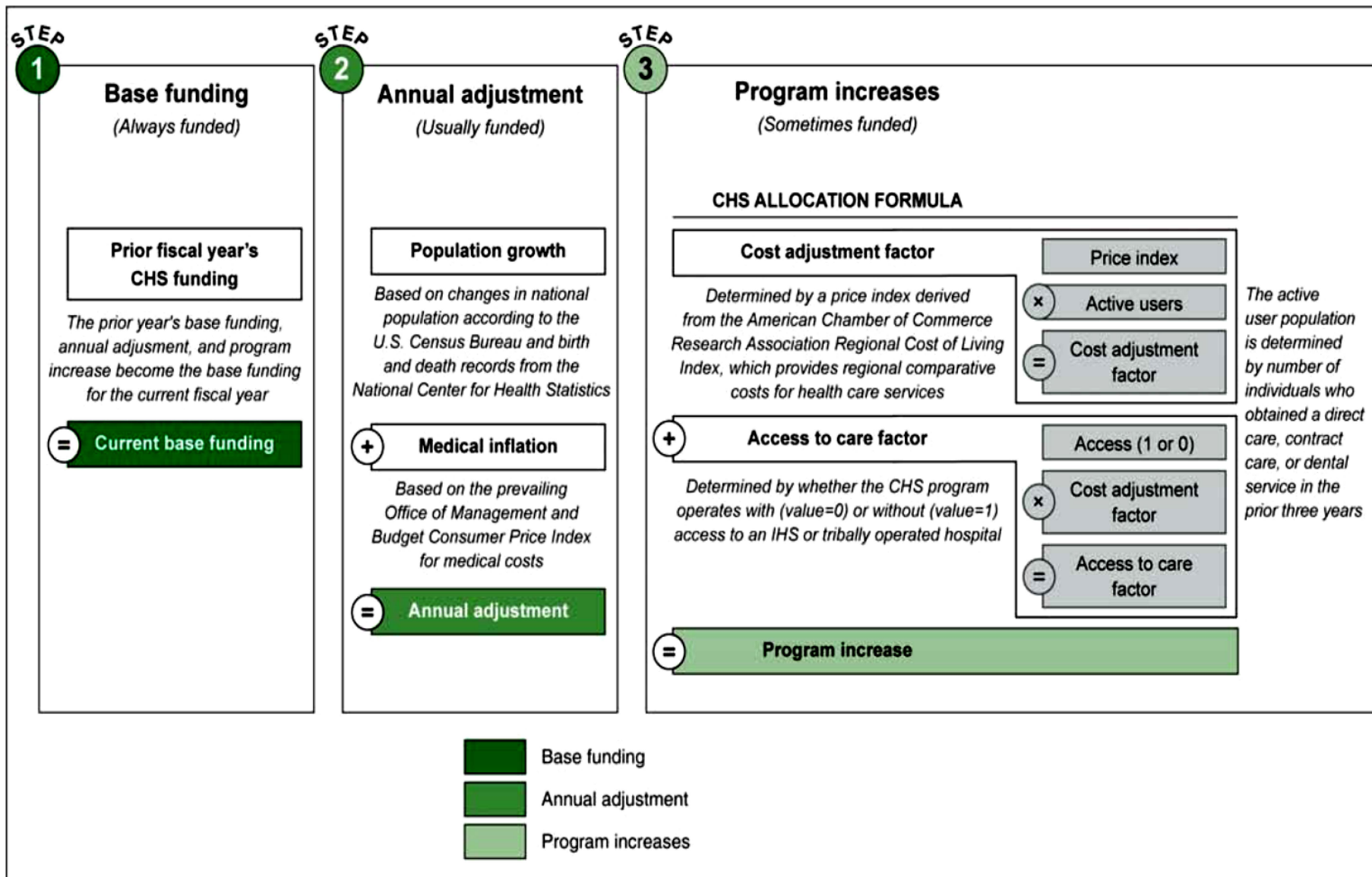
PRC Formula

Status of PRC Formula

California Tribal Leaders voted to move the Access to Care Factor in the PRC Formula to the Annual Adjustment Category to ensure adequate funding reaches PRC dependent Areas in 2019 and 2020.

National Workgroup discussions for moving Access to Care Factor to the Annual Adjustment Category have stalled at 8 – 4 vote

California Tribal Leaders are working with Congress and IHS in efforts to address the inequity California receives in overall funding.



Source: GAO analysis of IHS information.

PRC Formula

What are our next steps since administrative channels are exhausted?

- Continue to advocate to Congressional representatives, HHS and IHS to change the policy unilaterally to modify the formula
- Pursue legal remedies – Rincon Case
- Request IHS to conduct a formal analysis
- All of the above

Catastrophic Health Emergency Fund (CHEF)

CHEF Regulation Update

The PRC Committee from the 12 Areas of the United States voted to move the threshold down from \$25,000 to \$19,000.

The CA Tribal Leaders voted in 2019 and 2020 to move the CHEF Threshold down **from \$25,000 to \$19,000.**

Dear Tribal Leader Letter dated January 29, 2021

- Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) dated January 26, 2016 withdrawn
- IHS intends to publish a new CHEF NPRM that reflects the changes to IHS policy and take consideration other comments received by stakeholders

Online CHEF Tool

Automates the CHEF application process for RPMS and non-RPMS PRC Programs

The Workgroup recommends that the CHEF Online tool continue to be a priority for IHS with an implementation date of October 1, 2020 or sooner

Currently being tested by IHS and Tribal programs

Start onboarding application now

Native American Veterans Bills

Native Veterans Bills

Native American Veterans (Party in Access to Care Today) PACT Act that eliminates copayments for AI/AN veterans accessing VA healthcare. The Act also brings parity between those AI/AN veterans receiving services at VA and those who receive services through IHS and Medicaid

The Veterans Affairs Tribal Advisory Committee Act establishes a VA Tribal Advisory Committee

Native Veterans Bills

The Proper and Reimbursed Care (PRC) for Native Veterans Act that amends the IHClA to clarify that the VA and DoD are required to reimburse IHS and Tribal programs for healthcare services provided to AI/AN veterans through an authorized referral. Before this bill, the VA did not reimburse IHS or Tribal programs for the cost of services provide by the Purchased/Referred Care program.

Unmet Need Data Submissions

Establishing Unmet Need

IHS annual request on deferred and denied services

Reports are used to determine unmet PRC financial needs and supports budget justifications to the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Management and Budget, and Congress

California unmet needs are under reported

- 26 out of 45 tribal programs reported



Thank you