# Indian Health Service American Rescue Plan Act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and Build Back Better Bill

TRIBAL CONSULTATION

**DECEMBER 22, 2021** 





# An Omicron Update and Message About Gatherings During the Holiday Season



Dr. Loretta Christensen, MBA, MSJ, FACS
Chief Medical Officer
Indian Health Service





# Welcome & opening remarks



Elizabeth A. Fowler
Acting Deputy Director
Indian Health Service





# Overview of ARPA, IIJA, and BBBA

JILLIAN CURTIS

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE



# Three Funding Sources

Today we will discuss three new or potentially new funding sources for the IHS.

- \* \$210 million in additional <u>American Rescue Plan Act</u> funding allocated to the IHS by HHS for Public Health Workforce activities;
- \* \$3.5 billion appropriated to the IHS in the <u>Infrastructure Investment and</u> <u>Jobs Act</u>, and
- \* \$2.35 billion for the IHS currently under consideration by Congress as part of the <u>Build Back Better Act</u>.

### American Rescue Plan Act

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) appropriated \$7.7 billion to HHS for Public Health Workforce Activities.

- ☐ HHS allocated \$210 million of that amount to the IHS for specific purposes. The White House announced this allocation on November 10.
- ☐ These funds are in addition to the \$240 million for Public Health Workforce activities that the IHS received in direct appropriations from the ARPA.

## Uses of Funds

The HHS allocation includes funding for the following activities:

- \$92 million to support nurses in Bureau of Indian Education Schools,
- □ \$47 million to enhance public health capacity and preparedness for IHS and Tribes,
- □ \$20 million to increase IHS emergency preparedness capacity,
- \$45 million for additional loan repayment awards, and
- \$6 million for core surveillance and epidemiology functions.

### Nurses in Bureau of Indian Education Schools

The HHS allocation includes \$92 million over four years to provide nursing support to the 181 Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) funded K-12 schools.

#### Funding will:

- Support a Registered Nurse to focus on student health, immunizations, vaccinations, COVID-19 testing needs, mental health, and other related needs at each of the 181 BIE schools.
- Be allocated to IHS and Tribal Health Programs that support the identified schools.
- Provide for a Student Health Nurse program lead and an evaluation.

# Public Health Capacity Building

The HHS allocation includes a total of \$47 million to enhance public health capacity in Indian Country.

- Public Health Department Capacity Building in Tribal Communities (\$47 million)
  - These funds will support Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Urban Indian Health Programs in:
    - Conducting Public Health Department functions, services and activities, and
    - Developing their Public Health management capabilities.

# IHS Emergency Preparedness Capacity

The HHS allocation includes a total of \$20 million to build emergency preparedness capacity at IHS.

- IHS Emergency Preparedness Team (\$20 million)
  - These funds will support additional Emergency Management staff and training at IHS HQ, IHS Area Offices, and Service Units.
  - Current emergency management activities are performed in addition to regular duties.
  - COVID-19 experience makes it clear that dedicated planning, training, and staffing are necessary moving forward.

# Additional Loan Repayment Awards

The HHS allocation includes \$45 million to expand the IHS Loan Repayment Program to recruit and retain high quality health care professionals.

- These resources will support approximately 200 additional two-year loan repayment contracts.
- The funds will support recruitment and retention of health care professionals in IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian Health Programs.

# Core Surveillance & Epidemiological Activities

The HHS allocation includes a total of \$6 million for core surveillance and epidemiological activities.

- Increase IHS capacity to monitor for and respond to vaccinepreventable diseases (\$2.3 million)
  - These funds will enhance IHS analytical capacity and establish or improve data tracking systems that support monitoring of vaccine-preventable diseases.
- IHS Mortality and Natality Data Activities and Reporting (\$3.6 million)
  - ☐ These funds will allow the IHS to update natality and mortality information for future analysis.

# Question for Consideration - ARPA

What factors should the IHS consider in developing an implementation strategy for these new funds?

# Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act

The President signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) on November 15. This Act was often referred to as the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill."

- The IIJA includes \$3.5 billion over five years for the IHS Sanitation Facilities Construction program (\$700 million/year).
- This funding level is sufficient to address the current estimate of all projects in the Sanitation Deficiency System as of today.

# Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (Cont.)

The Act includes several important directions to the IHS.

- ☐ Directs that up to \$2.2 billion should be used for "economically infeasible" projects.
- Caps funding for "salaries, expenses, and administration."
- ☐ Allocates 0.05% of funds each year to the HHS Office of the Inspector General for oversight activities.

# Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act Funding

The Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act provides \$700 million per year, for FY 2022 – FY 2026.

Funding Category	Annual Amount	Total Amount
Project	\$675,500,000	\$3,377,500,000
Salaries, Expenses, and Administration (up to 3% Total)	\$21,000,000	\$105,000,000
DHHS OIG (0.5% Total)	\$3,500,000	\$17,500,000
Total	\$700,000,000	\$3,500,000,000^

<sup>^</sup>Provided further, That of the amounts made available under this heading, up to \$2,200,000,000 shall be for projects that exceed the economical unit cost and shall be available until expended.

# FY 2021 Sanitation Facilities Needs

#### **Existing Sanitation Needs (SDS Projects)**

• Total Need: \$3,361,445,056

Total Number of Homes: 245,802

#### Sanitation Services for New & Like New Homes (Housing Projects)

• Total Need: \$85,150,431

Total Number of Homes: 2,812

**Note:** End of fiscal year (FY) 2021 data collected by the Indian Health Service in collaboration with AI/ANs Tribes.

# Current Project Allocation Methodology

The current Sanitation Deficiency Project Allocation Methodology supports the following goals:

Jour T	Allocate funds using data following direction of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act 25 US Code Chapter 18.
Goal 2	Prioritize funds for projects addressing higher level deficiencies (DL 3, 4 & 5).
Goal 3	Prioritize funds for economically feasible projects (Based on IHS Allowable Unit Cost).

<u>Consultation</u>: Sanitation Facilities Construction Funding Allocation Workgroup.

Summary Report: June 1996

# Proposed Project Allocation Methodology

For the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act funding, we are seeking your feedback on the following goals:

Goal 1	Allocate funds using data following direction of the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act, including economically infeasible projects.
Goal 2	Prioritize allocation of funds where the majority can be used to immediately construct projects following the current Sanitation Deficiency System priority.
Goal 3	Make funding available to support planning & design activities to get projects ready to fund. Weigh these funds toward projects that address higher deficiencies.

# Ineligible Costs

The current Sanitation Deficiency System data shows 466 Tier 1 Projects with **\$98 million in Ineligible Costs** to provide sanitation facilities to serve non-Indian homes and buildings.

- Contributions will be needed from other funding sources prior to funding these projects.
- Funding sources could include EPA, USDA, BOR, BIA, and other State or Tribal funds.
- IHS Staff will support tribes in identifying and coordinating contributed funding sources.

# Key Questions for Consideration - IIJA

Are the below goals appropriate to guide funding allocations?

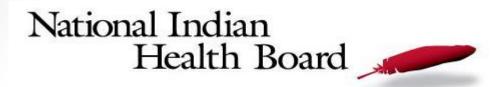
Goal 1	Allocate funds using data following direction of the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act, including economically infeasible projects.
Goal 2	Prioritize allocation of funds where the majority can be used to immediately construct projects following the current Sanitation Deficiency System priority.
Goal 3	Make funding available to support planning & design activities to get projects ready to fund. Weigh these funds toward projects that address higher deficiencies.

How can the IHS best support Tribes in identifying additional resources for ineligible costs?

# Build Back Better Bill

Congress is currently considering the Build Back Better bill. The House-passed version of the bill includes \$2.35 billion for the IHS, including:

- \$1 billion for the Health Care Facilities Construction Priority List,
- \$945 million for maintenance and improvement projects;
- \$40 million for the Small Ambulatory program;
- \$113 million for Facilities and Environmental Support;
- \$100 million for Urban Indian Organization facilities needs;
- \$124 million for behavioral health services, including relevant facilities needs; and
- \$25 million for Tribal Epidemiology Centers.



#### INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

#### **CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

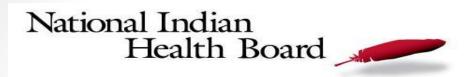
~Remaining costs or issues/Appropriations

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS**

 $\sim$ 3 % = \$21 Million/year

#### **OVERSIGHT**

~Congress – Committees of Jurisdiction/Appropriations



#### BUILD BACK BETTER ACT

#### **CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **NOT FINAL**

~Final top line dollar

#### FUTURE CONSULTATIONS/EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

~Post-passage

#### **NARRATIVES**

- ~Clarity on outstanding unfunded obligations
- ~2021 Health Care Facilities Construction Report/Other





#### **CONTACT**

RHONDA HARJO

Interim Director of

Congressional Relations

**ERIN MORRIS** 

Congressional

Manager

rharjo@nihb.org

emorris@nihb.org

THANK YOU!

