



JUN 26 2017

Indian Health Service  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Tribal Leader:

Annually, the Indian Health Service (IHS) conducts an update on Maintenance & Improvement (M&I) and Equipment funding allocations, program enhancements, and space needs in the health care facilities.

The IHS Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE) uses the Healthcare Facilities Data System (HFDS) to automate functions related to Agency-wide facility condition assessments, engineering data systems, and maintenance. These functions include: M&I; Equipment; real property and lease inventory; Federal Real Property Council information; Environmental, Self-Governance, Energy Management, and Stewardship (Historic Preservation); and asset management. The Facilities Engineering Deficiency System (FEDS), a subset of the HFDS database, enables oversight of deficiencies/repair needs data, including the Backlog of Essential Maintenance, Alteration, and Repair (BEMAR) and unmet space needs of both Federal and Tribal buildings.

During the January meeting of the IHS Facilities Appropriation Advisory Board (FAAB), the FAAB recommended that the IHS require all Federal sites and encourage all Tribal sites to update the FEDS database by September 1. Providing updated information that includes both Tribal and Federal facilities data is essential to identifying unmet needs throughout Indian Country.

Data from this update is important for supporting any proposed infrastructure investments. Should facility funding opportunities arise, Tribes and the IHS will be well-positioned with up-to-date and accurate data to justify the need across Indian Country and be ready to respond with "shovel ready" M&I projects.

I encourage you to join us in updating the FEDS information by the September 1 deadline. Please work with your local Area Facilities staff to update facility data. Area Facilities Program staff will be contacting tribally operated, M&I-eligible facilities within each Area directly to provide technical assistance. These facilities will be provided with a spreadsheet that lists existing FEDS deficiencies data for staff to update, edit, and/or expand. The updated spreadsheet will be added to Area FEDS data for transmission to IHS Headquarters.

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Area Facilities Program staff will be your local point of contact to answer questions, provide technical support, coordination, and ensure Tribal facility data is incorporated into the IHS FEDS.

Mr. Kevin D'Amanda, Director, Division of Facilities Operations (DFO), IHS, is also available if you need further information. Mr. D'Amanda can be reached by telephone at (301) 443-4562 or by e-mail at [Kevin.damanda@ihs.gov](mailto:Kevin.damanda@ihs.gov).

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/  
RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHSA  
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Acting Director