



NOV 28 2017

Dear Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to share our progress to date on the Indian Health Service (IHS) draft Strategic Plan 2018-2022 (Strategic Plan), including comments received, and workgroup activities.

The comment period on the initial framework of the Strategic Plan ended on October 31. We received comments from 137 Tribes, Tribal organizations, Urban Indian organizations, and Federal employees. The comments included feedback from several in-person meetings and conference calls held during September and October. You may view and track our progress on the Strategic Plan, including summaries of comments received, on our *IHS Strategic Planning* Web page at <https://www.ihs.gov/dper/planning/strategicplanning>.

Earlier this month, the IHS established a new IHS Strategic Planning workgroup to review the comments received and finalize a draft Strategic Plan, including, mission, vision, goals, objectives, strategies, and measures. The workgroup, which will meet through the end of December, is comprised of Tribal leaders (or their designees) and IHS employees from Headquarters, Areas and Service Units. We adopted the recommendation from the IHS Direct Service Tribes and Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committees to utilize their Tribal leader members on this workgroup. In addition, staff from the IHS Office of Urban Indian Health Programs will serve on the workgroup to represent Urban Indian organizations.

The IHS will complete the draft Strategic Plan in January 2018, followed by a 30-day public comment period on the final Strategic Plan. As a reminder, you may continue to provide written comments throughout the Strategic Plan development process by e-mail at [consultation@ihs.gov](mailto:consultation@ihs.gov) or [urbanconfer@ihs.gov](mailto:urbanconfer@ihs.gov). Please use “**IHS STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022**” as the subject line.

Thank you for your support, input, and partnership. If you have any questions, please contact CAPT Francis Frazier, Director, Office of Public Health Support, IHS, by telephone at (301) 443-0222 or by e-mail at [francis.frazier@ihs.gov](mailto:francis.frazier@ihs.gov).

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHSA  
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