



SEP 22 2017

Dear Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

On September 15, the Indian Health Service (IHS) initiated a Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer on the IHS Strategic Plan 2018-2022. I am writing to provide information on ways to submit written and in-person comments and update you on the formation and role of the IHS Strategic Planning Workgroup. There is also an opportunity to provide feedback to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the HHS Strategic Plan 2018-2022.

The IHS seeks your comments and recommendations on the initial IHS Strategic Plan framework (see enclosure). Specifically we are asking the question on the initial framework:

Do the IHS Mission, Vision, Goals, and Objectives reflect the direction and priorities you feel the IHS should pursue over the next 5 years?

On Monday, September 25, the Agency will convene the first in-person Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer session during the National Indian Health Board's 2017 National Tribal Health Conference at the Hyatt Regency in Bellevue, Washington. The session will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon (Pacific) in the Evergreen E-F Room.

The IHS will also host conference calls, for Tribal Leaders and Urban Indian Organization Leaders, to provide comments. Call in information will be posted on the IHS Calendar Web site at <https://www.ihs.gov/ihsalendar>.

Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer Conference Calls

- Tribal Leaders - Wednesday, October 18, 2017, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Eastern)
- Urban Indian Leaders - Wednesday, October 11, 2017, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Written comments will be accepted throughout the duration of the Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer period. **The deadline to provide your comments is October 31, 2017.** Please provide your written comments and recommendations by e-mail at consultation@ihs.gov or urbanconfer@ihs.gov with the "IHS Strategic Plan 2018-2022" as the subject line.

You may also provide comments by postal mail to the address indicated below.

RADM Michael D. Weahkee
Acting Director
ATTN: IHS Strategic Plan 2018-2022
Indian Health Service
5600 Fishers Lane, Mailstop: 08E86
Rockville, MD 20857

Following the comment period, the IHS will form a short-term IHS Strategic Planning Workgroup, comprised of a small group of Tribal Leaders and IHS employees, to review all comments and draft a list of final Goals and Objectives for IHS leadership review and approval. The IHS will work with the Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee and the Tribal Self Governance Advisory Committee to determine Tribal participants on the IHS Strategic Planning Workgroup.

Once IHS leadership has approved the Goals and Objectives, the IHS Strategic Planning Workgroup will develop Strategies and Measures to achieve the objectives. Input by Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leaders will again be requested during a 30-day comment period on the draft IHS Strategic Plan including the Strategies and Measures.

As I mentioned in the September 15 letter, HHS is also developing an HHS Strategic Plan for 2018-2022. Please be aware within the next few weeks, HHS will request your review and comment on the HHS Strategic Plan. This HHS request is separate from the IHS Strategic Plan Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer process.

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.

Thank you for your support and partnership. I look forward to your views and comments.

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHSA
Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service
Acting Director

Enclosure

IHS Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer Timeline and Draft Framework for IHS Mission, Vision, Goals, and Objectives