

## **DIRECT SERVICE TRIBES ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION AWARDS**

**Establishment:** The Direct Service Tribes (DST) Advisory Committee hereby establishes the “Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee Recognition and Appreciation Awards.”

**Purpose:** The Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee Recognition and Appreciation Awards are established to acknowledge and bestow gratitude upon individuals and groups that have advanced the goals and mission of the DST Advisory Committee (DSTAC) and DST. Award recipients are individuals and groups that have exhibited personal and professional commitment in the delivery of quality healthcare services and programs through exceptional leadership and performance for the benefit of American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Indian tribes and communities.

**Background:** The DSTAC was established to provide leadership, advocacy and policy guidance for Indian tribes that receive primary health care directly from the Indian Health Service (IHS). The DSTAC has been actively defining the role of the DST within the IHS. The DSTAC coordinates an annual meeting that provides a national forum for the discussion of issues of importance to DST; advocates for tribal representation on agency and Department-level workgroups and committees that address policy and funding issues impacting DST; and participates in the IHS budget formulation process by developing budget priorities and recommendations solely reflecting DST needs and concerns.

In 2009 during the DST National Meeting in Oklahoma City, OK, the DSTAC recognized for the first time several tribal and federal Indian health advocates with awards for their professional contributions to the advancement of Indian health care services, policy and leadership. Examples of such efforts and contributions included exceptional initiative or leadership in carrying out activities to improve the direct care programs and benefit the IHS environment.

The Awards also represented the promotion and respect of tribal cultures, customs and traditions, consistent with all aspects of DSTAC activities.

**Categories and Eligibility:**

There are four categories of recognition and appreciation awards:

<i>Carole Anne Heart Spirit Award</i>	<i>Chief Executive Officers Awards</i>	<i>Outstanding Achievement Award</i>	<i>Special Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is one (1) recipient for this award</li> <li>• Eligible candidates are Tribal Leaders, Health Administrators, Health Policy Advocates</li> <li>• The recipient exemplifies the following traits, in memory of the late-Carole Anne Heart               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Leadership and Advocacy</li> <li>➢ Sense of Humor and Wit</li> <li>➢ Energy and Compassion</li> <li>➢ Commitment to Improve Indian Health and Education for all Native Peoples</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are two (2) recipients for this award</li> <li>• Eligible candidates are Federal Chief Executive Officers (CEO) at IHS facilities and Non-Federal CEO at a Tribally Administered facility</li> <li>• The recipients are CEOs that have developed best practices and innovative ways to provide health care which result in improved performance and effectiveness to Direct Service Communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are two (2) recipients for this award.</li> <li>• Eligible candidates are Federal and Non-Federal employees and groups.</li> <li>• The recipients are individuals or groups recognized for their contributions to IHS direct care programs as demonstrated by their performance, commitment to excellence and dedication to DST.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ten (10) recipients will be recognized, one from each of the following Areas:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aberdeen,</li> <li>Albuquerque,</li> <li>Bemidji,</li> <li>Billings,</li> <li>Nashville,</li> <li>Navajo,</li> <li>Oklahoma City,</li> <li>Phoenix,</li> <li>Portland and Tucson.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Eligible candidates are Federal employees, Tribal leaders, health directors, employees, etc.</li> <li>• Recognizes dedicated service and significant contributions to IHS Direct Service Tribes healthcare programs and activities</li> </ul>

**Nomination:** Individuals and groups may be nominated by any DSTAC stakeholder\*. A DSTAC stakeholder is a DSTAC Member, Elected Tribal Leader, Tribal Administrator, IHS Area Director or Tribal Health Board Member. A nomination form must be completed and submitted by the established date.

**Key Dates:** Award Nomination Announcement: May 2013  
 Award Nomination Period: June 14 – July 10, 2013  
 Notification to Award Recipients: July 15 – 19, 2013  
 Awards Presentation: July 24, 2013

*All dates noted above are approximate and subject to slight modification.*

\* Federal employees may submit nominations but concurrence by their respective Area Director is required. The signature of the Area Director on the nomination form signifies concurrence.

**Selection:** Members of the DSTAC Awards Subcommittee will review, evaluate and score all nominations received. The Awards Subcommittee shall provide an in-depth review of all nominations and recommend approval of award recipients to the DSTAC.

The DSTAC shall approve Award Recipients upon recommendation from Awards Subcommittee.

**Notification:** Award Recipients will be announced at the annual DST National Meeting during a public presentation.