



JAN 26 2018

Indian Health Service
Rockville, MD 20857

TO: Indian Health Care Improvement Fund Workgroup
FROM: Acting Director
SUBJECT: Workgroup Charge

The Indian Health Service (IHS) Indian Health Care Improvement Fund (IHCIF) Workgroup is established to review the existing formula used to allocate appropriations to the IHCIF and make recommendations regarding the formula. The review should address the following questions:

- (1) Has the existing formula been effective in allocating IHCIF appropriations to meet the purpose of the IHCIF as stated in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act?
- (2) What effect does the current health care environment have on the formula?
- (3) Are the factors used in the IHCIF formula appropriate in light of answers to questions 1 and 2? For example, is the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program the appropriate benchmark?

The IHCIF Workgroup should plan to complete its work by June 30, 2018. This is necessary to allow Tribal Consultation to be accomplished on the final recommendations with a decision to be made by September 1, 2018. We anticipate using the results to allocate any funding increases for the IHCIF that are included in the final fiscal year 2018 appropriations.

Thank you for your interest in serving on the IHCIF Workgroup and undertaking this important work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. D. Weahkee".

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