



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

AUG 10 2004

Dear Tribal Leader:

We want to let you know about an upcoming grant opportunity offered through a collaboration of the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Indian Health Service (IHS). Federally recognized Tribes, Tribal Organizations and Urban Indian Programs have an enhanced opportunity to participate in the President's Health Centers Initiative. The Initiative will expand access to primary health care services in 1,200 of the Nation's neediest communities through new and/or significantly expanded health center sites while serving an additional 6 million people.

As authorized under the section 330 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act (42 U.S.C. 254b), the Consolidated Health Center Program promotes the development and operation of community-based primary health care service systems in federally designated medically underserved areas to improve the health status of medically underserved populations.

Organizations may request up to \$650,000 a year in Federal funds to support a new access point. The new site will provide primary care access points for populations without adequate access to services, including underserved and uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN). Application deadlines for fiscal year (FY) 2005 will be announced in the [HRSA Grant Funding Opportunities Preview](#) and can be found at www.hrsa.gov.

The grant application process is highly competitive. Every new access point application is expected to comply with all of the applicable requirements of section 330 of the PHS Act, the implementing regulations and HRSA program expectations. All grantees under the Consolidated Health Center Program must serve all residents in the community, not just AI/ANs. This planning and philosophical issue has been raised by Tribes and must be weighed very carefully to prevent diminished resources to the Tribal community and to evaluate the effect of new users on the existing clinic culture.

Applicants are encouraged to submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) to the HRSA as soon as it begins considering an application for Federal support of a new access point. Past history has shown that applicants have benefited from the feedback provided through the LOI process. Through this process, HRSA will examine whether the proposal is consistent with the objectives of the Consolidated Health Center Program, demonstrates readiness to initiate the project, and assures the completeness of the need for assistance data.

If you need further information tips for developing a new access point application under the Consolidated Health Center Program, please see the enclosures and contact the Primary Care Association (PCA) in your area for technical assistance. You can also access the application

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guidance and other relevant materials by visiting the HRSA Web site at www.hrsa.gov. If you would like to speak to someone, please contact the following IHS and/or HRSA staff

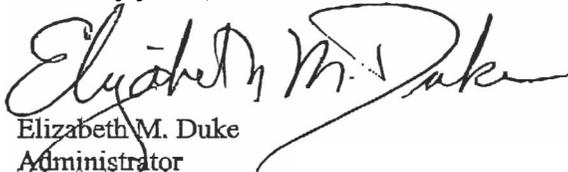
Tonya Bowers, HRSA, at 301-594-4300 or tbowers@hrsa.gov

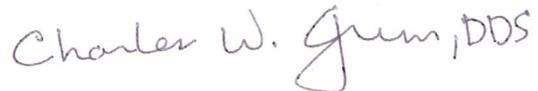
Elmer Brewster, IHS, at 301-443-2419 or elmer.brewster@mail.ihs.gov

Denise Exendine, Acting Director, Urban Indian Health Programs, at 301-443-4680 or dexendin@hqe.ihs.gov

We hope that these materials and references will assist you in evaluating your community health needs and the potential for submitting a grant application.

Sincerely yours,


Elizabeth M. Duke
Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration



Charles W. Grim, D.D.S., M.H.S.A.
Assistant Surgeon General
Director
Indian Health Service

Enclosures:

1. Frequently Asked Question
2. Tips for Writing a Strong Application For HRSA Funding
3. National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc., Grant Writing Workshop
4. List of Primary Care Associations
5. State Cooperative Agreement List