



JUL 5 2011

Indian Health Service
Rockville MD 20852

Dear Tribal Leader:

The purpose of this letter is to share with you an update on the progress of our efforts to implement the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA). In a letter to Tribal Leaders dated May 12, 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Indian Health Service (IHS) announced the initiation of formal Tribal consultation on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the IHCIA and requested input on priorities for implementation. To assist Tribes, the IHS provided a summary table of new relevant provisions in the ACA and all of the new provisions in the IHCIA.

Based on Tribal input and consultation over the past year, the IHS has made progress on implementing provisions in the IHCIA within available resources. The input received from Tribes, organizations and individuals has been very helpful in guiding our implementation activities. The IHS has focused implementation activities on provisions that Tribes have indicated are priorities. While some provisions were self-implementing when the law passed, other provisions require additional work and some require additional funding to be fully implemented. The Agency is working as quickly and carefully as possible to continue progress on implementation of these important provisions.

Attached to this letter is a revised IHCIA summary table that includes a new column with progress on implementation of each provision. The table references letters to Tribal Leaders where IHCIA implementation updates were previously provided. I hope you will find this updated table helpful in tracking progress on implementation of the IHCIA, which is improving the health of American Indian and Alaska Native communities. I will continue to consult with Tribes on next steps for implementing specific provisions of IHCIA. Input is always welcome at the e-mail address consultation@ihs.gov.

Thank you for all that you do to support the IHS. I look forward to continuing to work with you on implementation of the IHCIA.

Sincerely,

/Yvette Roubideaux/

Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H.
Director

Enclosure