



JAN 11 2013

Dear Tribal Leader:

On July 26, 2012, I sent a letter requesting comments on the draft Policy on Conferring with Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs). As one additional opportunity to provide input, I am writing to invite you to attend the upcoming **Indian Health Service (IHS) Listening Session on the draft Policy on Conferring with Urban Indian Organizations** scheduled for Tuesday, January 22 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the IHS Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. This session will provide an opportunity for interested parties to provide oral comments on the draft Policy on Conferring with UIOs that was published in the *Federal Register* on July 26, 2012. The link to the *Federal Register* is: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/07/26/2012-18300/draft-policy-on-conferring-with-urban-indian-organizations>.

As part of the Affordable Care Act, Congress reauthorized and amended the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA). The IHCIA created a new requirement that the IHS “confer” with UIOs, to the maximum extent practicable, in carrying out the IHCIA. See 25 United States Code (U.S.C.) sections 1601(5), 1631(f), 1660d, and 1665k(a)(2)(A)(vii). The IHS will use this conferring policy to ensure that the health care needs of the urban Indian population are considered at the local, Area, and national levels, when implementing and carrying out the IHCIA.

Given the need to pass through security at the building entry, anyone planning to attend should register online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/13LSUIO>. Online registration for this event closes on Friday, January 18, at 12:00 p.m. After registration closes, all attendees must register on-site. Please arrive early to check in with Security. You will be asked to present a valid State or Government issued identification card to obtain your visitor’s badge.

For more details, please visit the Director’s Corner on the IHS website located at <http://www.ihs.gov>. If you have additional questions, please contact Ms. Phyllis Wolfe, Director, IHS Office of Urban Indian Programs by e-mail at urbanconfer@ihs.gov or by telephone at (301) 443-1631. If you already submitted comments, thank you for your input.

Sincerely,

/Yvette Roubideaux/

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