



FEB 12 2014



Dear Tribal Leader:

We are writing to initiate a consultation on Contract Support Costs (CSC) as it relates to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act and would like to invite you to a consultation session on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Westin Washington City Center, 1400 M Street NW in Washington, D.C., as part of the upcoming National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Executive Council Winter Session. This session will be a formal consultation and an open dialogue on CSC, particularly focusing on working together to identify long-term solutions to this issue.

The FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act includes funding to implement the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 for both the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS). The Act does not specify a limit on the amount of such funds available in FY 2014 for the payment of CSC, nor does it include the proposal put forth in the Administration's FY 2014 budget request that would place a cap on the CSC amounts available for each tribal contract or compact. Instead, as set forth in the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Act, Congress “remanded back to the agencies to resolve” the determination of CSC amounts to be paid from within the FY 2014 appropriation.

Congress further directed the BIA and the IHS to consult with the Tribes and work with the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Committees on Appropriations to formulate long-term accounting, budget, and legislative strategies that will yield solutions going forward. Congress indicated that the BIA and the IHS should consider a standardized approach that streamlines the contract negotiation process, provides consistent and clear cost categories, and ensures efficient and timely cost documentation for the agencies and the Tribes. A work plan is due to Congress 120 days from enactment of the appropriation bill – May 17, 2014 – for both the BIA and the IHS, and this consultation will help inform the development of the work plan.

We look forward to consulting with you on this important issue and the upcoming session at NCAI Executive Council Winter Session will be the first step in this consultation process. If you are unable to attend this session and would like to provide input, please do so in writing by e-mailing consultation@bia.gov or consultation@ihs.gov. You may also submit input by mailing Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street, NW, MS 3071, Washington, DC, 20240, or Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Director, Indian Health Service, 801 Thompson Avenue, Suite 440, Rockville, MD, 20852.

We anticipate that there will be other opportunities to provide input in person or by phone in the near future and will notify you at least 30 days prior to those events.

Sincerely,

/Kevin K. Washburn/

Kevin K. Washburn
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

/Yvette Roubideaux/

Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H.
Acting Director, Indian Health Service