

ENCLOSURE I

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Methamphetamine Suicide Prevention Initiative (MSPI) is a congressionally appropriated, nationally coordinated, demonstration/pilot project, which focuses on providing targeted resources for methamphetamine and suicide prevention and intervention services to Tribal communities in Indian Country with the greatest need for these projects. The approximately \$15.5 million Fiscal Year 2014 funding supported 130 MSPI pilot projects, including 12 Urban Indian Health Programs (UIHP) that promote innovative practice- and evidence-based interventions developed and administered by the communities themselves. The funding total includes \$1.188 million for UIHP. Each MSPI pilot project is community developed and delivered. These projects represent the growing support from the IHS to help communities address the dual crises of methamphetamine abuse and suicide in Indian Country.

Funding

Congress requires that MSPI funds be used to specifically support methamphetamine and suicide prevention efforts. The initial consultation on the distribution of MSPI funds resulted in a decision to release the funds via a competitive grant process for UIHP. The National Tribal Advisory Committee (NTAC) on Behavioral Health regularly reviewed progress of the MSPI and made recommendations to include UIHP in the funding distribution. In July 2014, IHS received a class deviation waiver from the Department of Health and Human Services to fund UIHP for a sixth grant year.

Evaluation

The UIHP MSPI grantees adhere to reporting requirements every six months established by the IHS on evidence-based outcome measures designed to help determine the most effective means for combating these issues in Urban Indian communities. The completion of a national evaluation of the MSPI is expected at the end of the demonstration period in 2015. The evaluation allows IHS to identify successful evidence- and practice-based projects that can be replicated across the Indian health system. The evaluation also allows IHS to demonstrate to Congress the effective use of these funds for the intended purpose.