



AUGUST 15 2016

Dear Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to inform you of a recent program decision to formally transfer the internal administration of the former National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse (NIAAA) programs (former-NIAAA programs) from the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) to the Office of Urban Indian Health Programs (OUIHP) at the Indian Health Service (IHS). Among other benefits, this internal transfer will allow the OUIHP to ensure that the former-NIAAA awardees enjoy the same status as other urban Indian organizations funded by the IHS under Title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA).

Originally, the former-NIAAA awardees received funds administered by the NIAAA, but the awards were transferred to the IHS in 1978 under an interagency agreement, and then permanently by statute in 1992. After the transfer to IHS from NIAAA, some of the awards were transferred to OUIHP for administration, consistent with the IHS authorities under Title V of the IHCIA; such awards are funded pursuant to the Agency's discretionary budget line item for urban Indian health. Many of the former-NIAAA programs, however, have been administered separately by ASAP; these awards, funded pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 1660c, have been administered as part of the Agency's discretionary budget line item for alcohol and substance abuse. The IHS is taking the steps necessary to complete the internal transfer from ASAP to OUIHP as quickly as possible.

At this time, I want to ensure that all urban Indian organizations receiving funding under Title V of the IHCIA enjoy the same status and are able to maximize their relationship with the IHS and OUIHP in order to better serve their urban Indian patients.

Should you have any questions, I encourage you to reach out to me, or to Sherriann Moore, Acting Director, OUIHP, at (301) 443-4680 or by e-mail at Sherriann.Moore@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

/Mary Smith/

Mary Smith
Principal Deputy Director