



JUL 24 2018

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to announce the Draft Indian Health Service (IHS) Strategic Plan Fiscal Years (FY) 2018 - 2022 is available for review in follow-up to the Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer initiated in September 2017. The IHS is requesting comments on the Draft IHS Strategic Plan FY 2018 - 2022.

The Draft IHS Strategic Plan FY 2018 - 2022 will help guide the work, strengthen our partnerships, and establish the strategic direction of the Agency over the next 5 years. The Draft IHS Strategic Plan FY 2018 - 2022 includes an IHS Mission statement, a new IHS Vision statement, and articulates how the IHS will achieve its mission through three strategic goals, eight objectives and seventy strategies.

A *Federal Register* Notice dated July 24, 2018, opens the Draft IHS Strategic Plan FY 2018 -2022 for a 30-day public comment period. The Notice also announces dates for two virtual town hall sessions: one for Urban Indian Confer on August 3, 2018; and one for Tribal Consultation on August 6, 2018.

Virtual Town Hall Urban Indian Confer

Date: Friday, August 3, 2018
Time: 2:00-3:30 p.m. (ET)
Call-in Number: (888) 790-1920 [toll-free]
Passcode: 7577474
Webinar link: <https://ihs.adobeconnect.com/rx416iqrddn7/>
Webinar passcode: ihs123

Virtual Town Hall Tribal Consultation

Date: Monday, August 6, 2018
Time: 2:00-3:30 p.m. (ET)
Call-in Number: (877) 716-4289 [toll-free]
Passcode: 5475675
Webinar link: <https://ihs.adobeconnect.com/rx416iqrddn7/>
Webinar passcode: ihs123

In addition to the two town hall sessions, the IHS will seek other opportunities to gather input from Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leaders during the comment period. For updates, please check the online IHS Event Calendar at <https://www.ihs.gov/ihscalendar/>.

The Draft IHS Strategic Plan FY 2018 - 2022 is the result of an ongoing process informed by feedback received from Tribes, Urban Indian Organizations, and IHS staff. The IHS initiated Tribal Consultation and an Urban Indian Confer on a draft initial framework on September 15, 2017. The IHS requested comments on the framework from Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leaders and IHS employees through October 31, 2017. In November 2017, an IHS-Tribal Workgroup was formed to review the hundreds of submitted comments and recommendations. Over a 4-month period, the workgroup developed recommendations that form the basis of the Draft IHS Strategic Plan FY 2018 - 2022. For additional information about the workgroup activity, development of the Draft IHS Strategic Plan FY 2018 - 2022, and how to submit comments, please visit the IHS Strategic Plan Web site at <https://www.ihs.gov/strategicplan/>.

The release of the final IHS Strategic Plan FY 2018-2022 will be determined after we consider all feedback from the open comment period. The IHS has issued previous Strategic Plan updates, including a target publication date, and the dates have been adjusted. At this time, we do not want to establish a final publication date while the comment period is open.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in this important activity. If you have any questions about the Strategic Planning process, please contact CAPT Francis Frazier, Director, Office of Public Health Support, IHS, by telephone at (301) 443-0222 or by e-mail at francis.frazier@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHSA
Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service
Acting Director

Enclosure: *Federal Register* Notice regarding the Draft IHS Strategic Plan FY 2018-2022