



APR 13 2018

Dear Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to initiate an Urban Confer on the distribution of funding for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) in fiscal year (FY) 2019. The SDPI has been funding diabetes treatment and prevention activities in Tribal, Urban Indian, and Indian Health Service (IHS) health programs since FY 1998.

The Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC) recommended that an Urban Confer on the distribution of SDPI funding for FY 2019 be conducted in all 12 IHS Areas. Urban Indian Organization Leader input is welcome on any aspect of the SDPI, but would be especially helpful in response to the following questions:

1. Should there be any changes in the SDPI national funding distribution? If so, in what way? Currently, the SDPI funding distribution is as follows:
 - Community-Directed grant program \$130.2 million
 - Urban Indian Health Programs \$ 8.5 million
 - SDPI Support \$ 6.1 million
 - Data Infrastructure Improvement \$ 5.2 million
2. The SDPI Data Infrastructure Improvement funds provide important support for SDPI at the national, Area, and local levels. The funding supports diabetes data collection, validation, and analytics, as well as associated training and support systems. Should there be any changes in the SDPI Data Infrastructure Improvement funding allocation? If so, how could SDPI Data Infrastructure Improvement funds be allocated to better support local grant-related data and infrastructure needs by SDPI grantees?

I am requesting that each Area Director identify an upcoming Area meeting or schedule a conference call to Confer with Urban Indian Organizations on the SDPI FY 2019 funding distribution. Per the TLDC's recommendation, I am requesting that as part of these meetings, each Area's Information Technology program will provide information on how it uses the SDPI Data Infrastructure Improvement funds allocated to that Area. Urban Indian Organization Leaders are welcome to contribute to these Area discussions, and/or to submit written comments to urbanconfer@ihs.gov within the Confer period, which will close 30 days from the date of this letter.

The TLDC will review input from the Urban Confer and Tribal Consultation from all 12 IHS Areas as they provide their final national recommendations to me. I will then update you by Urban Indian Organization Leader letter with the final decisions on the SDPI FY 2019 funding distribution.

Thank you for your partnership with the SDPI over the past 20 years. Urban Indian, Tribal, and IHS health program grantees have made the SDPI's remarkable success possible. Together, we have improved diabetes prevention and treatment services in our communities. To learn more about these efforts and activities across the country, I encourage you to visit the IHS Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention (DDTP) Web site at www.ihs.gov/diabetes.

Thank you in advance for your input as part of this important Urban Confer. If you have any questions about the Confer process or the SDPI program in general, please contact the DDTP by e-mail at diabetesprogram@ihs.gov or contact your Area TLDC Representative.

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

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