



JUL 05 2019

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is required to submit to Congress every 5 years an updated report of Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribal health care facilities' needs (25 U.S.C. § 1631 et seq.). The next report is due in 2021. The report includes renovation and expansion needs identified by Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and the IHS. The IHS is requesting your assistance in identifying potential facility needs.

The report is updated in close collaboration with the Facilities Appropriation Advisory Board, and assistance from the Facilities Needs Assessment Workgroup. The report estimates cost and space requirements across Indian Country using the same consistent methodology and data sources as in the previous reports. To view the report, "2016 Indian Health Service and Tribal Health Care Facilities' Needs Assessment Report to Congress," please visit the IHS Web site at [https://www.ihs.gov/sites/newsroom/themes/responsive2017/display\\_objects/documents/RepCong2016/IHSRTC\\_on\\_FacilitiesNeedsAssessmentReport.pdf](https://www.ihs.gov/sites/newsroom/themes/responsive2017/display_objects/documents/RepCong2016/IHSRTC_on_FacilitiesNeedsAssessmentReport.pdf).

The report is neither a funding request nor a priority system. It is an estimate of need for planning level use.

I invite you to provide updated Facility Master Plans and/or other identified health care facility needs to your local IHS Area Facilities Program Director for possible inclusion in the 2021 IHS and Tribal Health Care Facilities' Needs Assessment Report to Congress.

Because of the extensive lead time needed to complete the draft and clearance process for the report, I am asking that you please provide your data by no later than December 31, 2019. If you have questions please contact your IHS Area Facilities Program Director (see enclosure).

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

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

Enclosure: IHS Facility Program Directors