



MAY 22 2020

Indian Health Service
Rockville MD 20857

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

The Indian Health Service (IHS) Division of Health Professions Support requests your assistance in identifying priority health professions for inclusion into categories eligible for the IHS Scholarship Program (SP) in academic year 2021-2022 and the IHS Loan Repayment Program (LRP) in fiscal year (FY) 2021.

Annually, the IHS publishes a Notice in the *Federal Register* to develop a list of "Priority Categories" for inclusion in the IHS SP and IHS LRP. For academic year 2021-2022, and FY 2021 the IHS SP and IHS LRP, respectively, will be funding physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, and optometrists. Additional health professions available for funding will be determined with input from IHS Areas.

If you have a relative need for any other category of health profession(s), please send us your list of priorities on the enclosed spreadsheets. Your submission should be limited to health professions priorities that you currently have vacancies for, or are anticipating to hire in the next year. Please note that business degrees, such as Computer Science, Accounting, Business Administration, etc., do not meet the definition of health or allied health professions, and accordingly cannot be funded as approved disciplines for these programs.

Please send your priorities by **June 15, 2020**, to the address that follows: Indian Health Service Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs, 5600 Fishers Lane, Mailstop: 11E53A, Rockville, Maryland, 20857. You may also e-mail them to Ms. Reta Brewer (SP) at reta.brewer@ihs.gov or Ms. Jackie Santiago (LRP) at jackie.santiago@ihs.gov.

We would like to invite all Indian health programs to participate in this process to help determine the approved disciplines for the upcoming academic and fiscal year. For more information on the IHS SP and IHS LRP, please visit our Web sites at www.ihs.gov/scholarship and www.ihs.gov/loanrepayment. The most recent IHS SP *Federal Register* Notice is available online at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/02/11/2020-02618/indian-health-professions-preparatory-indian-health-professions-pre-graduate-and-indian-health>. The most recent IHS LRP *Federal Register* Notice is available online at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/02/11/2020-02617/loan-repayment-program-for-repayment-of-health-professions-educational-loans>.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Pinto (SP) by e-mail at eric.pinto@ihs.gov or by telephone at (301) 443-5086, or Mr. Correy Ahhaitty (LRP) by e-mail at correy.ahhaitty@ihs.gov or by telephone at (301) 443-3396.

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

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

Enclosures