



APR 3 2020

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to announce the creation of a new Indian Health Service (IHS) Opioid Grant Pilot Program (OGPP).

The IHS initiated Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer on June 21, 2019. I appreciate the input provided on how to utilize the \$10 million increase for the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program budget line funding, authorized by The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6) to fund this grant program. We received 26 letters that provided over 100 comments to the four questions related to the development of the OGPP. I have enclosed a summary report to this letter. You may also access an electronic copy of the summary report on the IHS Newsroom website at: <https://www.ihs.gov/newsroom/>.

As an immediate step, IHS will publish a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in the Federal Register this spring. The NOFO will outline details of the eligibility criteria, objectives, and funding methodology. In general, the IHS anticipates to award up to 18 grants: one grant opportunity open to each of the IHS Areas; three grant opportunities open to Urban Indian Organizations; and three grant opportunities open to highest priority IHS Areas with a targeted focus on Maternal & Child Health.

A component of the OGPP includes national management and administrative activities, including intensive programmatic technical assistance and support to grantees in developing, implementing, and evaluating their pilot program.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in assisting us to combat the opioid epidemic in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. If you have any questions, please contact Tamara James, Ph.D., Acting Director, Division of Behavioral Health, IHS, by telephone at (301) 443-1872 or by e-mail at tamara.james@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

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

Enclosure: Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer Summary Report - Indian Health Service Opioid Grant Pilot Program