



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Indian Health Service
Rockville MD 20857

JUL -2 2020

Dear Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to initiate Urban Confer on the use of approximately \$30 million in offset and prior-year funds from the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI).

The SDPI has been funding diabetes treatment and prevention activities in Indian Health Service (IHS), Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs since fiscal year (FY) 1998. As SDPI funds are available until expended, prior-year (or “carryover”) funds have accumulated over the years in many SDPI grants. As such, 62 SDPI grants with large carryover balances relative to their annual grant amounts received an offset of 50-100 percent in FY 2020. Offset grants received Notices of Grant Award for all of their FY 2020 annual grant amount, utilizing new funds and/or some of their carryover funds.

By letter dated March 4, 2020, I shared with you our plan to combine the FY 2020 offset funds with the unexpended funds that would be returned when the current SDPI grant cycle (FY 2016-FY 2020) was closed-out in 2021 to create a new SDPI funding opportunity.

However, now that the Department of Health and Human Services has determined that FY 2021 will be added as a sixth year to the current grant cycle (now FY 2016-FY 2021), the previously scheduled close-out will not occur until 2022. Accordingly, a new plan is needed for the FY 2020 offset funds. In addition, some carryover funds that are not impacted by the addition of a sixth year to the current grant cycle are also available. Taken together, approximately \$30 million could be used for other purposes, which are consistent with the statutory language for the use of funds as grants.

Options for use of this \$30 million in one-time funds include, but are not limited to, a new grant funding opportunity for \$10 million per year for 3 years for eligible entities that do not currently have a SDPI grant, or one open to all eligible entities to apply to address diabetes-related risk factors (e.g., social determinants of health).

I invite Urban Indian Organization Leaders to provide input on the use of this \$30 million in SDPI funds. I encourage you to submit written comments to urbanconfer@ihs.gov within the Confer period, which concludes on **Friday, August 28, 2020**.

The next meeting of the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC) is September 22, 2020. At that time, the TLDC will review the Urban Confer comments and provide their recommendations to me. A subsequent Urban Indian Organization Leader letter with the final Agency decisions on the use of this \$30 million of SDPI funds will follow.

Thank you for your partnership on the SDPI throughout the past 23 years. Urban Indian Organization programs have helped make the SDPI’s success possible. Together, we have

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improved diabetes prevention and treatment outcomes in our communities. To learn more about these efforts and activities throughout 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 feedback and recommendations on this important Urban Confer. If you have any questions about the process, or the SDPI program in general, please contact the DDTP by e-mail at diabetesprogram@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

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Director