



APR 28 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to announce the Indian Health Service (IHS) decision on the distribution of \$5 million from Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 appropriations to support the national Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) expansion.

On September 21, 2020, the IHS initiated Tribal Consultation on the FY 2020 appropriations seeking specific feedback on priorities necessary to implement and build the CHAP for maximum success in Federal and Tribal facilities. The IHS worked closely with the CHAP Tribal Advisory Group (TAG) to review the comments received and discuss the feedback with Tribal Leaders involved in the development of the national CHAP. A final summary report of the comments received from Tribal Consultation and the CHAP TAG recommendations are enclosed. Since the initiation of the consultation, the IHS allocated an additional \$5 million from the FY 2021 appropriations to support the national CHAP expansion. In light of these additional resources, the IHS will allocate a total of \$10 million for national CHAP expansion.

Based on your comments, input from the CHAP TAG, and the resources required for the IHS to carry out its foundational responsibilities for designing a national CHAP, the IHS has decided to combine the funds from both FY 2020 and 2021 to target the resources directly to Tribes and Tribal Organization to plan and implement CHAP. The IHS will allocate \$7.7 million to administer two separate CHAP-related grant programs for Tribes and Tribal Organizations in each of the 12 IHS Areas. The grants mechanism enables greater flexibility for Tribes and Tribal Organizations and acknowledges that there are still many Tribal communities determining the feasibility of CHAP implementation. Creating two different grant programs targets resources to both those that are ready to begin CHAP implementation and those that require additional planning resources to determine feasibility. The grant program allocation includes:

- \$3 million in grants for Tribes and Tribal Organizations positioned to begin operating a CHAP. The IHS will award three grants of approximately \$1 million each, for a period of 2 years, to Tribes and Tribal Organizations to invest in their existing training infrastructure, continued planning, and assessment efforts of their respective programs.
- \$4.7 million in grants for Tribes and Tribal Organizations to assist with planning efforts and assessing the applicability of a CHAP. The IHS will award nine grants of approximately \$520,000 each, for a period of 2 years, to Tribes and Tribal Organizations to initiate the planning and assessment of beginning a CHAP within their communities.

The remaining \$2.3 million will support the IHS national CHAP infrastructure at both Headquarters and Area levels, including:

- \$1.7 million to IHS Headquarters to support the national CHAP infrastructure for staffing to develop the National Certification Board, National Standards and Procedures, and ongoing technical assistance and strategic planning for the efforts to expand into the contiguous 48 states for both FY 2020 and FY 2021; and
- \$640,000 for IHS Area Offices to support Area-level infrastructure in the contiguous 48 states where there are CHAP providers trained and ready to be certified.

As a next step, the IHS Office of Clinical and Preventive Services (OCPS) will prepare to publish Notices of Funding Opportunities, including anticipated grant cycle start dates in the *Federal Register* this summer. Because these funds include FY 2020, which has an obligation deadline of September 30, 2021, we will begin the distribution of these funds as soon as possible. Thank you and the CHAP TAG for your valued input and continued partnership as we work to maximize our collective resources to support American Indian and Alaska Native communities through expansion of the CHAP.

For updates on the CHAP, please visit the CHAP Web site at <https://www.ihs.gov/chap/>. If you need additional information, please contact Ms. Minette Galindo, Public Health Advisor, IHS, by e-mail at ihschap@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

/Elizabeth A. Fowler/
Acting Director