



OCT 5 2021

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to provide an update on the Indian Health Service's (IHS) position related to the eligibility of the Seminole Freedmen of the Seminole Nation to receive health services from the IHS or by a Tribal health program (THP) or an Urban Indian Organization (UIO) (as those terms are defined in 25 U.S.C. section 1603).

The IHS has reviewed the eligibility status of the Seminole Freedmen in accordance with IHS eligibility requirements and has determined that the Seminole Freedmen are eligible for health care services.

The IHS is responsible for providing health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives throughout the United States. *See* 25 U.S.C. § 1661. The IHS's authority to provide health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives derives primarily from two statutes: the Snyder Act (25 U.S.C. § 13); and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. §§ 1601-1683). In addition, the regulations pertaining to eligibility for health services from the IHS and a THP are found at 42 C.F.R. Part 136.

If you have any questions, please contact CAPT John Rael, Director, Office of Resource Access and Partnerships, IHS, by telephone at (301) 443-0969, or by e-mail at [john.rael@ihs.gov](mailto:john.rael@ihs.gov).

Sincerely,

/Elizabeth A. Fowler/  
Acting Director