



MAR 31 2021

Dear Urban Indian Organization Leader:

On behalf of the Indian Health Service (IHS), I am initiating Urban Confer to seek your input on two initiatives: (1) the use of \$5 million from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 appropriations that the IHS has allocated to address Alzheimer’s disease; and (2) the use of \$5 million in funding for *Ending the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Epidemic (EHE): A Plan for America*, which was allocated to support work toward the elimination of HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) in Indian Country.

The IHS Office of Clinical and Preventive Services (OCPS) will host a virtual learning session to provide additional information on both initiatives, including information on the Agency’s requirements for implementation and activities to date for each specialty area.

Please make plans to join us on **Wednesday, April 7, 2021**, at the virtual learning session and Tuesday, April 20, 2021, and Wednesday, April 21, 2021, at the virtual Urban Confer sessions that follow:

LEARNING SESSION ON IHS INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE & ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC	
DATE:	Wednesday, April 7, 2021
TIME:	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. (EDT)
CALL-IN INFORMATION:	Participant Dial-in: (877) 801-1365 Participant Code: 6488559
ADOBE CONNECT	To join the meeting: https://ihs.cosocloud.com/ihsdccc/ Room Passcode: ihs123
URBAN CONFER SESSION: ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE	
DATE:	Tuesday, April 20, 2021
TIME:	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (EDT)
CALL-IN INFORMATION:	Participant Dial-in: (877) 801-1365 Participant Code: 6488559
ADOBE CONNECT	To join the meeting: https://ihs.cosocloud.com/ihsdccc/ Room Passcode: ihs123

URBAN CONFER SESSION: ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC	
DATE:	Wednesday, April 21, 2021
TIME:	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (EDT)
CALL-IN INFORMATION:	Participant Dial-in: (877) 801-1365 Participant Code: 6488559
ADOBE CONNECT	To join the meeting: https://ihs.cosocloud.com/ihsdccc/ Room Passcode: ihs123

I invite you to provide feedback and recommendations on the following:

Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative:

- Exploring how the IHS might use available funding to support sustainable, comprehensive models of care for persons living with dementia and their families through IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs;
- Investing in an effort to improve awareness, early recognition, and diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, in partnership with Tribal communities;
- Investing in competency-based training for all clinical staff to improve diagnosis, assessment, and management of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias in IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs; and
- Investing in evaluation and data to assess the impact of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, the needs of those living with dementia and their families, and the effectiveness of efforts to address and improve management of Alzheimer’s disease.

Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative:

- Exploring how the IHS might use available funding to support IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs to achieve the Ending the HIV Epidemic goal of a 75 percent reduction in new HIV infections by 2025 and at least a 90 percent reduction by 2030; and
- Key strategies for implementing the Ending the HIV Epidemic include: (1) diagnosing all people with HIV and HCV as early as possible; (2) treating people with HIV and HCV rapidly and effectively to reach sustained viral suppression; (3) preventing new HIV and HCV transmissions by using proven interventions, including pre-exposure prophylaxis and syringe service programs; and (4) responding quickly to potential HIV and HCV outbreaks to get needed prevention and treatment services to people who need them.

The learning session and Urban Confer sessions will be recorded and posted on the IHS Web site at [DCCS Consultation and Confer](#).

Please send your comments and recommendations on the Alzheimer’s Disease initiative and Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative by Tuesday, June 1, 2021, as follows:

- By e-mail to urbanconfer@ihs.gov - SUBJECT LINE: Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative Funding and/or Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative Funding.

If you have any questions about these initiatives, please contact Marcella Ronyak, Ph.D., Director, Division of Clinical and Community Services, IHS, by e-mail at IHSDCCS@ihs.gov, or Mr. Richard Haverkate, National HIV/HCV Program Consultant, IHS, by e-mail at richard.haverkate@ihs.gov.

I look forward to receiving your feedback and recommendations.

Sincerely,

/Elizabeth A. Fowler/
Acting Director