Dear Urban Tribal Organization Leader:

On behalf of the Indian Health Service (IHS), I am initiating Urban Confer to seek your input regarding the allocation of $210 million in additional funding allocated to the IHS from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), Pub. L. No. 117-2, 135 (March 11, 2021) and $2.35 billion currently under consideration by Congress in the Build Back Better Act (BBBA), H.R. 5376, 117th Cong. (2021). These new funding sources are described below.

$210 million for Public Health Workforce Activities from the ARPA

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services allocated $210 million in additional ARPA resources for Public Health Workforce activities. The White House announced the allocation of these funds on November 10, 2021.

The $210 million will support the following activities:

- $92 million to provide nurses in Bureau of Indian Education schools;
- $67 million to enhance public health capacity for IHS and Tribal Nations;
- $45 million for additional IHS loan repayment awards; and
- $6 million for core surveillance and epidemiology work for American Indian and Alaska Native populations.

$2.35 billion in the BBBA

Congress is currently considering the BBBA, which includes $2.35 billion in additional resources for a number of IHS programs. The bill currently includes the following:

- $1 billion to address the 1993 Health Care Facilities Construction Priority List;
- $945 million for Maintenance and Improvement projects;
- $124 million for behavioral health services, including necessary facilities improvements;
- $113 million for Facilities and Environmental Health Support activities;
- $100 million for Urban Indian Organization construction;
- $40 million for the Small Ambulatory Program; and
- $25 million for Tribal Epidemiology Centers
Please make plans to join us on **December 15, 2021**, at the virtual Urban Confer session described below:

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<tr>
<th>DATE:</th>
<th>Wednesday, December 15, 2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TIME:</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (EST)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TELEPHONE:</td>
<td>(833) 568-8864 Toll-free</td>
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<td>Meeting ID: 160 046 5373</td>
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I also encourage you to submit written comments on the two funding sources to urbanconfer@ihs.gov. Please use the Subject Line: American Rescue Plan Act and Build Back Better Act. The deadline to provide written comments is **Thursday, December 23, 2021**.

I look forward to your feedback and recommendations.

Sincerely,

/RADM Chris Buchanan, R.E.H.S., M.P.H./
Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS
Acting Deputy Director