

Indian Health Service

All Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leaders Call

MAY 13, 2021



Welcome



Elizabeth A. Fowler
Acting Director
Indian Health Service



Indian Health Service Updates

- **First 100 Days of the Biden Administration**
 - **National Vaccination Program**
 - IHS partnering with stakeholders to participate in over 2,000 community vaccine events
 - **Improving TeleHealth**
 - IHS facilities virtual care services averaging 35,000 telehealth visits per month



American Rescue Plan Act, \$6.1 billion

- **Critical Event:** The IHS received \$6.1 billion in new funding to support IHS, tribal, and urban Indian health programs fight COVID-19, expand services, and recover critical revenues.
- **Announcement:** Letter to Tribal Leaders and Urban Indian Organization Leaders on March 8, 2021
- **Gathering Input:** Comment period ended on March 19, 2021
 - Urban Confer hosted March 15, 2021
 - Tribal Consultation hosted March 17, 2021
- **Decision:** Initial allocation decisions for \$4.3 billion were announced on April 16, 2021. Decisions on the remaining \$1.8 billion are under Agency review.



Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

- The request included an increase of \$2.2 billion – or 36 percent – for the Indian Health Service, for a total of \$8.5 billion
- Announces plans to seek additional input from tribal and urban Indian organization leaders to evaluate options, including mandatory funding, to provide adequate, stable, and predictable funding for the IHS in the future.



IHS Tribal Consultation Policy and Process

- **Critical Event:** August 2018 Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee & Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee recommendations to update the IHS Tribal Consultation Policy & form a joint Federal/Tribal Workgroup; and President Biden's January 2021 Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships
- **Announcement:** Letter to Tribal Leaders on April 27, 2021
- **Gathering Input:** Comment period ends on June 15, 2021
 - Listening Session on June 8, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. ET
 - Consultation Workgroup Nominations due June 15, 2021
- **Decision:** Active Consultation



IHS Policy on Confering with Urban Indian Organizations

- **Critical Event:** The IHS is revising the Policy on Confering with Urban Indian Organizations.
- **Announcement:** Letter to Urban Indian Organization Leaders on April 27, 2021
- **Gathering Input:** Comment period ends on June 15, 2021
 - Urban Confer on June 9, 2021
- **Decision:** Active Confer



Buy Indian Act – Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

- **Critical Event:** HHS and IHS reopened the Buy Indian Act Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
- **Announcement:** Federal Register Notice issued on April 21, 2021, and letter to Tribal Leaders on April 26, 2021
- **Gathering Input:** Comment period ends on June 21, 2021
 - Tribal Consultation to occur June 9
- **Decision:** Active public and tribal review and comment



Alzheimer's Disease Initiative: *New Funding & New Opportunities*

- **Critical Event:** IHS received \$5 million in FY 2021 for Alzheimer's grants
- **Announcement:** Letter to Tribal Leaders and Urban Indian Organization Leaders on March 31, 2021
- **Gathering Input:** Comment period ends on June 1, 2021
 - Learning Session hosted on April 7, 2021
 - Tribal Consultation hosted on April 13, 2021; Urban Confer hosted on April 20, 2021
 - Listening Sessions hosted on April 21, 2021; and May 4, 6, and 11, 2021
- **Decision:** Active Consultation and Confer



Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative: *New Funding & New Opportunities*

- **Critical Event:** IHS received \$5 million in FY 2021 for Ending the HIV Epidemic.
- **Announcement:** Letter to Tribal Leaders and Urban Indian Organization Leaders on March 31, 2021
- **Gathering Input:** Comment period ends on June 1, 2021
 - Learning Session hosted on April 7, 2021
 - Tribal Consultation hosted on April 15, 2021; Urban Confer hosted on April 21, 2021
 - Listening Sessions hosted on April 21, 2021; and May 4, 6, and 11, 2021
- **Decision:** Active Consultation and Confer



Upcoming Activities

- American Rescue Plan Act
- Indian Health Care Improvement Fund
- Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act Section 105(I) Lease Agreements
- Contract Support Costs Advisory Group
- Indian Health Service – Veterans Health Administration Memorandum of Understanding



Vaccinating 12-15 Year Olds

- FDA expanded the emergency use authorization for the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine for adolescents 12 through 15 years of age
- IHS facilities are now vaccinating ages 12 and up with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.
- Routine childhood vaccines can be administered at the same time without waiting two weeks between vaccine administrations.
- Vaccinating adolescents is a significant step in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic



