



APR 15 2022

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to initiate a Tribal Consultation on the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) for fiscal year (FY) 2023.

The SDPI has been funding diabetes treatment and prevention activities in Indian Health Service (IHS), Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs since 1998. Congress authorized funding for the SDPI as part of a 3-year authorization ending on September 30, 2023, with funding of \$150 million per fiscal year. Due to mandatory sequestration, there is a 2 percent reduction in SDPI funding annually for FY 2022 and FY 2023, reducing the annual amount to \$147 million. At this time, IHS does not know if, or when, Congress will address authorization of the SDPI beyond FY 2023, nor do we know the total funding amount that might be authorized.

The Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC) recommended that Tribal Consultation on the SDPI for FY 2023 be conducted in all 12 IHS Areas. Once Tribal Consultation is complete, the TLDC will reconvene to review the input and make final national recommendations to me. I anticipate that this will occur during the next TLDC meeting in June.

The SDPI FY 2023 will be the beginning of a 5-year grant cycle. Accordingly, the IHS will publish a new notice of funding opportunity in the *Federal Register* and a grant application process will follow. Tribal Leader recommendations on these questions is particularly important, as FY 2023 will provide an opportunity for changes to the SDPI.

I invite Tribal Leaders to provide input on the following Tribal Consultation questions, as well as on any other issue related to the SDPI.

1. What recommendations do you have regarding the best way to support Tribes and Tribal Organizations not currently funded by the SDPI without impacting the current funding distribution?

The current SDPI funding distribution is as follows:

- Tribal and IHS Grants \$130.2 million;
- Urban Grants \$8.5 million;
- SDPI Support \$6.1 million; and
- Data Infrastructure Improvement \$5.2 million.

2. What type of data does your SDPI program collect (clinical, prevention, education, etc.)?

- a. How can data collection, management, and analysis activities be structured to better serve your Tribe, Tribal Organization, or Area's needs for data?**

- 3. What challenges do SDPI community-directed programs experience with spending SDPI funds, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?**
 - a. What additional support is needed for Tribes and Tribal Organizations in your Area to address these challenges?**

- 4. How can the IHS improve Federal grant management processes and make improvements at the Federal level to better support Tribal programs?**
 - a. Is there additional technical assistance that the IHS can offer to Tribes and Tribal Organizations to help you spend SDPI funds?**
 - b. How will this help your community-directed SDPI program during next funding cycle?**

I am requesting that each Area Director identify an upcoming Area meeting or schedule a conference call to consult with Tribes and Tribal Organizations on the SDPI for FY 2023. Tribal Leaders are welcome to contribute to these Area discussions and/or to submit written comments to consultation@ihs.gov within the Tribal Consultation period, which will close 30 days from the date of this letter. The TLDC will review the Tribal Consultation input from all 12 IHS Areas and then provide final national recommendations to me. I will update you by Tribal Leader Letter with final Agency decisions on possible changes to the SDPI FY 2023.

Thank you for your partnership on the SDPI over the past 24 years. Health program grantees from the IHS, Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and Urban Indian Organizations have made the SDPI's remarkable success possible. Together, we have improved diabetes prevention and treatment services in our communities. To learn more about these efforts and activities across the country, I encourage you to visit the Web site of the IHS Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention (DDTP) at www.ihs.gov/diabetes/ and the SDPI Web site at www.ihs.gov/sdpi/.

Thank you in advance for your input as part of this important Tribal Consultation. If you have any questions about the Tribal Consultation process or the SDPI program in general, please contact the DDTP by e-mail at diabetesprogram@ihs.gov or contact your Area TLDC Representative.

Sincerely,

/Elizabeth A. Fowler/
Acting Director