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Dear Urban Indian Organization Leader:

On behalf of the Indian Health Service (IHS), I am writing to provide an update on the IHS Virtual Urban Confer on the Urban Indian Organization Infrastructure Study. To re-cap, the December 27, 2020-enacted Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. L. No. 116-260) (the Act), provides the IHS with a total fiscal year 2021 appropriation of \$6.4 billion. The Act's Joint Explanatory Statement for Division G provides \$1 million to conduct the Urban Indian Organization Infrastructure Study for facilities operated by Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs).

On January 24, 2022, the IHS awarded a firm-fixed-price (FFP) contract to The Innova Group to conduct the Urban Indian Organization Infrastructure Study. On February 8, 2022, the IHS held a kick-off meeting with leadership from The Innova Group to discuss details regarding the introduction and alignment on deliverables, process, and schedule of the Urban Indian Organization Infrastructure Study. This contract will be leveraged with an existing IHS Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE) contract with The Innova Group. Leveraging the contract from the OEHE will help streamline the procurement process and will ensure the Urban Indian Organization Infrastructure Study will be completed within the required timeframe.

Under this contract, The Innova Group will provide the IHS with a comprehensive Urban Indian Organization Infrastructure Study report detailing findings and recommendations to support future health care planning for the 41 UIOs. For each Urban Indian Organization, the report will include a conceptual Health System Planning project file that will detail the future planned services, staff, and space.

The infrastructure study will be comprised of four phases:

- Phase I: Establish project schedule, identify stakeholders, collect and validate data, establish planning policies, and develop report templates.
- Phase II: Coordinate site visits, which will include travel to each Urban Indian Organization, interview key stakeholders, assess existing infrastructure, and collect additional data as needed. Site visits will be completed over a 6-week period.
- Phase III: Establish service area definitions, population projections, workload forecasts, projected staffing and space requirements, and identify critical unmet needs and priorities for each Urban Indian Organization.
- Phase IV: Complete final report, which will include the finalization of 41 Urban Indian Organization reports, and the development of an Executive Summary for each report that summarizes needs and identifies key findings.

As a next step, the IHS and The Innova Group will proceed with Phase I. The IHS has made a commitment to keep UIOs apprised of progress throughout the Urban Indian Organization Infrastructure Study process. We welcome your feedback and look forward to providing ongoing updates.

I am grateful to the Urban Indian Organization Leaders who have continued to share essential feedback, data, and recommendations on this topic. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Rick Mueller, Deputy Director, Office of Urban Indian Health Programs, IHS, by telephone at (301) 443-3787, or by e-mail at rick.mueller@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

/Elizabeth A. Fowler/
Acting Deputy Director