



APR 04 2022

Dear Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to update you about changes to Federal law that previously authorized the Indian Health Service (IHS) to make funds available to Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) to make minor renovations to facilities or construction, or expand facilities, (including leased facilities), but only to assist UIOs in meeting or maintaining The Joint Commission (TJC) accreditation standards (25 U.S.C. § 1659). On November 15, 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act amended this provision.

The current requirements are as follows, “The Secretary may make funds available to contractors or grant recipients under this subchapter for renovations to facilities or construction or expansion of facilities, including leased facilities.” With this amended language, these activities are no longer required to be for the purpose of maintaining TJC standards. The amendment also removes the language that these activities be “minor.”

Thank you for your partnership, which is critical to our ongoing efforts to ensure that UIOs have access to necessary funding for facility renovation, construction, and expansion. These funds have made it possible to deliver safe, culturally relevant health care to the Urban Indian population. 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](mailto:rick.mueller@ihs.gov).

Sincerely,

/ Elizabeth A. Fowler/  
Acting Director