



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Indian Health Service
Rockville MD 20857

APR 15 2022

Dear Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to initiate Urban Confer 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. The current legislation reflects a 2 percent reduction in SDPI funding annually for FY 2022 and FY 2023 due to mandatory sequestration, reducing the annual amount to \$147 million. At this time, we do not know if, or when, Congress will address authorization beyond FY 2023, nor do we know the total funding amount that might be authorized.

The Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC) recommended that Urban Confer on the SDPI for FY 2023 be conducted in all 12 IHS Areas. Once Urban Confer 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.

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

I invite UIO Leaders to provide input on the following Urban Confer 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 or UIOs not currently funded by the SDPI without impacting current funding?

The current SDPI funding distribution is as follows:

- Tribal and IHS grant programs \$130.2 million;
- UIO grant programs \$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, UIO, or the 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 Urban Indian Organizations in your Area to address these challenges?**
- 4. How can IHS improve Federal grant management processes and make improvements at the Federal level to better support UIO programs?**
 - a. Is there additional technical assistance that IHS can offer to UIOs to help you spend SDPI funds?**
 - b. How will this help your SDPI community-directed programs during the next funding cycle?**

I am requesting that each Area Director identify an upcoming Area meeting or schedule a conference call to confer with UIOs on the SDPI for FY 2023. I encourage you to contribute to these Area discussions and/or to submit written comments to urbanconfer@ihs.gov within the Confer period, which will close 30 days from the date of this letter. The TLDC will review the Urban Confer input from all 12 IHS Areas and then provide final national recommendations to me. I will then update you by Urban Indian Organization Leader Letter, with the final decisions on the FY 2023 SDPI funding distribution.

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 Urban Confer. If you have any questions about the Urban Confer 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