



April 4, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to initiate Tribal Consultation on how to bring the administration of the Small Ambulatory Program (SAP) closer to those who benefit from the program. Authorized by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA), the SAP provides an opportunity for the Indian Health Service (IHS) to contribute to projects for a Tribe or Tribal Organization operating an Indian health facility pursuant to a contract entered into under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, 25 United States Code (U.S.C.) 5301, *et seq.* See 25 U.S.C. § 1636. To review SAP-specific language in the IHCIA, please visit the U.S.C. Web site at [§ 25 USC1636](#).

The IHS has managed the SAP at the IHS Headquarters level since 2002. In an effort to make administration of the SAP more locally focused, the IHS proposes to transition program management for the SAP to the Area level. Each of the 12 IHS Areas will evaluate and announce awards for SAP projects for their respective Areas. To manage the program at the Area level requires that we develop an equitable method of allocating the available funds to IHS Areas. In addition, the IHS is proposing to raise the maximum SAP award amount.

To ensure that the IHS considers your interests, please address the following. Your recommendations will contribute to the development of the SAP management policy.

1. The IHS proposes to manage the SAP program at the Area level, including evaluation and announcement of awards.
2. The IHS proposes three options to allocate the SAP funding to IHS Areas.
 - a. Option one. The IHS would allocate SAP funding to each IHS Area using the Tribal Size Adjustment (TSA) Formula, defined on page 4 of the *IHS Programs, Functions, Services, and Activities (PSFA) Manual* (IHS 2002). Each IHS Area would award SAP projects up to the amount allocated to their Area.
 - b. Option two. The IHS would allocate SAP funding to IHS Areas to ensure that a minimum of one project would be awarded in each IHS Area with an applicant. The remainder of the SAP funding would be allocated to IHS Areas by the TSA Formula.
 - c. Option three. The IHS would allocate SAP funding based on the average number of applications received by each Area in the past three SAP solicitations.

3. The IHS proposes to increase the maximum SAP award from \$2 million to \$3.5 million.
4. The IHS proposes that any SAP funds not awarded by the end of the SAP evaluation period will be re-allocated to other IHS Areas to enable additional SAP awards.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION (VIRTUAL): Please mark your calendar and join the virtual Tribal Consultation on the following date:

Friday, April 14, 2023, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EDT
https://ihs-gov.zoomgov.com/j/1603086756

WRITTEN COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: I would also like to encourage you to e-mail your comments and recommendations by the Tribal Consultation’s comment deadline, which is **April 21, 2023**.

- Please E-MAIL your comments to:
consultation@ihs.gov; SUBJECT LINE: Small Ambulatory Program Tribal Consultation
- Or send your comments by **POSTAL MAIL** to:

Ms. Roselyn Tso
Director
Indian Health Service
5600 Fishers Lane, Mail Stop: 08E37A
Rockville, MD 20857

SUBJECT: Small Ambulatory Program Tribal Consultation

Thank you for your recommendations and guidance on this very important topic.

Sincerely,

Roselyn Tso
-S

Digitally signed by
Roselyn Tso -S
Date: 2023.04.04
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Roselyn Tso
Director