



September 11, 2023

Dear North Dakota and South Dakota Tribal Leaders:

I am writing to initiate Tribal Consultation regarding the Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) program and more specifically, on the plans to perform a detailed analysis (study) of PRC implications and assess the feasibility of creating state-wide Purchased/Referred Care delivery areas (PRCDAs) in North Dakota and South Dakota. The Office of Resource Access and Partnerships (ORAP) will be leading this effort and I would like to hear your concerns and comments prior to conducting this analysis. It is the policy of the Indian Health Service (IHS) to ensure meaningful consultation occurs before any action is taken that will significantly affect Indian Tribes, to the extent practicable and permitted by law.

The Indian Health Care Improvement Act, 25 U.S.C. § 1678a(a), directs the IHS to designate the States of North Dakota and South Dakota as PRCDAs for the purpose of providing PRC services to members of Indian tribes in the States of North Dakota and South Dakota. However, § 1678a(b) prohibits the designation from decreasing health care services to Indians residing on any reservation, or in any county that has a common boundary with any reservation, in the States of North Dakota or South Dakota.

The ORAP staff have identified key components for the study, including identifying the potential number of newly eligible PRC beneficiaries for Tribes in each state, the estimated cost to implement state-wide PRCDAs, implementation strategies, and potential obstacles to expanding the PRCDAs state-wide. Your input, comments, and concerns will assist in the preparation of this study. After the study is complete, I will continue consultation to review the impact of expansion prior to making a final decision.

Please review the enclosed document outlining the potential study components. The virtual Tribal Consultation sessions will be provided as follows:

Designating the States of North Dakota and South Dakota as PRCDAs Virtual Tribal Consultation	
Date:	October 18, 2023
Time:	3:00 - 4:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Conference Call:	Toll Free Call-in Number: (833)568-8864 Meeting ID: 160 841 7666
ZoomGov Link Registration	https://ihs-gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltf-2pqT0sHP5_YNv6DWpLYBsQ75NtJlw

Designating the States of North Dakota and South Dakota as PRCDA Virtual Tribal Consultation	
Date:	October 26, 2023
Time:	3:00 - 4:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Conference Call:	Toll Free Call-in Number: (833)568-8864 Meeting ID: 160 841 7666
ZoomGov Link Registration	https://ihs.gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItce6vqzgoHOIZquZ3LDqzGoVLWXn7dEI

Written comments will be accepted throughout the duration of the Tribal Consultation period. The deadline to provide comments is November 15, 2023.

Please send recommendations for the study:

- By e-mail to: consultation@ihs.gov
- Subject Line: North Dakota and South Dakota State-wide PRCDA Study Tribal Consultation
- By postal mail to: Roselyn Tso
Director
Indian Health Service
5600 Fishers Lane, Mail Stop: 08E86
Rockville, MD 20857

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact CAPT John Rael, ORAP Director, by e-mail at john.rael@ihs.gov or by telephone at (301) 443-3216.

Sincerely,

Roselyn Tso
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Roselyn Tso -S
Date: 2023.09.11
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Roselyn Tso
Director

Enclosure: Office of Resource Access and Partnerships Purchased/Referred Care Statewide PRCDA Study – North Dakota and South Dakota DRAFT Study Components