



June 30, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to provide an update on the status of COVID-19 supplemental appropriations provided to the Indian Health Service (IHS) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and FY 2021. In FY 2020 and FY 2021, over \$9 billion was appropriated or made available to the IHS from six emergency supplemental bills to combat the novel coronavirus.

On June 3, 2023, President Biden signed the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA) (Public Law 118-5) into law. The FRA suspends the public debt limit through January 1, 2025, establishes new discretionary spending limits, and rescinds certain unobligated COVID-19 supplemental funding balances, among other items.

Prior to the enactment of the FRA, the IHS continued to obligate COVID-19 funding and the Agency obligated approximately \$600 million during the month of May. The FRA protects IHS funds, particularly those that were directly appropriated to the Agency in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. However, COVID-19 funding that was transferred to the IHS from COVID-19 appropriations, approximately \$419 million, is impacted by the enacted rescissions.

The rescinded funds were intended to support a variety of ongoing COVID-19 mitigation and recovery activities. For example:

- COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccination activities at IHS-operated hospitals and health clinics, and other mitigation activities;
- The purchase and distribution of PPE, COVID-19 tests, therapeutics, and vaccines at no cost to IHS, Tribal, and urban Indian health programs over the next several years by the IHS NSSC; and
- The establishment, expansion, and sustainment of a public health workforce.

Following the enactment of the FRA, the IHS has nearly \$900 million in remaining COVID-19 funding. These remaining resources are predominately for the uses that follow and could be used for many of the activities previously supported by rescinded funds:

- Ongoing COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccination of patients at IHS-operated hospitals and health clinics, and other mitigation activities; and
- Purchasing and distributing personal protective equipment, along with COVID-19 tests, therapeutics, and vaccines, at no cost to IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs through the IHS National Supply Service Center.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we work collectively to continue providing high quality COVID-19-related health care services. The enclosed tables provide a summary of the status of COVID-19 funds at the IHS after enactment of the FRA.

Sincerely,

Roselyn Tso
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A digital signature block for Roselyn Tso. It includes the text "Digitally signed by Roselyn Tso -S", the date "Date: 2023.06.30", and the time "13:45:26 -04'00'". A red scribble is visible over the signature area.

Roselyn Tso
Director

Enclosures: Status of IHS COVID-19 Supplemental Funding After the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023

Estimated COVID-19 Supplemental Rescission Impacts Under the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023