



JULY 19, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to provide an update on the status of implementing the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 advance appropriations provided to the Indian Health Service (IHS).

In FY 2023, the IHS received the first ever advance appropriation for the FY 2024 Budget. The FY 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 117-328) included a total of \$5.1 billion in FY 2024 advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service, which includes funding at the same level as FY 2023 enacted for nearly all IHS programs. The full year funding level will be available for these programs on Oct. 1, 2023, regardless of whether Congress enacts a continuing resolution or full year bill. Advance appropriations provide long overdue funding stability and predictability for the IHS.

The IHS is already reaping the benefits of the advance appropriations, as hospitals and health clinics have reported this change has improved planning for health care services and increased job security for health care providers.

To ensure the successful implementation of advance appropriations, the IHS has identified three strategic goals:

**Goal 1: Distribute FY 2024 advance appropriations for IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs as close as possible on or after October 1, 2023.**

The IHS's first goal in implementing advance appropriations is to distribute the funds as soon as possible after October 1, 2023. To date, to achieve this goal, the IHS has taken the following steps:

- Updating existing budget execution systems and internal timelines to allow for funds to be distributed as quickly as possible. The IHS has confirmed that all financial systems will support the rapid distribution of funds.
- Ensuring apportionments, which authorize the expenditure of funds, are prepared and approved timely by the IHS for submission to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB);
- Partnering with all IHS Headquarters and Area Office staff involved in payments to Tribal Organizations and Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) to ensure an effective process; and
- Upon the enactment of a full year bill, the IHS will distribute any additional funds enacted by Congress as soon as possible after the passage of the bill.

**Goal 2: Ensure regular engagement with Tribal Leaders, Urban Indian Organization Leaders, and Congress.**

The IHS's second goal in implementing advance appropriations is to ensure regular outreach and engagement with Tribal Leaders, Urban Indian Organization Leaders, and Congress, so that all relevant stakeholders have a clear understanding of the Agency's progress. To achieve this goal, the IHS is:

- Making useful information about advance appropriations implementation available on the IHS Web site;
- Briefing Tribal Leaders and Urban Indian Organization Leaders on implementation progress during scheduled meetings and/or engagements. Conducting listening sessions, or Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer; and
- Providing updates to Congress on the IHS's progress toward implementation.

**Goal 3: Demonstrate the Impact of Advance Appropriations.**

The IHS's third goal in implementing advance appropriations is to demonstrate the positive impacts of advance appropriations, including:

- Partnering with health programs operated by the IHS, Tribes, and UIOs to identify metrics for success, including success stories. The IHS is developing a plan to engage IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs on an ongoing basis to seek your input on how advance appropriations have improved your ability to provide high-quality health care services.
- The IHS will complete an evaluation to assess the implementation, impact, and customer service satisfaction regarding the execution of advance appropriations.

The enclosed table provides a summary of the FY 2024 advance appropriation. Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we work collectively to continue providing high-quality health care services.

Sincerely,

Roselyn Tso -S

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Tso -S  
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Roselyn Tso  
Director

Enclosure: Fiscal Year 2024 Advance Appropriations Allocation Table