



FEB 13, 2023

Dear Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing in follow-up to the virtual Urban Confer on the Urban Indian Organization (UIO) Infrastructure Study convened by the Indian Health Service (IHS) on June 23, 2022.

After reviewing the feedback from comments received from the Confer, I would like to clarify the use of funds requirements arising from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Infrastructure Study.

Specifically, we have received confirmation that the joint explanatory statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, does not mean that Congress intends to allocate additional funding for UIO Infrastructure Study activities. Instead, Congress intends to ensure that the additional funding provided remains in the Direct Operations account for IHS management use. This confirmation also aligns with UIO Confer recommendations to avoid using the funding for additional UIO Infrastructure Study activities.

For your awareness, in addition to verbal recommendations, the IHS received eight written comments from Urban Indian Organizations. In general, commenters recommend the following:

- Provide Urban Indian Organizations with findings from the UIO Infrastructure Study before making any additional funding decisions.
- Create and share the timeline with Urban Indian Organizations, including when the UIO Infrastructure Study findings will be released.
- Host a Confer following the release of the UIO Infrastructure Study.
- Do not solicit and award a contract for second year of the UIO Infrastructure Study funding.
- Direct funding for UIO health information technology modernization electronic health records planning as part of the UIO Infrastructure Study.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Rick Mueller, Acting Director, Office of Urban Indian Health Programs, IHS, by telephone at (301) 892-1746, or by e-mail at rick.mueller@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

Roselyn Tso -S
Digitally signed by Roselyn
Tso -S
Date: 2023.02.13 10:20:41
-05'00'

Roselyn Tso
Director