



March 20, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to update you on a change to Indian Health Service (IHS) publishing policy for Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) announcements. The IHS's current process is to publish all NOFOs in the *Federal Register* (FR), post them on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), and post links to both of those locations on the IHS Division of Grants Management (DGM) [website](#). The IHS will cease publishing NOFOs to the FR and continue to post to [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and the DGM website.

Part 5, Chapter 19 of the *Indian Health Manual* (IHM), Grants and Cooperative Agreements (issued October 1995) explains requirements for publishing certain documents in the FR as originally required by the *Public Health Service (PHS) Grants Policy Statement* (revised April 1, 1994), related to discretionary grant programs. The NOFO is one of these documents.

However, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published the *HHS Grants Policy Statement* (<http://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/grants/grants/policies-regulations/hhsgps107.pdf>, revised January 1, 2007), superseding the *PHS Grants Policy Statement*. This Policy Statement explains that HHS agencies are required to post NOFOs on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), and are only required to publish them in the FR under limited circumstances.

There are also financial costs associated with publishing in the FR. For example, the Agency's costs for publishing notices in the FR in fiscal year 2019 exceeded \$40,000 total, or approximately \$4,000 per notice.

We believe these funds could be put to better use in higher-priority programmatic areas. The DGM acknowledges that potential grant applicants are used to learning about IHS funding opportunities through the FR, and therefore, we have elected to take the following actions as we transition away from publishing NOFOs in the FR.

- The IHS will continue to provide a link to the [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) announcement and application package on the DGM [website](#) for each new announcement. This link will remain available while applications can be submitted, and will be removed once the application due date has passed.
- Beginning in October 2023, the IHS has posted all NOFOs on the DGM [website](#) as PDF documents, in addition to providing FR links to NOFOs.
- The IHS will publish a FR notice by April 15, 2024, communicating our decision to stop publishing NOFOs in the FR to inform stakeholders where IHS NOFOs will be available. The DGM will also post this information on the DGM [website](#).

- For each NOFO posted to [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) between now and July 1, 2024, we will simultaneously publish a brief notice in the FR that summarizes the opportunity, with links to the detailed content that will be provided in [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and the DGM [website](#).

Thank you for your continued support and engagement as we work to improve and streamline the IHS grants process.

Sincerely,

Roselyn Tso Digitally signed by  
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Date: 2024.03.20  
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Roselyn Tso  
Director