



March 27, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) are writing to request your recommendations on the Draft Annual Operational Plan for fiscal year (FY) 2024 and to share with you our completed FY 2023 VHA-IHS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Operational Plan. This updated plan was based on collective input from a series of Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer sessions held in September and October 2022. Your voices were heard, and your communities' recommendations were incorporated where applicable into the 2023 version of the VHA-IHS MOU Operational Plan (see Enclosure).

The VHA-IHS MOU establishes a framework for coordination and partnership between VHA and IHS, which leverages shared resources and investments in support of the two organizations' mutual goals. Our efforts to update the VHA-IHS MOU Operational Plan over the past 2 years reflect the ongoing dedication to improve access and health outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans. We believe the VHA-IHS MOU Operational Plan, based on your collective recommendations, will enable us to move closer to achieving our common goals and improving health care for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans.

VHA and IHS continue to recognize the importance of your input on these documents. In addition to your contributions, the commitment of both agencies to actively collaborate to the maximum extent permitted by law has driven continuous progress.

The next round of Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer will be held in the spring of FY 2024. We will convene a joint in-person Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer session that will be held on **Monday, April 15, 2024**, during the Tribal Self-Governance Conference at the Gila River Indian Community's Wildhorse Pass Resort in Chandler, Arizona, at 1:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m., Mountain Standard Time.

Please send your written comments and recommendations on the VHA-IHS MOU Operational Plan for FY 2024 no later than April 30, 2024.

• Please send by e-mail to **BOTH** IHS and VA addresses:

Tribal Leaders:
consultation@ihs.gov
tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov

• Please send by postal mail to **BOTH** IHS and VA addresses:

Indian Health Service
5600 Fishers Lane, Mail Stop: 08E86
Rockville, MD 20857
ATTENTION: VHA-IHS MOU Operational Plan

Urban Indian Organization Leaders:

urbanconfer@ihs.gov

tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov

E-mail Subject Line:

VHA-IHS MOU Operational Plan

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (075F)

810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 915G

Washington, DC 20420

ATTENTION: VHA-IHS MOU Operational Plan

Thank you for your partnership and collaboration. Your thoughtful contributions and guidance will strengthen the language and direction of the VHA-IHS MOU Operational Plan. We look forward to your input on the VHA-IHS MOU Operational Plan for FY 2024.

Sincerely,



3-27-2024

Shereef Elnahal, M.D., MBA
Under Secretary for Health

Roselyn Tso

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Roselyn Tso -S
Date: 2024.03.27
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Roselyn Tso
Director
Indian Health Service

Enclosure: 2023 VHA-IHS MOU Operational Plan