



December 5, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

On November 13, 2025, the Indian Health Service (IHS) announced the next phase of Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer on the Agency's proposed realignment. Since that announcement, we have continued to hear from Tribal Nations and Urban Indian Organizations that additional opportunities are needed, including more regional in-person sessions and a virtual option, to ensure that all voices are meaningfully included in this important dialogue. In response to that feedback, the IHS is expanding the Tribal Consultation schedule to increase accessibility, balance regional representation, and provide flexibility for participation.

We sincerely appreciate the thoughtful input and engagement received to date. Your guidance continues to shape our approach as we work together to consider and refine the proposed realignment of the IHS. The purpose of this effort remains unchanged: to create a more patient-centered, self-determination-driven, operationally efficient, and fiscally sustainable health care system that strengthens our partnerships and better supports the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Today, approximately 65 percent of the IHS budget is transferred to Tribes and Tribal Organizations through Title I contracts and Title V compacts under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. The remaining 35 percent supports federally operated IHS hospitals, health centers, and programs. While Tribes continue strengthening and expanding their self-determination authorities, the proposed realignment is designed to modernize the IHS structures that remain Federal, elevate core functions, improve coordination, and enhance accountability across the Agency. Our goal is to ensure that the IHS is a strong partner, regardless of how each Tribe exercises its sovereign right to self-determination.

To advance this work, the IHS will now host a total of *nine Consultation sessions*, which include the five originally announced on November 13 and four additional sessions requested by Tribes and Urban Indian Organizations, including a virtual Consultation. Supporting materials include an executive narrative, a draft organizational chart, and frequently asked questions available as "Enclosures" at [www.ihs.gov/newsroom/triballeaderletters/](http://www.ihs.gov/newsroom/triballeaderletters/).

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The following schedule and registration details will be posted on the [IHS Event Calendar](#).

## **Full Consultation Schedule**

(New consultations announced after November 13, 2025, are indicated by an asterisk below.)

We invite you to register for the sessions you plan to attend using the following link:

**[Tribal Consultation Registration Form.](#)**

### **Tribal Consultation No. 1 – Durant, Oklahoma**

Date: Monday, December 15, 2025

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 PM CT

Venue: Choctaw Cultural Center, 1919 Hina Hanta Way, Calera, OK 74730

### **Tribal Consultation No. 2 – Denver, Colorado**

Date: Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 PM MT

Venue: Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center, 650 15th St, Denver, CO 80202

### **Tribal Consultation No. 3 – San Diego, California**

Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 PM PT

Venue: Omni San Diego Hotel at the Ballpark, 675 L Street, San Diego, CA 92101

### **Tribal Consultation No. 4 – Virtual\***

Date: Monday, December 22, 2025

Time: 2:00 – 5:00 PM ET

[Click Here to Register for Virtual Session Access \(ZoomGov\)](#)

### **Tribal Consultation No. 5 – Flagstaff, Arizona\***

Date: Monday, January 5, 2026

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 PM MST

Venue: High Country Conference Center, 201 West Butler Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

### **Tribal Consultation No. 6 – Seattle, Washington**

Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 PM PT

Venue: Seattle Airport Marriott 3201 S 176th St, Seattle, WA 98188

### **Tribal Consultation No. 7 – Billings, Montana\***

Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 PM MST

Venue: Northern Hotel, 19 North Broadway, Billings, MT 59101

### **Tribal Consultation No. 8 – Green Bay\***

Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 PM CST

Venue: Oneida Hotel, 2040 Airport Dr, Green Bay, WI 54313

**Urban Confer Session – Virtual**

Date: Thursday, January 15, 2026

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 PM ET

[Click Here to Register for Virtual Session Access \(ZoomGov\)](#)

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In alignment with the IHS Tribal Consultation Policy, the highest-ranking elected Tribal official from each respective Tribe will be offered the first opportunity to speak, followed by other elected leaders, designated Tribal representatives, and representatives of Tribal and Indian Organizations. For any designated representatives attending an in-person session, the IHS must receive an official designation letter in advance.

The comment submission deadline for both the Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer is **Friday, February 6, 2026.**

- Please email **Tribal Consultation comments** to: [consultation@ihs.gov](mailto:consultation@ihs.gov)
- Please email **Urban Confer comments** to: [urbanconfer@ihs.gov](mailto:urbanconfer@ihs.gov)
- Please use the **SUBJECT LINE: IHS Proposed Realignment**

After the comment period closes, the IHS will enter an internal deliberation phase to review all feedback prior to moving through internal clearance for finalization and implementation.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Xavier Yazzie, Office of the Director, by email at [xavier.yazzie@ihs.gov](mailto:xavier.yazzie@ihs.gov) or by telephone at **(301) 945-3755**.

Thank you for your continued partnership and leadership in advancing the health and well-being of Tribal and Urban Indian communities. We remain committed to ensuring this process is transparent, inclusive, and reflective of your guidance.

Sincerely,

Clayton Fulton  
Chief of Staff  
(Delegated Authority of the IHS Director)

Enclosures