



October 6, 2026

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to share updates to routinely requested Agency processes and to encourage Tribal Leaders who have not yet done so, to consider donating a Tribal flag for display at Indian Health Service (IHS) Headquarters in our Hall of Tribal Nations.

To ensure the most productive use of your time, we have identified and implemented a series of procedural updates that we believe will enhance Headquarters efficiency and provide more timely responses to your requests.

Specifically, we have streamlined the process for requesting and coordinating speaking engagements with Agency leadership; refined the Tribal Delegation Meeting (TDM) process to improve coordination and provide a new opportunity for participant feedback; and established a new mailing address for Tribal flag contributions to the IHS Hall of Tribal Nations.

Requesting IHS Staff to Speak at an Event or Transmitting a Meeting Request

Effective as of the date of this letter, there is a newly established online form to initiate a request for Agency leadership to speak at an event or meeting other than a TDM. Please transmit your speaker requests using the online request form available at the IHS website address that follows:
<https://www.ihs.gov/ihsclendar/meetingrequest/>.

Each event or meeting request will be reviewed by an IHS representative, who will follow-up directly with the requester and provide status updates until a decision regarding the request has been made. We are asking that event and meeting requests be transmitted at least 60 days before the proposed meeting or engagement date, and no more than 6 months in advance. Please note that submission of a request does not guarantee IHS participation.

TDM Process Improvements

Tribal Delegation Meetings continue to follow a separate request process from speaker or meeting requests. A Tribal Leader seeking to schedule a TDM with IHS leadership may transmit a TDM request using either of the following:

- By email at IHSTribalDelegationMeeting@ihs.gov; or
- By TDM Request Form at <https://www.ihs.gov/odsct/tribal-delegation-meetings/>.

A TDM request should be transmitted at least 2 weeks in advance to allow sufficient time for planning and coordination. Time-sensitive TDM requests will continue to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

As part of our continued efforts to strengthen the TDM process, the IHS recently developed an IHS TDM Satisfaction Survey to hear directly from Tribal participants about their experience. Feedback received will help the IHS identify opportunities for improvements and monitor the effectiveness of the TDM process. Participation is voluntary. Following each TDM, participants are invited complete the online survey available on the IHS website at: <https://www.ihs.gov/odsct/tribal-delegation-meetings/ihs-tdm-satisfaction-survey/>.

Matters currently under active Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) negotiations (including actions that require technical assistance or appeal), must occur within the established ISDEAA negotiation or appeal process, rather than through a TDM. This distinction ensures consistency for each of the specific processes and avoids parallel or duplicative discussions. In accordance with the established ISDEAA negotiation process and applicable procedures, your assigned Agency Lead Negotiator will continue to serve as the primary point of contact for all active ISDEAA negotiation-related matters.

IHS Hall of Tribal Nations

In closing, I would like to ask you to consider adding your Tribal flag to the IHS Hall of Tribal Nations display, which was recently established at IHS Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. The inaugural display features 15 Tribal flags, which marks the beginning of our ongoing efforts to honor Indian Tribes and Communities.

If interested in sharing your Tribal flag, (approximately 3 feet by 5 feet) you may deliver it in person at a speaking engagement, meeting, or via an in-person TDM, or by mailing it to the following updated address:

Indian Health Service
Office of Tribal and Urban Affairs
ATTENTION: IHS Hall of Tribal Nations
5600 Fishers Lane, Mail Stop: 06E21C
Rockville, MD 20857

Thank you for your continued partnership and engagement.

Sincerely,

/Mark Cruz/

Mark Cruz
Director