



July 9, 2026

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

The Indian Health Service (IHS) Division of Health Professions Support requests your assistance in identifying priority health professions for inclusion into categories eligible for the IHS Scholarship Program (SP) in academic year 2027-2028 and the IHS Loan Repayment Program (LRP) in fiscal year (FY) 2027.

On an annual basis, the IHS seeks Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader recommendations to develop a list of "Priority Provider Categories" that will be included in the IHS SP and the IHS LRP. For academic year 2027-2028 and FY 2027, the IHS SP and the IHS LRP will be funding physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, and optometrists. We also ask IHS Federal leadership to provide Agency feedback on health professions funding priorities.

Please transmit your list of priorities on the enclosed charts. We also ask that you limit your submission solely to health professions for which you currently have full-time vacancies, or are anticipating full-time vacancies within the next year.

We would like to invite all Indian health programs to participate in this process to help determine the approved disciplines selected for the upcoming academic year and fiscal year. For additional information on the IHS SP and IHS LRP, please visit our websites at www.ihs.gov/scholarship and www.ihs.gov/loanrepayment.

Please email your provider priorities by August 3, 2026, to Ms. Kim Nguyen at kim.nguyen@ihs.gov. If you have any questions about the IHS SP, please contact Ms. Destiny Khalil by email at destiny.khalil@ihs.gov, or by telephone at (240) 271-2216. If you have questions about the IHS LRP, please contact Ms. Catherine Flynn by email at catherine.flynn@ihs.gov, or by telephone at (301) 443-1795.

Sincerely yours,

DARRELL W. LAROCHE -S
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Darrell LaRoche
Deputy Director for
Management Operations

Enclosures: Academic Year 2027-2028 Priority Chart - Scholarship Program Survey
Fiscal Year 2027 Priority Chart - Loan Repayment Program Survey