



July 13, 2026

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to initiate Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer to request your feedback and recommendations regarding the use of approximately \$70 million in Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) funding available for diabetes treatment and prevention activities. This amount includes \$50 million associated with the fiscal year 2026 SDPI funding increase and \$20 million in one-time unobligated SDPI funding.

For more than 25 years, the SDPI has been instrumental in supporting evidence-based diabetes treatment and prevention programs, contributing to significant improvements in diabetes outcomes, and strengthening local capacity to address the burden of diabetes and its complications in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

The IHS is seeking your written comments and recommendations on priorities, approaches, and strategies for using these additional SDPI funds to maximize their impact on diabetes treatment, prevention, and related health outcomes. Please provide your responses to the following questions:

Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer Questions

1. Current SDPI grant recipients will receive a Calendar Year 2026 administrative grant supplement totaling 25 percent of their annual SDPI grant award using one-time, unobligated funding.
 - a. What IHS flexibilities do you suggest to help current grantees fully spend the additional supplemental SDPI funds within the grant period?
 - b. What educational resources or technical assistance would your SDPI program request to fully spend supplemental SDPI funds by December 31, 2027?
 - c. What is the best way to distribute the additional SDPI funds to improve current efforts in treatment, prevention, and care coordination within existing SDPI scopes of work?
2. How should the IHS prioritize the use of \$70 million to achieve the greatest impact?
3. What are the most significant diabetes risk factors affecting your community that could be addressed through a prevention-focused SDPI initiative?
4. What recommendations do you have for structuring a prevention and wellness program that supports Tribal sovereignty, cultural practices, local decision-making, and community-defined health priorities?
5. How can the IHS best support prevention efforts that focus on children, youth, and families to improve long-term health outcomes and prevent type 2 diabetes and related chronic diseases?

6. What are your recommendations for the future direction of SDPI, including opportunities to strengthen the program's impact, flexibility, sustainability, and responsiveness to Tribal and Urban Indian community needs?

Please submit your written comments and recommendations **within 30 days** of the date of this letter.

- Please email **Tribal Consultation comments to: consultation@ihs.gov**
- Please email **Urban Confer comments to: urbanconfer@ihs.gov**
- Please use the **SUBJECT LINE: SDPI Funding**

The Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee will review the input received through Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer and provide me with final national recommendations. I will communicate the Agency's final decisions to you in a follow-up letter.

I look forward to receiving your comments and recommendations. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Carmen Licavoli, Director, Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention, IHS, by telephone at (844) 447-3387, or by email at carmen.licavoli@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

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