



September 24, 2026

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to invite you to participate in an Indian Health Service (IHS) listening session on the IHS Health Care Facilities Construction Priority System and the remaining projects on the IHS Facilities Construction Priority List.

I am also initiating Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer with Tribal Leaders and Urban Indian Organization (UIO) Leaders from the IHS Phoenix Area on the Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC) replacement project.

The Indian Health Care Improvement Act requires the IHS to maintain a Health Care Facilities Construction Priority System and protects the priority status of certain projects established under the construction priority system in effect on March 23, 2010. *See* 25 U.S.C. §1631(c)(1). These protected projects include certain projects first placed on the IHS Facilities Construction Priority List in the early 1990s and that remain incomplete today.

The IHS continues to make progress on these projects. Each year, the IHS submits a five-year facilities plan to Congress and makes it publicly available, providing clear information on project progress, work that remains, and the options for advancing these projects. More information on the IHS Health Care Facilities Construction Program, including links to the five-year plan, is available in the attached enclosure.

**IHS Health Care Facilities Construction Priority System Informational Listening Session**

Please make plans to join the IHS for an informational listening session on October 20, 2026, from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. PDT, during the National Congress of American Indians 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention and Marketplace in Palm Springs, California. The listening session will be held in the Smoketree F Room at the Palm Springs Convention Center located at 277 N. Avenida Caballeros in Palm Springs, CA 92262.

During this informational listening session, the IHS will explain the Health Care Facilities Construction Priority System, review the remaining projects on the IHS Facilities Construction Priority List and their status, and describe how Congress funds health care facilities construction. The session will also provide an opportunity to hear Tribal perspectives and discuss strategies for advancing and completing the remaining projects.

I encourage you to participate, ask questions, and share your perspectives as the IHS considers strategies for the path forward.

**Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer on the Phoenix Indian Medical Center**

The IHS will also conduct Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer with Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and UIOs in the IHS Phoenix Area on the PIMC replacement project to seek input on options to move the project forward, including the project delivery approach, future construction funding, and partnerships that can support health care access during and after construction. The PIMC serves patients from Tribal Nations across the country and remains one of the largest projects on the IHS Facilities Construction Priority List.

The IHS will host two upcoming joint Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer sessions on the following dates. Please save the dates.

- **Monday, November 9, 2026 – Phoenix, Arizona**
- **Tuesday, December 1, 2026 – Reno, Nevada**

Additional details, including times, locations, and registration information will be forthcoming and posted on the IHS Tribal Consultation website at <https://www.ihs.gov/tribalconsultation/>.

Written comments will be accepted throughout the duration of the Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer period. The deadline to provide written comments is **Friday, January 8, 2027**.

- Please email Tribal Consultation comments to: [consultation@ihs.gov](mailto:consultation@ihs.gov).
  - **SUBJECT LINE: Facilities Construction/PIMC Consultation**
- Please email Urban Confer comments to: [urbanconfer@ihs.gov](mailto:urbanconfer@ihs.gov).
  - **SUBJECT LINE: Facilities Construction/PIMC Confer**

I encourage all Tribal Nations to participate, particularly Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and UIOs in the IHS Phoenix Area that are served by PIMC.

Your input is valuable and helps to identify practical ways to complete the remaining priority projects and strengthen health care facilities across Indian Country. Thank you for your continued partnership in advancing the health and well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Sincerely,

/Mark Cruz/

Mark Cruz  
Director

Enclosure: IHS Health Care Facilities Construction Program Additional Information