



September 24, 2026

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to initiate Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer on modernizing the Indian Health Service (IHS) Loan Repayment Program (LRP). The IHS seeks your feedback on IHS LRP application requirements, recommendations for simplifying or improving the application and annual reporting processes while maintaining the appropriate program accountability, and requests your input with identifying potential deficiencies, barriers, or unnecessary burdens associated with the IHS LRP.

As part of the application process, applicants are currently required to submit the following documentation:

1. **Employment Verification** – A letter on Tribal facility letterhead verifying the applicant's job title, entry on duty date, and hours worked per week.
2. **License to Practice** – A copy of a current, non-temporary, full, and unrestricted license to practice issued by any U.S. State, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. territory.
3. **Loan Documentation** – Statements showing the current balance, original disbursement date, and original loan amount for each loan submitted.
4. **Copy of Transcript(s)** – Official or unofficial transcripts for all coursework associated with the educational loans submitted for repayment.

In addition to the application requirements, participants who receive an LRP award must also submit two annual reports throughout their service obligation, including employer verification of annual leave usage, and a loan payment history from the loan servicer documenting the disbursed LRP funds. These annual reports are required for participants to remain eligible for continued participation in the program and to receive subsequent LRP payments.

Written comments will be accepted throughout the duration of the Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer period. The deadline to provide written comments is **October 23, 2026**.

- Please email Tribal Consultation comments to: consultation@ihs.gov.
- Please email Urban Confer comments to: urbanconfer@ihs.gov.
- **SUBJECT LINE: IHS LRP**

Your input will help the IHS evaluate opportunities to streamline program requirements, improve the application and reporting processes, and reduce the information collection burden for program participants. Your suggestions will also help the IHS evaluate whether the current application and reporting requirements can be improved to better support the

administration of the LRP. Additional information about the LRP is available at:
www.ihs.gov/loanrepayment.

If you have questions about the IHS LRP, please contact Ms. Catherine Flynn, Senior Program Specialist, IHS LRP by email at Catherine.Flynn@ihs.gov, or by telephone at (301) 443-1795.

Thank you for your assistance and for your continued partnership in strengthening the IHS LRP.

Sincerely,

/Mark Cruz/

Mark Cruz
Director

Enclosure: 2026 Participant Guide - Loan Repayment Program