



2019 National Advisory Committee and Workgroup Report

IHS National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup

PHOENIX AREA REPRESENTATIVES:

Ms. Amber Torres
Chairperson

Walker River Paiute Tribe

Ms. Laurie Thom
Chairman

Yerington Paiute Tribe

Ms. Rosemary Sullivan
Health Advisory Board

Hualapai Tribe

CHARGE or PURPOSE OF the IHS National Budget Formulation Workgroup:

The workgroup consists of two Tribal representatives from each of the 12 Indian Health Service (IHS) Areas. Their task is to represent the Tribes of their respective Areas in the development of national recommendations on the IHS budget. The Workgroup provides guidance to the IHS Headquarters budget formulation process and direct the planning for the next budget formulation cycle. Members provide the Tribal recommendations to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Director of the Indian Health Service. In addition to the National IHS/Tribal Budget Formulation Meeting, the workgroup meets two times per year. Conference calls are also convened over the course of the budget formulation process.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY, ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND/OR ACTIONS (Brief one page bulleted points):

- The Annual Phoenix Area Indian Health Service Budget Formulation Meeting was held in Phoenix, Arizona on November 27, 2018 and November 28, 2018. Tribal Leaders and Tribal health directors in the Phoenix Area met to develop the recommended budget for the fiscal year (FY) 2021 IHS budget request. Several tasks were accomplished at the two-day meeting. Area staff provided an overview of the IHS budget formulation process, the FY2020 Tribal recommendations, presentations on the 2019 area budget, the 2019 president's budget request, and a significant discussion on hot or emerging issues. The principle activity was dedicated to engagement with the Tribal Leaders and the Tribal health officials on developing the National and Area level FY2021 budget recommendations and the top budget line item priorities.

Summary of Phoenix Area Tribal/Urban Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2021 IHS Budget

Tribal and urban Indian health program leadership recommend a total IHS budget of **\$5,732,764** for FY2021. This represents a program increase of **36 percent** above the FY2018 IHS Enacted Budget of **\$5.53 billion** which served as the planning base for the FY2021 budget formulation process. The top 10 budget line item priorities are based on agreement of the participants at the meeting on the recommended program increases based on the prior year priorities and the hot topics or emerging issues identified by the Tribes. The budget line priorities are outlined below:

1. Hospitals & Clinics (+\$772.3 million)
2. Mental Health (+\$185 million)



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3. Dental Services (+\$180 million)
4. Alcohol & Substance Abuse (+\$175 million)
5. Health Care Facilities Construction (+\$303 million)
6. Maintenance & Improvement (+\$27 million)
7. Sanitation Facilities Construction (+\$77 million)
8. Urban Health (+\$46 million)
9. Community Health Representatives (+\$91.7 million)
10. Indian Health Professions (+\$25.6)

Current Services/Binding Obligations – Tribal Leaders noted the importance of funding current services and binding obligations of the Federal Government in the FY2021 budget request. The IHS national estimate for current services and binding obligations in FY2021 totals **\$478 million**. The following is a breakdown of those items:

Hot Topics:

1. Full Funding for the Indian Health Service
 2. Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI)
 3. Support for Community Health Representative (CHR) and Health Education Funding Increase and Implementation of the National Community Health Aide Program (CHAP)
 4. Tribal Correctional Health Care Services
 5. Behavioral Health (Alcohol & Substance Abuse, Mental Health)
 6. Enhance Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Operated by Tribes
 7. Increase Recruitment & Retention of Indian Health Professionals
 8. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF)
 9. Fund IHCI for Long-Term Elder Care Centers & Hospice
- Chairwoman Torres and Chairwoman Thom represented the Tribes for the Phoenix Area at the National IHS Work Session held on March 14-15, 2019 in Arlington, VA. At this meeting the Tribal Leaders developed and agreed upon the recommendations for FY2021 as follows:

Recommendation 1 – Fully Fund IHS at \$37.6 Billion Phased In Over 12 Years

Recommendation 2 – Increase the President's FY 2021 Budget Request for the Indian Health Service by a Minimum of 46% over FY2019 Enacted Levels (\$9 billion in FY 2021)

Recommendation 3 - Support the Preservation of Medicaid, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and other Indian-specific provisions in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148)



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Recommendation 4 – Fund Critical Infrastructure Improvements which Impact Patient Care

Recommendation 5 - Advocate that Tribes and Tribal Programs be Permanently Exempt from Sequestration

Recommendation 6 – Support Advance Appropriations for the Indian Health Service

Recommendation 7 – Allow federally-operated health facilities and IHS headquarters to use federal dollars efficiently and adjust programmatic funds flexibly across accounts at the local level

Recommendation 8 – Support funding of Tribes outside of a grant-based system

Recommendation 9 – Permanently Reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Indians and increase funding to \$200 million per year, plus annual inflationary increases

- The National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup’s recommendations on the IHS FY2021 Budget were presented to Alex Azar II, Secretary of Health and Human Services in April 2019.
- The National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup held the FY2021 Evaluation/FY2022 Planning meeting June 27-28, 2019 in Reno, NV.