



JAN 24 2001

Indian Health Service
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) Area staff will be conducting tribal consultation sessions on the new diabetes funding. It is important that you, or your designated representative, attend these sessions.

At the conclusion of December 2000, the Congress approved and the President signed into law, \$240 million in new diabetes funding for American Indian and Alaska Native communities. These new funds are in addition to the \$150 million Special Diabetes Programs for Indians annual appropriation authorized by the 1997 Balanced Budget Act through fiscal year(FY)2002(5 years).

The new funding has been appropriated over 3 FYs: \$70 million in FY 2001, \$70 million in FY 2002, and \$100 million in FY 2003 (The original \$ Q_ willion annual funding continues through FY 2002). The TLDC has developed the following schedule for tribal consultation regarding the distribution of the new funds:

February 2001: Area Consultation Meeting - Session 1
March 2001: TLDC Meeting to discuss initial tribal input
April 2001: Area Consultation Meeting - Session 2
May 2001: TLDC Meeting to finalize recommendations
June 2001: IHS Director makes decision on distribution
June 2001: Funds distributed through the Payment Management System

The TLDC is aware of the urgency in having the new diabetes funding available for tribal use. However, the bill was not signed into law until the end of December 2000 (the end of the first quarter). By ratifying this tribal consultation plan, all members of the TLDC strongly express that tribal consultation is of the utmost importance. Tribal consultation will assure that all tribes have the opportunity to obtain information on the new diabetes funding and to provide input into the final recommendations for distribution that will be forwarded to the IHS Director. The opportunity for tribes to participate in the process is crucial. It is incumbent that the IHS Area Offices proceed with tribal involvement in a timely manner.

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Each IHS Area, in consultation with tribes, will be responsible for scheduling and conducting the consultation sessions with tribes in February and April 2001. A letter is being sent to the IHS Area Directors instructing Area Offices to hold the tribal consultation sessions. The TLDC will meet in March and May 2001 to discuss the feedback and comments received at the Area consultation sessions, and formulate recommendations to the IHS Director for distributing the new funds.

Suggested participants for the consultation sessions are listed in the tribal consultation plan (Attachment A), however, the final decision regarding actual participants will be determined by each Area.

The following attachments provide information and guidance that may be used for the tribal consultation process:

- Attachment A: Tribal Consultation Plan, ratified by unanimous vote of the TLDC members, Jan 7-9 quarterly meeting
- Attachment B: Guidelines for Area Tribal Consultation
- Attachment C: Suggested Consultation Questions to Consider
- Attachment D: Contact List - TLDC Representatives, Technical Workgroup Representatives, and IHS Area Diabetes Consultants

For additional information pertaining to these consultation sessions, contact your IHS Area Director, Area TLDC representative, or nearest TLDC Technical Workgroup member.

Sincerely yours,

/Michael H. Trujillo/

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/designate signer: Michel E. Lincoln,
for Kermit C. Smith/

Kermit C. Smith, O.O. , M.P.H.
TLDC IHS Co-Chair

/Alvin Windy Boy, Sr./

Mr. Alvin Windy Boy, Sr.
Chairman - Chippewa Cree
Tribe
TLDC Tribal Co-Chair