



OCT 4 2021

Dear Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing in follow-up to the virtual Urban Confer on the Urban Indian Organization (UIO) Infrastructure Study convened by the Indian Health Service (IHS) on July 22, 2021.

The Confer began with a summary of actions to date, a review of relevant legislative action, and discussion by attendees. In addition to verbal recommendations, the IHS received a total of five written comments from five Urban Indian Organizations, individuals, and national advocacy organizations.

### **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS**

In summary, commenters offered the following:

- Recommend that the IHS consider the potential population growth, shifting medical needs, and a desire to position programs that will best serve UIO populations at local facilities.
- Recommend that the IHS incorporate an evaluation of current UIO physical space based on a variety of criteria, while also addressing the need for additional facility space within an existing urban Indian center.
- Recommend that the IHS evaluate the need for additional funding to adequately serve the needs of the community with services currently provided by retaining current or securing new facility locations, while also evaluating the potential to provide new, necessary services.
- Recommend that the IHS not support any delays in the preliminary phase of developing the scope of work and procuring a feasible contract.

As a next step, the IHS will proceed with identifying ways to access a contract vehicle that will allow the IHS to move forward with implementing the UIO Infrastructure Study as expeditiously as possible.

In addition, I am requesting that you submit Facility Master Plans and/or other identified health care facility needs and data for the scope and development of the infrastructure study. I am asking that you please provide your infrastructure data submission no later than Friday, October 29, 2021.

Please e-mail your Facility Master Plan and/or any identified health care facility need reports and/or data for inclusion in the IHS Urban Indian Organization Infrastructure Study by the deadline, as follows:

E-MAIL ADDRESS: [UIOInfrastructure@ihs.gov](mailto:UIOInfrastructure@ihs.gov)

SUBJECT LINE: Urban Indian Organization Infrastructure Study Data

I am grateful to the Urban Indian Organization Leaders who shared essential feedback and recommendations on this topic. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Rick Mueller, Deputy Director, Office of Urban Indian Health Programs, IHS, by telephone at (301) 443-3787 or by e-mail at [rick.mueller@ihs.gov](mailto:rick.mueller@ihs.gov).

Sincerely,

/Elizabeth A. Fowler/  
Acting Director