



DEC 7 2000

Dear Tribal Leader:

In the Indian Health Service (IHS) fiscal year (FY) 2001 appropriation, the Congress included an increase of \$40 million for Contract Health Service (CHS). This represents a significant opportunity to improve the level of health services available to Indian people across the nation. It also will challenge us to address many issues regarding the allocation of these funds among IHS and tribal programs.

Because meaningful tribal consultation is vital to the success of this effort, I am convening a CHS Allocation Workgroup to develop recommendations for the distribution of these funds. We have scheduled these Workgroup meetings in a way to make attendance convenient for Workgroup members and tribal leaders interested in participating by overlapping with two of the Level of Need Funded consultation meetings.

Workgroup representatives include the Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee, the National Indian Health Board, tribes and the IHS. A Federal and a tribal co-chair will be elected at the first meeting. Technical experts will be available from time to time to provide additional support.

I am providing you a list of the Workgroup members. The Workgroup will convene at least three sessions at the following locations:

Date: December 14-15, 2000
Location: Hyatt Regency Minneapolis
1300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55403
Reservations: (612) 370-1234 or (800) 223-1234

Date: January 16-17, 2001
Location: DoubleTree Hotel
Rockville, MD

Date: March 8-9, 2001
Location: San Diego, CA

Page 2 - Dear Tribal Leader

These sessions have been scheduled to accommodate tribal participation and consultation for allocating the FY 2001 CHS funding increase. I urge each one of you to fully participate in the dialogue on this important issue by contacting the membership or attending one of the consultation sessions.

Sincerely yours,

/Michael H. Trujillo/

Michael H. Trujillo, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.
Assistant Surgeon General
Director

Enclosure