



June 5, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to announce funding decisions by the Indian Health Service (IHS) on the Alzheimer's Grant Program to Address Dementia in Tribal and Urban Indian Communities for fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

The decisions made in allocating the funding support our collaborative path forward, while aligning with the principles outlined in President Biden's December 6, 2023-dated Executive Order 14112, "Reforming Federal Funding and Support for Tribal Nations To Better Embrace Our Trust Responsibilities and Promote the Next Era of Tribal Self-Determination." The President's Executive Order establishes a new era of Tribal Self-Determination in health care, while balancing the need to identify and sustain American Indian and Alaska Native-specific models of care that have been uniquely successful in Tribal communities.

The IHS initially convened a virtual Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer on FY 2021 appropriations on April 7, 2021, with subsequent follow-up question and answer sessions held on April 13, 2021, and April 15, 2021. Both the Consultation and Confer requested Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader feedback and guidance on your priorities to implement and build the Alzheimer's Grant Program for maximum success in facilities operated by the IHS, Tribes and Tribal Organizations, and Urban Indian Organizations (I/T/U).

We designed the operating plan and budget of the IHS's FY 2024 Alzheimer's program to reflect Congressional intent and address your priorities. Accordingly, the IHS allocated more than 50 percent of the Alzheimer's program's FY 2024 operating budget for grants, small program awards, and pilot program development. On May 20, 2024, the IHS released "Addressing Dementia in Indian Country: Enhancing Sustainable Models of Care," a new, 3-year funding opportunity, on [Grants.gov](https://www.hhs.gov/grants), which will fund up to six new Alzheimer's program awards (an amount totaling \$1.2 million per year, as funds are available). These new grants will focus on expansion and sustainability planning. In this case, sustainability also includes designing and testing approaches to incorporate current, new, and future billing opportunities through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

The IHS will also continue funding the eight existing Alzheimer's Grant Program awardees, which in FY 2024 are currently in Year 2 of their grant cycle. Last year, in response to notable challenges encountered by the initial funding recipients, we made a series of enhancements to the way we approached awardee technical assistance. We did so to improve awardee support and promote collaboration and sharing of best practices between I/T/U programs.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we work to maximize our collective resources to support American Indian and Alaska Native people and communities.

For updates on the Alzheimer’s Disease initiative, please visit the IHS OCPS Division of Clinical and Community Services (DCCS) website at <https://www.ihs.gov/dccs/>. If you need additional information, please contact Marcella Ronyak, Ph.D., Director, DCCS, IHS, by email, at marcella.ronyak@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

Roselyn Tso -S

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Roselyn Tso
Director