



March 6, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to make you aware of an important update regarding the process for requesting a Tribal Delegation Meeting (TDM) with the Indian Health Service (IHS) Director. Effective immediately, please direct all TDM requests to the email address that follows:

IHSTribalDelegationMeeting@ihs.gov.

We revised the process to streamline TDM requests through a newly dedicated email address monitored by an IHS TDM Coordinator, who will serve as a central point of contact to help reduce response times for scheduling and conducting a TDM with the IHS Director. In accordance with the IHS *Indian Health Manual* at Part 6, Chapter 5 – Tribal Delegation Meetings, the IHS participates in a TDM to renew and strengthen partnerships with Tribes and provides a direct forum for discussing Tribal issues and concerns on a Government-to-Government basis.

All TDMs will be scheduled by the IHS TDM Coordinator no sooner than 2 weeks after a TDM request is received. This 2-week timeframe is essential to identifying a mutually convenient meeting date and allows the IHS to gather necessary information in preparation for the TDM. The IHS acknowledges that a TDM request may arise within the 2-week timeframe and every effort will be made to accommodate each TDM request on a case-by-case basis. Please note that the process updates described above apply solely to virtual and in-person TDM requests with the IHS Director. No changes have been made to the process associated with requesting a TDM with an IHS Area Director.


Additionally, the IHS will be installing an IHS Hall of Tribal Nations at IHS Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. This display will honor federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes and serve as an ongoing reminder of the special Government-to-Government relationship between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes and the Agency's responsibility for providing Federal health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives. I invite you to contribute to the IHS Hall of Tribal Nations by bringing your Tribal flag to the in-person TDM or mailing your Tribe's flag to the address that follows. All flag submissions should be no more than approximately 3 feet by 5 feet in size. Tribal flags can also be mailed to the following address:

Indian Health Service
Office of Tribal and Urban Affairs
IHS Hall of Tribal Nations
5600 Fishers Lane, Mail Stop: 08E17
Rockville, MD 20857

Thank you for your cooperation as we implement this streamlined TDM process and create an IHS Hall of Tribal Nations. If you have any questions regarding TDMs or about the IHS Hall of Tribal Nations, please directly contact Ms. Stacey Ecoffey, Deputy Director for Intergovernmental and External Affairs, IHS, by email at stacey.ecoffey@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

Phillip B.
Smith -S

 Digitally signed by Phillip
B. Smith -S
Date: 2025.03.06
15:49:36 -05'00'

P. Benjamin Smith, M.B.A., M.A.
Acting Director