



January 16, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to express sincere gratitude to the Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) Tribal Advisory Group (TAG) members for your continued support and valuable advisement in expanding CHAP in the lower 48 states. Your contributions and expertise help ensure that the program addresses the unique health care needs of our people, which has enabled us to build stronger, healthier communities. By expanding the reach of CHAP, we are creating pathways to strengthen health outcomes for Tribal communities.

As we continue to move forward with the next phase of the CHAP expansion, the Indian Health Service (IHS) would like to inform you that the CHAP TAG officially concluded its role on November 8, 2024, following the convening of the final CHAP TAG meeting on November 5, 2024, in Anchorage, Alaska.

Following the publication of the revised CHAP Circular 24-16 on November 7, 2024, I directed the IHS Headquarters Office of Clinical and Preventive Services to begin the process of seating and convening the National CHAP Board (NCHAPB). The NCHAPB is a permanent national IHS board responsible for supporting Tribal and Federal CHAPs, establishing and maintaining minimum CHAP standards and procedures in the lower 48 states, and overseeing CHAP Area Certification Boards.

The IHS's goal is to ensure that as the CHAP grows, we incorporate and expand on the essential community-based advantages of CHAP delivery so the newly created programs can be replicated in each IHS Area and throughout Indian Country. At the heart of CHAP expansion is the importance of the Tribal Government-to-Federal Government partnership. The IHS will continue this partnership through capacity-building initiatives and mutual decision-making during the NCHAPB convening. This partnership supports the implementation of CHAPs by Tribes, with a Federal role in facilitating resources, support, and advocacy to remove barriers to implementation.

For CHAP-specific information and opportunities, please visit the CHAP website at <https://www.ihs.gov/chap/>. If you need additional information, please contact Dr. Loretta Christensen, Chief Medical Officer, IHS, at ihschap@ihs.gov.

Thank you once again for your invaluable support and ongoing partnership. We are excited about the next steps to strengthen the CHAP's future.

Sincerely,

Roselyn Tso
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Roselyn Tso
Director