

IHS TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

c/o Self-Governance Communication and Education
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Sent electronically: Denise.Turk@ihs.gov

December 5, 2016

Mary Smith, Principal Deputy Director
Indian Health Service
Office of the Director
5600 Fishers Lane
Mail Stop: 08E53
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: Updated Contract Support Cost (CSC) Policy

Dear Principal Deputy Director Smith,

On behalf of the Indian Health Service (IHS) Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC), I write to thank you for completing the updated Contract Support Cost (CSC) Policy. Updating the policy under such a short timeline is impressive and would not have been possible without your hard work, leadership, and prioritization.

TSGAC also would like to thank you for your advocacy and commitment to include the application of the medical inflation rate for use in calculating estimated annual increases to ongoing direct CSC. As you know well, this was a high priority issue for Tribes. Additionally, the option for Tribes to reconcile and determine the full, final CSC expenditures within 90 days of the year end and the new tools – such as the CSC Negotiation Template – provided in the policy are examples of our strong working partnership. As a result of your leadership, the efforts of the CSC Workgroup, and these new additions, the new CSC Policy is one that will benefit Tribes greatly in the coming years.

Now that the policy has been completed, implementation and training should become IHS' top priority. We request that IHS develop a training and outreach plan for Tribal and Federal employees. These efforts will assist Tribes in developing capacity to understand how the new CSC Policy will affect their operations, as well as, what steps Tribes need to take as they move forward.

Again, thank you for your guidance in updating the new CSC Policy. We greatly appreciate your continued attention to improving the Indian Health system and look forward to our on-going work and partnership on CSC and other health care issues. If you have any questions or wish to discuss these comments further, please contact me at (860) 862-6192 or via email at lmalerba@moheganmail.com.

Sincerely,



Chief Lynn Malerba, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut
Chairwoman, IHS TSGAC

cc: Jennifer Cooper, Acting Director, Office of Tribal Self-Governance, IHS
TSGAC Members