

IHS Tribal SELF-GOVERNANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
c/o Self-Governance Communication and Education
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Sent to: Jennifer.Cooper@ihs.gov

July 30, 2020

Ms. Jennifer Cooper, Director
Office of Tribal Self-Governance
Indian Health Service
Mail Stop 08E05C
5600 Fishers Lane, Parklawn Building
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: Request for ACA/IHCIA National Outreach and Education Funding (FY2021)

Dear Ms. Cooper:

On behalf of the Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC), we want to express our appreciation to you and the Indian Health Service (IHS) for your on-going support for the Project work conducted by the TSGAC on the Affordable Care Act (ACA)/Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) for outreach, education, technical, research and analytical support nationally to Self-Governance Tribes.

Over the last number of years, the TSGAC and Project Team have worked collaboratively with our Federal partners, national Tribal organizations and other key stakeholders to improve and advance Indian health care. This work has included providing training and technical assistance across Self-Governance communities to ensure that all American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) are prepared to take advantage of the health insurance coverage options that will improve the quality of and access to health care services, and increase resources for AI/AN health care.

Interest and participation from Self-Governance in this Project remains strong and continues to grow. Under the Amendment to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (JST) Funding Agreement, the TSGAC carefully monitors all deliverables and provides regular updates and written reports to document and track activities. A few recent highlights (among others) from the current FY2020 Project year include:

- Conducted research on the extent to which Active Users on Medicare are enrolled in Medicare Part B coverage and the degree to which Part B surcharges are / would be imposed if enrolled in Part B.
- Conducted two recent Webinars (that were highly attended) regarding the application and use of COVID-19 funds.
- Prepared analysis of Enrollment of Tribal Citizens and Other Indian Health Service (IHS) Eligible Individuals in Health Insurance Coverage through a Marketplace, Including Use of Tribal Sponsorship.

- Prepared briefing papers on the latest ACA/IHCIA issues. Recent topics include: Requirements for Payment and Other Protections to Indian Health Care Providers Under Marketplace Health Plan; COVID-19 Testing and Treatment Coverage Provisions; and, Update on Final Rule Regarding Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs) and Other Account-Based Group Health Plans.

We would like to respectfully and formally request that funding be provided to continue this effort for the upcoming FY2021. We are appreciative of JST for implementing this Project under their existing Indian Health Service Self-Governance Funding Agreement. Our request would be that a new Amendment for \$300,000 to the JST Funding Agreement be entered into and implemented for FY2021.

We anticipate that this funding would be used to continue efforts in the main categories of: (1) Webinars/Trainings; (2) Technical Assistance; (3) Outreach and Education; and, (4) Policy Analysis. Further, in light of the recent health care program and policy changes due to the COVID-19 response and recovery, we would be happy to work directly with you to identify any additional deliverables that OTSG would like to include in the Amendment.

In closing, we hope that you will consider this request so that we may continue to serve the Self-Governance Tribes on these critically important ACA/IHCIA outreach and education issues. Please do not hesitate to contact either one of us at (860) 862-6192; or via email: lmalerba@moheganmail.com; and (206) 369-6699; or via email: rallen@jamestowntribe.org
Thank you.

Sincerely,



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

Sincerely,



W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Vice-Chairman, IHS TSGAC

cc: RADM Michael Weahkee, Director, IHS
P. Benjamin Smith, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, IHS
Jay Spaan, Executive Director, Self-Governance Communication and Education
TSGAC Members and Technical Workgroup