

Special Diabetes Program for Indians – Talking Points September 2017

- The Special Diabetes Program for Indians is the most successful federal program to treat and prevent Type 2 diabetes. The current authorization expires on **September 30, 2017**.
- Congress **MUST** act to renew the program this month or the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives will suffer.
- SDPI is a mandatory funding program funded at \$150 million/ year. It provides funding to 301 grantees throughout Indian Country.
- In September 2016, a bipartisan group of 75 Senators and 356 House Members wrote to Congressional leaders to encourage the swift renewal of the program.
 - Clearly, this program enjoys widespread support in Congress, so Congress should follow through and renew the program quickly.
- Since the start of the program, American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) nationwide have experienced a reduction in A1C levels, reduced cholesterol levels, and weight loss. Recently, the CDC published data in its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report about the remarkable decline in End-Stage Renal Disease due to diabetes seen in American Indians and Alaska Natives in 1996-2013.
 - During this time period, ***AI/ANs have experienced a 54% decline in incidence rates of ESRD due to diabetes*** – the steepest decline of any other ethnic group.
- If the program does not get reauthorized **this September**, SDPI programs will lose staff, lose partnerships, lose their interaction with the communities, and lose services-- all cornerstones of having a program that meets the needs of the local community and brings results.
 - Many remote Tribal reservations will require patients to be transported an hour or more drive outside the community for care, self-management is critical and supplies to support patients would be unavailable.
- **REQUEST**: Please act immediately to renew SDPI before September 30. The lives of our people depend on it.