

## **NIHB Announces National Call-In Day Event in Support of SDPI**

On Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> - World Diabetes Day - please join NIHB and Tribal communities from across the country in asking your Senators and Representatives to support renewal of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) this year! Congress will be back in session and we need to make sure that they renew SDPI!

As Tribal leaders in the diabetes community, we are notifying you in advance to help us spread the word about this critical call-to-action. NIHB will send out an Action Alert asking you to call your Members of Congress encouraging their support of SDPI. The Action Alert will provide information how you can contact Congress in this important call-to-action.

Congress established the SDPI in 1997 to address the growing epidemic of diabetes in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities. AI/ANs have the highest rates of type 2 diabetes in the United States, 2.8 times higher than the general population. The SDPI is currently funded at \$150 million per year through Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. The program will expire in 2013 unless it is reauthorized.

To ensure uninterrupted funding for SDPI, it is crucial that Congress pass a reauthorization this year. SDPI proves that federal investment in community-driven, culturally-appropriate prevention programs has immensely positive results:

- Average blood sugar levels among the AI/AN population decreased a full percentage point (from 9.0 percent to 8.0 percent) between 1996 and 2011, translating into a 40% reduction in risks for many complications.
- Average LDL (bad) cholesterol declined over 20 percent between 1998 and 2011, significantly lowering the risk of cardiovascular complications.
- Between 1995 and 2006, the incidence rate of End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) in AI/AN individuals with diabetes fell by 27.7 percent – a greater decline than for any other racial or ethnic group - which translates into millions of dollars in savings for Medicare, the Indian Health Service, and other third party payers.

Should you have any additional questions about the National Call-In Day and how you can become involved, please contact Jeremy Marshall, NIHB Senior Legislative Associate, at (202) 507-4078 or via email at [Jmarshall@nihb.org](mailto:Jmarshall@nihb.org).