National Indian Health Board

Advance Appropriations for the Indian Health Service

Social Media Toolkit for Native American Heritage Month
The National Indian Health Board and a coalition of Tribes, Tribal organizations, and other partners are working with Congress and the Administration to include fiscal year (FY) 2024 advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service (IHS) in any final agreement on the FY 2023 appropriation bills.

An advance appropriation is a commitment by Congress to provide money in a future year. For example, if the final FY 2023 appropriation bill for the IHS includes an advance appropriation for FY 2024, then IHS would receive its FY 2024 budget at the start of the fiscal year regardless of any looming government shutdown or temporary, “stopgap” funding measure.

According to the Congressional Research Service, IHS is the only major federal provider of health care that is solely funded through regular appropriations on an annual basis. In 27 years, IHS has only once (in FY 2006) received full-year appropriations by the start of the fiscal year. In contrast, the Veterans Health Administration receives the majority of its funding through advance appropriations, while Medicare and Medicaid are automatically funded.

In essence, Congress protects healthcare for veterans, seniors, and low-income individuals yet continues to tolerate leaving Tribes vulnerable to stopgap funding and government shutdowns. This inequity is discriminatory, and it needs to stop.

A simple solution to provide advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service is being debated in Congress right now. The solution doesn’t cost one extra dime, yet the benefit to American Indian and Alaska Native lives is priceless.

To support Indian Health Service advance appropriations, use this toolkit to post on social media and tag your member with example posts and graphics.

Find your member at https://fiscalnote.com/find-your-legislator

https://www.niibh.org/aian-heritage-month/advance-appropriations/
Facebook and Instagram

From your Facebook or Instagram account, tag your Member of Congress. Choose from the example posts below.

Example 1
IHS is funded far below need, so any disruption in funding greatly hampers the ability of IHS, Tribes and urban health systems to deliver necessary services due to lack of funds. Adopting advance appropriations for IHS would result in the ability of health administrators to continue treating patients without wondering if—or when— they will have the necessary funding. More info at https://bit.ly/NIHB_IHSAA

I urge [@ Member’s Facebook or Instagram username] to support #IHSAdvanceAppropriations #AdvanceIndianHealth

Example 2
Since fiscal year (FY) 1998, there has been only one year (FY 2006) when IHS received its full-year budget by the start of the fiscal year. Tell congress to advance appropriations for IHS. More info at https://bit.ly/NIHB_IHSAA

I urge [@ Member’s Facebook or Instagram username] to support #IHSAdvanceAppropriations #AdvanceIndianHealth

Example 3
The life expectancy for AI/ANs is 5.5 years less than the national average. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the average life expectancy for AI/ANs is only 65 years, equal to the general U.S. population in 1944! More info at https://bit.ly/NIHB_IHSAA

I urge [@ Member’s Facebook or Instagram username] to support #IHSAdvanceAppropriations #AdvanceIndianHealth

https://www.nihb.org/aian-heritage-month/advance-appropriations/
Example 4
GAO found IHS and Tribes have significant administrative burdens when operating with temporary funding. In addition, the GAO reported “uncertainty resulting from recurring temporary funding and from government shutdowns has led to adverse financial effects on Tribes and their health care programs” (GAO-18-652). More info at https://bit.ly/NIHB_IHSAA

I urge [@ Member’s Facebook or Instagram username] to support #IHSAdvanceAppropriations #AdvanceIndianHealth

Example 5
IHS, like the VHA, provides direct medical care to AI/ANs to fulfill legal promises made by the federal government. Yet, only one of these—the VHA—is protected from government shutdowns and temporary funding. It’s time to end this inequity. More info at https://bit.ly/NIHB_IHSAA

I urge [@ Member’s Facebook or Instagram username] to support #IHSAdvanceAppropriations #AdvanceIndianHealth

Twitter

From your Twitter account, tweet to your Member of Congress

[@ Member’s Twitter username] please support #IndianHealthServiceAdvanceAppropriations in the FY23 appropriation bills. #AdvanceIndianHealth

Please tag the National Indian Health Board (NIHB)

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NIHB1972/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/NIHB1
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/nihb1

https://www.nihb.org/aian-heritage-month/advance-appropriations/
Graphics

Choose graphics for your Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram posts.

Graphic 1: Advance Appropriations for the Indian Health Service

The Indian Health Service (IHS) remains chronically underfunded at only 50% of need. Join the National Indian Health Board, National Council of Urban Indian Health, and a coalition of Tribes and other partners working with Congress and the Administration to secure advance appropriations for IHS as part of the FY 2023 spending negotiations.

Graphic 2: Advance Appropriations for the Indian Health Service

The life expectancy for Native Americans declined more than any other race between 2019 and 2021.

Graphic 3: TELL CONGRESS TO Advance Appropriations for the Indian Health Service

Step 1: Write an email.
Step 2: Find your Representative and Senator.
Step 3: Send email via the form on your Member of Congress’ contact page.

Graphic 4: Advance Appropriations for the Indian Health Service

TELL CONGRESS IT’S TIME TO PROVIDE ADVANCE FUNDING FOR THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE FOR NATIVE COMMUNITIES.

Native Lives Can’t Wait

Graphic 5: Advance Appropriations for the Indian Health Service

FY 2010, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) achieved advance appropriations during the 113th Congress. Let’s advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service (IHS) in FY 2023.

Native Lives Can’t Wait

https://www.nihb.org/aian-heritage-month/advance-appropriations/