

# TRIBAL LEADER TOWN HALL

National Indian  
Health Board



## Healthcare and Public Health Provisions National Indian Health Board

Stacy A. Bohlen, CEO, NIHB

Shervin Aazami, Director of Congressional Relations, NIHB

## PHASE 1 – CDC Funding for Tribes in 1<sup>st</sup> Package

- \$40 million for Tribes & Tribal organizations under 1<sup>st</sup> COVID supplement
  - Agency doubled the funding to \$80 million
- NIHB Submitted Letter to HHS Secretary March 7, 2020
  - Demanding interagency transfer of Tribal funding from CDC to IHS
- CDC spoke with Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee on March 19
  - This was first and only time CDC solicited Tribal feedback on funds under 1<sup>st</sup> COVID supplement
    - CDC did not hold a national All-Tribes call
    - Did not seek input from CDC Tribal Advisory Committee

## PHASE 1 – CDC Funding for Tribes in 1<sup>st</sup> Package

- **\$30** million to 9 regional Tribal organizations and Tribes with populations over 40,000
- **\$40** million in non-competitive grants to Title 1 and Title 5 Tribes
- **\$2** million to NIHB for national communications
- **\$8** million to NCUIH to distribute to all 41 urban Indian organizations

## PHASE 2 – Funding to Indian Health Service

- \$64 million to Indian Health Service (IHS) under 2<sup>nd</sup> COVID package
- IHS secured additional \$70 million from HHS Public Health Emergency Fund
  - **Total for IHS in 2<sup>nd</sup> package: \$134 million**
- Funding is for high range of COVID activities – testing, equipment, PPE, treatment, etc.

- IHS held national All-Tribes call Monday, March 23
  - Tribes requested maximum flexibility around use of funds
  - Request for funding to come through annual funding agreements (AFAs)
  - IHS anticipated releasing funds by Friday, March 27

## PHASE 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> COVID Supplement

- March 20, 2020: National Native organizations submitted letter to Congress outlining Indian Country's priorities



March 20, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

### Priorities:

- \$2.444 billion for Indian health system
- Pass Tribal Medicaid Legislative Priorities (four walls fix, etc.)
- Eliminate cost-sharing under Medicare
- Permanent reauthorization of Special Diabetes Program for Indians
- Mandatory funding for Contract Support Costs, 105(I) leases, and Purchased/Referred Care



## PHASE 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> COVID Package

### House Package

### Senate Package

- \$1.032 billion for IHS
- Tribal set asides under CDC, HRSA, SAMHSA
- Four walls reimbursement fix
- Tribal access to Public Health Emergency Preparedness
- IHS and Tribal access to Strategic National Stockpile
- Extension of SDPI until November 30, 2020
- House submitted reimbursement for Qualified Indian Health Providers as top priority to Senate

- \$1.032 billion for HIS
- Tribal set asides under CDC, HRSA, SAMHSA
- Extension of SDPI until November 30, 2020

## Phase 3 - \$2 Trillion COVID Supplement

- *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* or “*CARES Act*”
  - Passed U.S. Senate March 25, 2020
  - House set to vote March 27, 2020

### **Final Provisions:**

- \$1.032 billion for Indian Health Service
- Minimum \$125 million in Tribal set-aside under CDC
- Minimum \$15 million set-aside under SAMHSA
- Minimum \$15 million set-aside under HRSA
- Extension of SDPI until November 30, 2020

## PHASE 3 - \$2 Trillion COVID Supplement

- NIHB analyzing impact of CARES Act on Tribal health systems outside of specific Tribal provisions
  - Telehealth provisions under Medicare
  - \$100 billion for hospitals “Marshall Plan”
  - Volunteer liability protections
  - Payment provisions under Medicare
  - Safe harbor provisions
  - Patient substance use data confidentiality provisions



## Next Steps – PHASE 4

- *NIHB is working with the Administration to ensure Tribal consultation directs how funds are distributed under all packages.*

- **House & Senate have indicated that a 4th package is likely**
  - Timeline at least few weeks away
- **Tribal priorities that were not included in 3<sup>rd</sup> Package are in play for 4<sup>th</sup> Package**
  - These include Tribal Medicaid/Medicare priorities, SDPI, etc.

## Contact Information

- Stacy Bohlen, [sbohlen@nihb.org](mailto:sbohlen@nihb.org)
- Shervin Aazami, [saazami@nihb.org](mailto:saazami@nihb.org)

Website

[www.nihb.org](http://www.nihb.org)