



August 26, 2020

Dear Tribal Leader:

In response to requests by tribes and tribal organizations, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is establishing a Tribal Advisory Council (TAC), a significant government-to-government vehicle to consult with Indian Country. The HRSA TAC will engage in regular and meaningful collaboration and consultation with tribal officials on policies that have tribal implications and a substantial direct effect on Indian tribes.

HRSA published a Federal Register Notice on February 6, 2020, that outlined the details of the HRSA TAC along with the process of submitting nominations. The deadline for submissions was extended to July 6, 2020. While HRSA received additional nomination packets, the total number of nominations was not sufficient to fill each vacant position (one authorized tribal representative and one designated alternate) from each of the 12 Indian Health Service geographic areas.

To ensure the minimum number of qualified nominations representing the geographic diversity of Indian Country needed to establish the HRSA TAC, HRSA seeks nominations of eligible tribal officials from the Indian Health Service geographic areas of Alaska, Albuquerque, Billings, Navajo, Phoenix, and Tucson.

Nominations for membership must be received on or before September 30, 2020. This request for additional nomination submissions allows tribes and tribal serving organizations the time to identify qualified tribal officials as candidates and to submit comprehensive nomination packages.

For more detailed information, please visit the HRSA American Indian/Alaska Native webpage (<https://www.hrsa.gov/about/organization/bureaus/ohe/populations/aian.html>), and follow the link to the Federal Register Notice announcing the formation of the HRSA TAC and the revised nomination deadline.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the HRSA Office of Health Equity Tribal Health Affairs Team at aianhealth@hrsa.gov. HRSA looks forward to continuing to strengthen its relationship with tribes and tribal organizations on the delivery of health care to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Engels".

Thomas J. Engels
Administrator