



MAY 9 2014

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to provide an update on the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI). We are delighted that Congress has extended the SDPI funding for an additional year through FY 2015 at the current funding level of \$150 million. This allows us to continue our efforts to prevent and treat diabetes in the communities we serve. Thank you for your support of and partnership with this successful program.

I wrote to you in December 2013 to initiate a consultation on the distribution of SDPI funding if it were extended beyond the current year. I want to thank the many Tribal leaders who submitted input through Area consultation sessions, letters, and emails to consultation@ihs.gov. The Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC) met on March 5, 2014, to review input from Tribes in all IHS Areas. At that time, the SDPI was not yet officially reauthorized, so the TLDC discussed options if it were extended for one year and if it were extended for multiple years.

In April, I met again with the TLDC by phone after we heard the good news on the extension of the funding through FY 2015. Since the extension was for only one year, the TLDC recommended that we continue the same funding distribution in FY 2015, continue discussions on recommendations for any future extension that might be for multiple years, and encouraged IHS to request a waiver to allow for a continuation application rather than a competitive application. With a tight timeline to complete the application process to award funding for FY 2015, a continuation application process ensures that the SDPI grants continue in an administratively efficient and effective manner.

Therefore, I have decided to concur with the recommendations of the TLDC to continue the same funding distribution for the SDPI in FY 2015 and to use a continuation application process. I look forward to our continued discussions on options for future funding distributions if SDPI is extended beyond FY 2015.

Please direct any questions on the SDPI to Dr. Ann Bullock, Acting Director, IHS Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention (DDTP) at (505) 248-4182. For SDPI grant application procedures or related concerns, please contact Ms. Carmen Licavoli, Deputy Director, DDTP, at (505) 248-4182 or Ms. Tammy Bagley, Acting Director, Division of Grants Management, at (301) 443-5204.

Thank you for your partnership with IHS in the important work of diabetes treatment and prevention in the American Indian and Alaska Native communities that we serve.

Sincerely,

/Yvette Roubideaux/

Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H.
Acting Director