DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



Rockville, MD 20857

September 10, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary federal agency for improving health care to people who are geographically isolated, economically, or medically vulnerable.

HRSA programs help those in need of high-quality primary health care, people with HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, mothers, and children. HRSA also supports the training of health professionals, the distribution of providers to areas where they are needed most, and improvements in health care delivery, including rural health and telehealth.

As part of HRSA's commitment to Indian Country's health care needs, this letter serves as official notice of HRSA's intent to hold its Annual Tribal Consultation with tribes. The consultation will be conducted as a virtual meeting in conjunction with the National Indian Health Board's 2021 National Tribal Health Conference on October 8, 2021, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM EDT. Topics will include the Health Center Program's Uniform Data System and the scoring of Health Professional Shortage Areas. Background information on these topics can be found at: https://bphc.hrsa.gov/datareporting/reporting/index.html and https://bhw.hrsa.gov/workforce-shortage-areas/shortage-designation respectively.

To register for the National Indian Health Board's 2021 National Tribal Health Conference, and to review the draft agenda for HRSA's Annual Tribal Consultation, please visit the conference information page. Registration for the Consultation session is free.

We look forward to receiving your testimony on health care issues that affect Indian Country. Please submit written, HRSA-related testimony or questions no later than September 24, 2021, to <u>aianhealth@hrsa.gov</u> to provide us with sufficient time to review and share your statement with our bureau and office senior leadership.

I look forward to speaking with you and engaging in a meaningful dialogue.

Sincerely,

Diana Espinosa Acting Administrator