



# Legislative Action Alert

November 14, 2012

## **Wed. Nov 14<sup>th</sup>: SDPI National Call-In Day** **We Need Your Voice to Save the SDPI**

The Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) provides critical programs that are helping our Tribal communities address complications and burdens of diabetes. This critical program is set to expire unless Congress acts to renew it. We need your help. On **November 14<sup>th</sup> - World Diabetes Day** - please join NIHB and Tribal communities from across the country in asking your Senators and Representatives to support renewal of the SDPI this year! **We need to make sure that Congress renews SDPI!**

**What You Can Do:** Contact your Senate and House of Representative member **on November 14<sup>th</sup>** and request your Member to support renewal of SDPI.

- To determine your Representative and contact information, [click here](#).
- To determine your Senators and contact information, [click here](#).
- To be connected to a Senator or Representative via phone, call the Congressional Switchboard at 1-(800) 828-0498 or (202) 224-3121 and ask to be connected to your Senator or Representative and after you are connected to the office, ask to speak with the Health aide.

### **Tell Your Representative:**

- I am a constituent and calling to ask Senator \_\_\_\_ / Representative \_\_\_\_ to support a multi-year renewal of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians this year.
- SDPI proves that federal investment in community-driven, culturally-appropriate prevention and education programs can reduce a person's risk of developing diabetes or of developing complications for those who have diabetes.
- If SDPI is not renewed this year, critical diabetes prevention and education services will be eliminated and the progress that has been made will be reversed.
- Thank you for your support of this critical program.

**Questions:** Please contact NIHB's Senior Legislative Associate, Jeremy Marshall at (202) 507-4078.or [Jmarshall@nihb.org](mailto:Jmarshall@nihb.org).

## **Background on the SDPI**

Congress established the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) in 1997 to address the growing epidemic of diabetes in American Indian and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) communities. AI/ANs have the highest rates of type 2 diabetes in the United States, 2.8 times higher than the general population. The SDPI is currently funded at \$150 million per year through Fiscal Year (FY) 2013.

The program will expire in 2013 unless it is reauthorized.

To ensure uninterrupted funding for SDPI, it is crucial that Congress pass a reauthorization this year. SDPI proves that federal investment in community-driven, culturally-appropriate prevention programs has immensely positive results:

- Average blood sugar levels among the AI/AN population decreased a full percentage point (from 9.0 percent to 8.0 percent) between 1996 and 2011, translating into a 40% reduction in risks for many complications.
- Average LDL (bad) cholesterol declined over 20 percent between 1998 and 2011, significantly lowering the risk of cardiovascular complications.
- Between 1995 and 2006, the incidence rate of End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) in AI/AN individuals with diabetes fell by 27.7 percent – a greater decline than for any other racial or ethnic group - which translates into millions of dollars in savings for Medicare, the Indian Health Service, and other third party payers.