



Indian Health Care Improvement Fund Workgroup Update

2018 NATIONAL TRIBAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

Topics

- IHCIF Basics
- FY 2018 IHCIF Allocation
- Next Steps

IHCIF Formula Background - 25 U.S.C § 1621

LNF: Level of Need Funded

- Formula to measure the level of resource deficiencies for IHS & Tribal facilities as a percentage related to a benchmark of funding



IHCIF: Indian Health Care Improvement Fund

- Resources expressly authorized to eliminate the deficiencies in health status and resources and allocated by formula to sites with greatest need (i.e, lowest LNF %)

IHCIF Workgroup

- The Workgroup
 - Comprised of one primary/one alternate Tribal representative and one primary/one alternate Federal representative from each IHS Area
 - Tribal Co-chair: Jim Roberts Federal Co-chair: Elizabeth Fowler
 - Charged with reviewing the existing IHCIF formula and making recommendations to the formula by considering whether the formula has been effective in meeting the stated purpose of the IHCIF in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and the effect of the current health care environment on the formula.
- Final Phase I Recommendations – revise the benchmark, user count, and alternate resources factor

Fiscal Year 2018 Allocation - \$72 million

Final allocations were announced on August 17. See letter to Tribal leaders at: <https://www.ihs.gov/newsroom/triballeaderletters/>

- Results include:
 - Changing the benchmark from the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program to the National Health Expenditure to more accurately reflect currently authorized programs
 - Revising the standard user population factor from regionally unduplicated users to nationally unduplicated users, and adding non-Purchased/Referred Care Delivery Area users, which will provide a more accurate user population
 - Changing the alternate resources calculation from a 25 percent across the board estimate to use of statewide coverage averages that improve the accuracy of the current formula and acknowledge the impact of Medicaid differences
 - Issuing recurring allocations to sites with a Level of Need Funded percent lower than 34.84 percent

Visit the IHCIF Web site at www.ihs.gov/ihcif for more information, including all sites' updated LNF percentages.

Next Steps

- The IHS/Tribal IHCIF Workgroup - Phase II: kick off was held August 29-30 in Rockville, Maryland.
- Next face-to-face meetings:
 - December 12-13 in Rockville, MD
 - February 12-13, 2019 [prior to the IHS National Tribal Budget Formulation Work Session (February 14-15, 2019)], in the DC/VA Metro Area
- FY 2019:
 - House action – total increase of \$370 million over FY 2018, includes \$53 million for the IHCIF
 - Senate action – total increase of \$234 million over FY 2018, does not include increased funding for IHCIF
 - Continuing resolution anticipated through December 7; but conferees working on minibus appropriations

