

National Indian Health Board



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN ANNOUNCES \$3 MILLION FOR SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS IN INDIAN COUNTRY

Washington, D.C. – The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) is pleased by the announcement of Vice President Joe Biden that the Department of Health and Human Services will award \$3 million in Recovery Act Funding to Support Senior Nutrition Programs in Indian Country. According to a statement released by The White House, March 18, 2009, this funding will be used to provide meals to low-income seniors in Indian Country.

Vice-President Biden stated, “The Recovery Act will ensure older Americans are not forced to choose between paying the bills and buying food.” The statement continued, “The economic downturn has also made it difficult for many seniors to afford the right foods to keep themselves healthy and active. Without regular nutritious meals, the health of many older Americans declines; they become more susceptible to illness; their ability to manage chronic diseases is reduced, and they may lose their ability to remain at home, independent in their community.”

This issue extends beyond mainstream America and well into Indian Country. NIHB Chairman Reno Keoni Franklin expressed that, “This is a positive, first step in honoring and supporting our Elders by promoting healthy living and disease prevention through improved nutrition.” Through the hard work of tribal leaders from across Indian Country, the Obama Administration and Congress have heard the resounding call for improving and supporting the healthy lives of our Elders. NIHB Executive Director, Stacy Bohlen is optimistic: “This funding is proof that the health issues facing our Elders have been elevated and respected by the highest levels of the Federal government.”

The NIHB looks forward to working with the Obama Administration and Congress to further improve the lives of those who have led and continue to lead our communities towards a healthy and prosperous future.

For more information about senior nutrition programs and to see a state-by-state breakdown of funding for senior nutrition programs, visit www.hhs.gov.



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