



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

January 28, 2013

Dear Tribal Leader:

I write to invite you to the 15th U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Annual Tribal Budget Consultation (ATBC) which will take place from March 6 to March 8, 2013, in the Great Hall of the Hubert H. Humphrey Building at 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, as well as to our 2013 Annual Regional Tribal Consultations held across the country. As we did last year, we will once again offer one-on-one consultation for individual tribes at the ATBC as well as at each of the regional sessions. This year we will also include a Tribal Resource Day at each regional session across the country.

As in previous years, HHS will continue to work with you to improve the consultation process. The Department understands the importance of hearing from tribes on national crosscutting issues, regional perspectives, as well as tribal-specific concerns. Below you will find a brief description of the ATBC as well as details for the Regional Tribal Consultation sessions. HHS will begin hosting planning calls for the ATBC on Wednesday, January 23 at 3:00 p.m. EST. Additional details are included in the enclosure.

15th U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Annual Tribal Budget Consultation (ATBC)

The consultation session will provide a forum for tribes to collectively share their views and priorities with HHS officials on national health and human services funding priorities and recommendations for the Department's FY 2015 budget request. We hope the consultation will provide a venue for a two-way conversation between tribal leaders and HHS officials on program issues and concerns that will lead to recommended actions. The schedule for this year's consultation is as follows:

Tribal Resource Day: Wednesday, March 6, 2013

The session is designed to give an overview of the programs, grants, and services that the Department provides to tribes. This session is particularly helpful for newly-elected tribal leaders or others who want a comprehensive introduction to HHS. We will also include an overview and training focused specifically on how the Affordable Care Act affects tribes.

One-on-one meetings with HHS Divisions: Thursday, March 7, 2013

Building off of the success of last year's one-on-one sessions, we will once again be providing tribes with time for one-on-one meetings to share their specific health and human service issues with HHS officials. This session will occur from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Officials from various HHS agencies will be available to listen and add to the conversation. For this specific portion of the consultation we ask that you pre-register so that all tribes have an opportunity to meet with HHS representatives. Please note that the amount of time that you are allotted to meeting with individual HHS officials will be determined by the volume of requests. To pre-register for one-on-one meeting time, please email your request, and include the agency/agencies you would like to meet, to consultation@hhs.gov.

Annual Budget Consultation: Thursday, March 7 and Friday, March 8, 2013

At 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, 2013, we will begin the consultation session. HHS will identify specific issues on which we would like to consult with tribes and will send them to you in the next few weeks so that you can prepare your thoughts, ideas, and recommendations.

2013 Annual Regional Tribal Consultations (RTC)

In addition to the ATBC, the Department will again host Regional Tribal consultation sessions to address how the Department can continue to improve our outreach and coordination and to discuss programmatic issues and overall concerns with tribes. Regional sessions will include one-on-one time with the Regional Directors, as well as a tribal resource day similar to the session held during the ATBC. Additional details are included in the enclosure. Below are the dates for the consultations.

Dates and Locations

February 6 –7, 2013, Arlington, VA (Region 1, 2, 4, and 6)

March 26 – 28, 2013, Phoenix, AZ (Region 9)

April 2 – 4, 2013, Denver, CO (Region 7 & 8)

April 10 – 12, 2013, Tulsa, OK (Region 6 and 7)

April 22 – 24, 2013, Minneapolis, MN (Region 5)

May 14 – 16, 2013, Seattle, WA (Region 10)

Navajo Area Date TBD

Thank you for your continued support of the consultation process. We look forward to your participation and ongoing partnership.

Please contact Stacey Ecoffey, Principal Advisor for Tribal Affairs, at 202-690-6060 or consultation@hhs.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Sebelius

Enclosures