

## **Upcoming Tribal Consultation from IHS on the Distribution of New Funding**

On November 22, the [Indian Health Service](#) (IHS) released a [Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#) to initiate Tribal consultation regarding the allocation of new funds, including \$210 million from the [American Rescue Plan Act](#) (2021), \$3.5 billion from the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) (2021), and \$2.35 billion currently under consideration by Congress in the [Build Back Better Act](#). More detail on the new funding sources is below.

The virtual Tribal consultation will take place on **December 14, 2021**, from 1PM to 3PM EST. To join the consultation on December 14, click [here](#). Written comments on the distribution of these funds are due December 23, 2021 and can be emailed to [consultation@ihs.gov](mailto:consultation@ihs.gov)

### \$210 million for Public Health Workforce Activities from the [American Rescue Plan Act](#) (ARPA)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services allocated \$210 million in additional ARPA resources for Public Health Workforce activities. The \$210 million will support the following activities:

- \$92 million to provide nurses in Bureau of Indian Education schools
- \$67 million to enhance public health capacity for the IHS and Tribal Nations
- \$45 million for additional IHS loan repayment awards
- \$6 million for core surveillance and epidemiology work for American Indian and Alaska Native populations

### \$3.5 billion for Sanitation Facilities Construction in the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) (IIJA)

On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed the IIJA, which appropriates \$3.5 billion over five years for the IHS Sanitation Facilities Construction program. This amount exceeds the \$2.57 billion (\$2.78 billion in 2021 dollars) that a [2019 IHS report](#) estimated was needed to fund all known sanitation deficiencies in Indian Country. This funding will be especially critical for Alaska and Navajo Areas, who face the highest costs for necessary sanitation facilities improvement.

### \$2.35 billion in the [Build Back Better Act](#) (BBBA)

This funding is still tentative, as Congress is currently considering the BBBA. The bill currently includes \$2.35 billion in additional resources for a number of IHS programs. The majority of this funding is earmarked for two uses:

- **\$1 billion** to address the 1993 Health Care Facilities Construction Priority List - This amount is less than half of the [\\$2.1 billion IHS estimates](#) is still needed to fully fund the 12 projects remaining on the 1993 list.

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- **\$945 million** for Maintenance and Improvement projects - [IHS estimates](#) this amount is sufficient for the current backlog of IHS and Tribal healthcare facility maintenance needs.

Other programs the BBBA is expected to fund include the following:

- \$124 million for behavioral health services, including necessary facilities improvements
- \$113 million for Facilities and Environmental Health Support activities
- \$100 million for Urban Indian Organization construction
- \$40 million for the Small Ambulatory Program
- \$25 million for Tribal Epidemiology Centers