



Dear Tribal Leader:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will host the **12th Annual National HHS Tribal Budget Formulation and Consultation Session March 3-5, 2010** in Washington, DC at the Hubert Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Ave SW.

The 12th Annual Consultation Session consists of two full-day sessions and provides a forum for Tribes to share their views and priorities with HHS officials on various cross-cutting issues important to Indian Country. Our partnership with Tribes is the very foundation from which consultation stems. This consultation provides Tribes and HHS leadership an opportunity to review and discuss national health and human services funding priorities and recommendations for the Department's FY 2012 budget request.

This year's session will include a *Tribal Resource Day* which will be held **Wednesday March 3, 2010** at HHS in Washington, DC. The Tribal Resource Session is designed to give an overview of HHS programs, grants and services that we provide to Tribes. This session is particularly helpful for newly-elected tribal leaders or others who want a comprehensive introduction to the Department of Health and Human Services.

We will host planning calls for the Annual Tribal Budget Consultation Session starting the first week of January. These calls are designed to ensure tribal input in the development of the agenda. Attached is a document that outlines the 12th Annual Tribal Budget Consultation Session and provides the details related to the planning calls.

Please contact Bernice Harper to confirm your participation in the consultation session or to address questions. She can be reached at (202) 690-6060 or via e-mail at Bernice.Harper@hhs.gov.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Dioguardi".

Paul Dioguardi
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard J. Turman".

Richard J. Turman
Acting Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources

Enclosure

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
12th ANNUAL NATIONAL HHS TRIBAL BUDGET CONSULTATION SESSION
MARCH 3-5, 2010
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Department of Health and Human Services will host the 12th National HHS Tribal Budget Formulation and Consultation Session for Fiscal Year 2012. The 3-day session will include a ***Tribal Resource Day on Wednesday March 3, 2010*** and the ***Annual Tribal Budget Consultation Session March 4th- 5th, 2010*** in Washington, DC. Below is a summary of the 2009 Session as well as the planning call schedule.

Summary of 11th Annual National HHS Tribal Budget Formulation and Consultation Session

At the 2009 Consultation Session, Tribal representatives provided testimony and received responses from HHS leadership regarding the budgets and policies of nine HHS agencies and participated in a department-wide discussion on cross-cutting issues.

The following cross-cutting issues were identified at the 2009 session:

1. Long-Term Care
2. Mental and Behavioral Health
3. Health Care Reform
4. Public Health

Tribal Recommendations:

1. **Increase Funding:** In general, Tribal leaders requested funding increases for all programs affecting American Indians/Alaska Natives, citing the increasing cost of providing services and the Federal trust responsibility promised in treaties made with Native Americans.
2. **Increase Accessibility:** Tribal leaders recommended making available funding more accessible, whether through outreach and training to Tribal applicants, reduced grant application and reporting requirements for Tribal entities, or set-asides for Tribes in state block grants.
3. **Recruitment and Retention:** Tribal leaders emphasized the importance of recruitment practices that ensure the hiring and retention of qualified health care professionals, culturally-competent grant reviewers and researchers, and American Indian/Alaska Native people in leadership positions within the Department.

Since the Consultation last April, President Obama released his FY2010 HHS budget, proposing an increase in funding targeted specifically toward serving the needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives, including an increase of \$454 million, or 13 percent, for the Indian Health Service.

Planning Conference Call Schedule

- Thursday January 7, 2010 @ 3:00 PM EST
- Thursday January 14, 2010 @ 3:00 PM EST
- Thursday January 21, 2010 @ 3:00 PM EST
- Thursday January 28, 2010 @ 3:00 PM EST
- Thursday February 4, 2010 @ 3:00 PM EST
- Thursday February 11, 2010 @ 3:00 PM EST

Conference Call Number (for every call)

Call in #: 877-416-3980

Pass Code: 6124186

Deadline for Testimony Submission:

Please have a copy of your testimony submitted to the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs no later than **Thursday February 18, 2010**. Please note that if you do not meet the deadline we will accept the testimony but you will need to bring 200 copies to the session for distribution.

For More Information

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