

REN-19-039: Continued Support for the Community Health Representatives (CHR) Program and Support for the Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) Expansion

Sponsor: National Indian Health Board

Summary:

- Community Health Representative (CHR) Program and Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) providers are different and serve separate and distinct purposes, and have different roles, scopes, and responsibilities.
- There is much concern and confusion about separate but related policy actions by the Indian Health Service (IHS) on the CHR Program and CHAP due to the administration indicating its intent to transition CHRs into CHAP.
- REN-19-039 calls on the federal government to ensure that efforts to expand and nationalize CHAP must not affect the support and continuation of the CHR program.

Issue:

The CHR Program was established in 1968, under the authority of 25 U.S.C. § 13 and is a program of IHS. There are more than 1,600 CHRs serving more than 250 tribal nations in all 12 IHS Areas. The Alaska CHAP has been in existence since 1964 as a program of IHS. CHAP provides routine, preventative, and emergent health care through Community Health Aides (CHA/Ps), Behavioral Health Aides (BHA/Ps), and Dental Health Aide Providers (DHA/Ts).

The FY 2020 President's budget request proposed reducing the CHR budget appropriation by \$39 million and creating a new appropriation for CHAP expansion of \$20 million. On May 8, 2019, the IHS issued a Dear Tribal Leader Letter on May 8, 2019, to initiate tribal consultation on the draft IHS Policy to implement, outline, and define a National CHAP, which does not and should not affect the CHR program.

Action:

REN-19-039 calls on the federal government to ensure that efforts to expand and nationalize CHAP must not affect the support and continuation of the CHR program, and any appropriation given to nationalize CHAP should come as a supplement and not supplant the CHR or any related program.

For additional information, please contact Jacob Schellinger at jschellinger@ncai.org or Nicholas Courtney at ncourtney@ncai.org.

Resolution Action Plan: REN-19-039

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Action Plan:

- 30 Days:
 - Research and familiarize oneself with resolution subject area.
 - Contact resolution sponsor to coordinate requested assistance.
 - Work with other tribal nations, organizations, and representatives on language for comments to IHS's Dear Tribal Leader Letter.
- 60 Days:
 - Continue working with CHAP Tribal Advisory Group and the Medicare, Medicaid, and Health Reform Policy Committee (MMPC) on monitoring administrative action pertaining to CHAP expansion.
- 90 Days:
 - Continue coordination and follow discussions and Hill activity pertaining to CHAP expansion.
- 120 Days:
 - Continue coordination and follow discussions and Hill activity pertaining to CHAP expansion.
 - Prepare activities update for NCAI Mid Year Conference.