



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

FEB 25 2009

PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE
1220 SW 3rd AVENUE, Room 476
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204

Dear Tribal Leader:

Recently, the President signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). Although we do not expect the Recovery Act to provide funds for construction of new, replacement, or expanded healthcare facilities within the Portland Area Indian Health Service (IHS), we do anticipate one-time, project-specific funding for maintenance and improvement of existing health care facilities (M&I), and for elimination of deficiencies in water and wastewater systems as listed in the IHS Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS). Here are the Area's preliminary plans for the Recovery Act funding for these two types of projects.

For M&I projects the Portland Area expects additional guidance from IHS Headquarters (HQ) as to how the funds can be used. In general, though, we expect the funds to be used to eliminate or reduce deferred maintenance and repair of health care facilities, to reduce operating costs through efficiency or energy reduction improvements, or to replace aging equipment or other items or structural elements that could be nearing failure. In early March, we will send you detailed guidance on how to submit a project for ranking. Because the Portland Area must submit its list of M&I projects to IHS HQ before April 1, we estimate a three to four-week turnaround time for you to submit your projects to us. Projects that meet M&I criteria will be ranked by the Portland Area Facilities Advisory Committee (PAFAC). The PAFAC's ranking will be a funding recommendation; we do not yet know the final dollar amount for M&I projects.

For water and wastewater projects, selection will be based on the fiscal year 2009 SDS listing that was finalized in November 2008. Area Office staff will review this process with the Tribal Advisory Group for P.L. 86-121 activities. Like Recovery Act funds for M&I projects, we do not have a final dollar amount for SDS project funding.

Whether accomplished through direct Federal construction, Title I Subpart J, or Title V Project Funding, we expect all Recovery Act projects will have to meet specific accountability and reporting requirements. We will keep you apprised of this as information becomes available.

Recovery Act funding for the IHS is both exciting and challenging. We look forward to working closely with you on your Recovery Act projects. If you have questions related to M&I projects, please contact CDR Mathew Martinson, at (503) 326-3108. If you have questions about SDS projects, please contact CDR Patrick Craney at (503) 326-3122.

Sincerely,

Roselyn Tso
Acting Area Director