



JUNE 1 2016

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to provide an update on the Proposed Rule for the Catastrophic Health Emergency Fund (CHEF). The comment period for the Proposed Rule ended on May 11.

Several Tribes and Tribal Organizations expressed concern about provisions in the *Federal Register* Notice. In response to those concerns, the Indian Health Service (IHS) has made the determination that we will engage in additional Tribal consultation before moving forward. In addition to two telephonic consultation sessions to be scheduled during the summer and early fall, an in-person session is planned to be held during the National Congress of American Indians' Annual Convention, which is scheduled on October 9-14, in Phoenix, Arizona. The specific dates and times will be posted on the IHS Calendar of Events on our website when these details are available.

For additional information, please contact Ms. Terri Schmidt, Acting Director, Office of Resource Access and Partnerships. She can be reached by telephone at (301) 443-3216 or by e-mail at terri.schmidt@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

/Mary Smith/

Mary Smith
Principal Deputy Director