

JUNE 9 2016

Dear Tribal Leader:

On April 1, 2016, I requested your input on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 \$10 million increase for Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) Initiative Support, part of the Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention (SASP) program, also formerly referred to as the Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative (MSPI). I am writing to provide you with an update on how the Indian Health Service (IHS) will move forward with the three conferring areas that follow: 1) funding distribution for national management, area allocations for Tribal and Federal facilities, and Urban Indian organizations; 2) eligibility; and 3) the types of behavioral health providers to be included in the FY 2016 funding opportunity announcement (FOA).

Funding Distribution

There was no consensus reached on this topic. Moving forward, the IHS will use 5 percent of the \$10 million to cover national management, 85 percent for IHS Area allocations, and 10 percent for Urban Indian organizations.

Eligibility

The majority of responses were in favor of expanding the eligibility criteria to include both current SASP projects and new applicants not currently funded. The IHS will proceed with opening the FY 2016 SASP FOA to both current projects and new applicants.

Behavioral Health Providers

The majority of responses were in favor of including paraprofessionals, such as community health aides, peer specialists, and behavioral health technicians, to be included as eligible behavioral health providers. The IHS will proceed with this recommendation.

The IHS will publish a notice with comment in the *Federal Register* in June 2016. Applications will be due 60 days after the *Federal Register* notice is issued. For additional information, please visit our Web site at www.ihs.gov/mspi. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Audrey Solimon, National MSPI Coordinator, Division of Behavioral Health, IHS, by e-mail at audrey.solimon@ihs.gov or by telephone at (301) 443-2038. Thank you for your continued work to address these serious issues in our communities.

Sincerely,

/Mary Smith/

Mary Smith
Principal Deputy Director