



APR 02 2014

Dear Tribal Leader:

We are writing to inform you of an additional consultation session on Contract Support Costs (CSC) as it relates to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. The session will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202, as part of the upcoming 2014 Tribal Self-Governance Annual Consultation Conference. At this session, we will continue formal consultation and the open dialogue on CSC, particularly focusing on working together to identify long-term solutions to this issue. This session follows the session held in March 2014, during the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Winter Executive Session.

The FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act includes funding to implement the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 for both the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS). The Act does not specify a limit on the amount of such funds available in FY 2014 for the payment of CSC, nor does it include the proposal put forth in the Administration's FY 2014 budget request that would place a cap on the CSC amounts available for each tribal contract or compact. Instead, as set forth in the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Act, Congress “remanded back to the agencies to resolve” the determination of CSC amounts to be paid from within the FY 2014 appropriation.

Congress further directed the BIA and the IHS to consult with the Tribes and work with the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Committees on Appropriations to formulate long-term accounting, budget, and legislative strategies to work on solutions going forward. Congress indicated that the BIA and the IHS should consider a standardized approach that streamlines the contract negotiation process, provides consistent and clear cost categories, and ensures efficient and timely cost documentation for the agencies and the Tribes. This session will allow for broad input regarding these activities.

We look forward to continuing our consultation with you on this important issue at the upcoming session at the 2014 Tribal Self-Governance Annual Consultation Conference. If you are unable to attend this session, and would like to provide input, please do so in writing by email or mail by July 31, 2014, to:

DOI/BIA – email: consultation@bia.gov; Kevin K. Washburn, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, attn.: CSC Comments, 1849 C Street, NW, MS 3071, Washington, DC 20240

IHS – email: consultation@ihs.gov; Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Director, Indian Health Service, 801 Thompson Avenue, Suite 440, Rockville, MD, 20852

In addition, the BIA and IHS plan to continue consultation throughout the following months as each agency addresses implementation of its work plan, required to be submitted to Congress by May 17, 2014. The work plans will detail the schedule of future consultation sessions and will be made available as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

/Kevin K. Washburn/
Kevin K. Washburn
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

/Yvette Roubideaux/
Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H.
Acting Director, Indian Health Service