

National Indian Health Board

Legislative Update

FOR THE

NW Portland Area Indian Health Board

JULY 27, 2021



Key Pending Legislation

Senate

- Bipartisan Infrastructure
- Budget Reconciliation

House

• Consolidated Appropriations, H.R. 4502



President Biden - Domestic agenda

• American Jobs Plan (\$579 BILLION)

- ~~Transportation
- ~~Water
- ~~Broadband
- ~~Energy
- <u>American Families Plan (\$3.5 TRILLION)</u> ~~Social – Medicare expansion for dental, hearing, and vision coverage, Child care, Education, Tax breaks for families with children and to buy health insurance

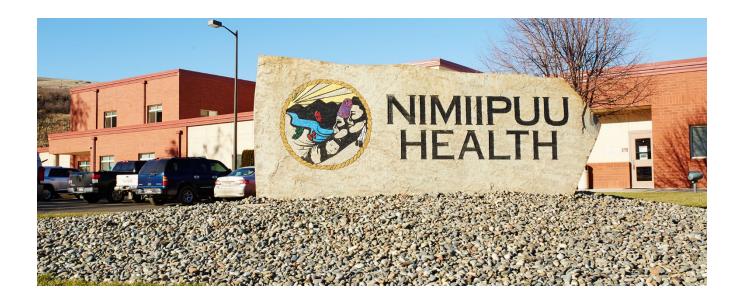
~~Climate Change - Clean energy technologies



NEEDS IN INDIAN COMMUNITIES



VS AGENCY FUNDING AND FLEXIBILITY



ALL TRIBAL FACILITIES IMPACTED BY COVID-19

- Previous funding streams are primarily for COVID-19 related relief.
- The domestic agenda is intended to address other needs.
- It was to be carried out through the "Bipartisan" Infrastructure bill and the Budget Reconciliation process.



With Congress preparing these measures:

 NIHB advanced the Indian health needs: ~~June 21, 2021 letter to Congressional leadership – Facilities construction, public health infrastructure, tribal health workforce development, unfunded IHCIA provisions.



On Facilities alone:

~~ At least \$21 billion - Healthcare

Facilities Construction

~~ At least \$10 billion - facilities

construction funding for non-Healthcare

Facilities Construction Priority System

(HFCPS) facilities

~~ At least \$2.9 billion - Sanitation Facilities Construction

~~ At least \$2 billion - behavioral health facilities

~~ At least \$1.8 billion - equipment

~~ At least \$750 million - M&I of IHS and Tribal Facilities

~~ At least \$580 million - to incorporate sustainability features into construction projects (new and existing facilities)

• NIHB led the Interorganizational efforts:

~~April 13, 2021 letter from 29 tribal organizations sent to the White House, Congressional leadership, Committees of jurisdiction.

~~The requests outlined the extraordinarily poor infrastructure conditions that require improvement to meet the health, safety, welfare, and development needs of AI/AN communities.



BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE

 Senate – Group of Senators (including Senator Murkowski) negotiating fine points and "pay-fors".

~~Stalled on issues with transit and "payfors".

~~Majority Leader Schumer intends to pass this before August recess.

~~If there is no agreement, then it may be added to the Budget Reconciliation.



~~The President has met with Senators to close the deal – most recently, this morning. ~~Work continues on the remaining issues of the bill, however, final details have not been released.

~~Congressional leadership has indicated there will be robust investments for Indian Country using the numbers NIHB provided.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

~~Involves process of passing a budget resolution, then reconciliation measure carrying out the budget resolution instructions.

~~Needs only 50 Senators to pass.

 $\sim\sim$ Deals with budget numbers, not policies.

~~Majority Leader Schumer intends to pass this before the August recess.

~~His staff indicated using the numbers from NIHB and Interorganizational requests to guide the package relating to Indian funding.



APPROPRIATIONS

Senate

~~Pending the outcome of the Bipartisan Infrastructure and Budget Reconciliation actions.

House of Representatives

~~This week the full House of Representatives will consider a consolidated package of 7 Appropriations bills:

1) Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (Labor-HHS),

2) Agriculture and Rural Development,

3) Energy and Water Development,

4) Financial Services and General Government,

5) Interior and Environment (Interior),
6) Military Construction and Veterans
Affairs, and

7) Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bills.

Interior Appropriations:

~~\$8.1 billion for the Indian Health Service (IHS), an increase of \$1.9 billion above FY 2021 enacted.

~~\$5.8 billion for Indian Health Services and \$1.3 billion for Indian Health Facilities.

Labor-HHS Appropriations:

~~CDC - Increased funding for the Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC) program to \$27 million for FY 2021, an increase of \$5 million over the \$22 million enacted for FY 2021. ~~SAMHSA - Tribal Behavioral Health Grants at \$25 million for mental health and \$25 million for substance abuse.

~~Tribal Opioid Response Grants to \$75 million (a 25% increase) Tribal set-aside in opioid response grants, and an increased \$16.5 million Tribal set-aside for medicationassisted treatment (MAT).

~~AI/AN set-aside in Zero Suicide grants are funded at \$3.4 million, a \$1.2 million increase from FY 2021 funding, and the AI/AN Suicide Prevention Initiative is also increased to \$3.4 million.

POLICY PRIORITIES FOR APPROPRIATIONS

- ~~Advance Appropriations
- ~~Health IT mandates



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