

National Indian
Health Board



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
- **American Families Plan (\$3.5 TRILLION)**
 - ~~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 “Bi-partisan” 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 IHClA 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 “pay-fors”.
 - ~~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.
- ~~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 medication-assisted 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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