COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM EXPANSION PROPOSAL NEARING END OF IHS CONSULTATION: COMMENTS DUE OCTOBER 27

Last June, in response to need for increased access to health care—including oral health care—in Indian Country, IHS Principal Deputy Director Mary Smith released a draft policy statement for consultation with Tribal Leaders. The expansion of Alaska’s Community Health Aide Program to the lower 48 opens the doors to increased access to quality, tribally-based health care delivery systems. In an effort to hear from as many Tribes as possible, Director Smith extended the original comment deadline and has also convened two in-person and one phone consultation. Comments are due October 27—please get yours in today!

Read the Dear Tribal Leader Letter from IHS, which includes instructions on where to send your letter

Use a template letter drafted by Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM DHAT EDUCATION PROGRAM PARTNERS WITH ILISAGVIK COLLEGE

Excerpted from ANTHC.org—The curriculum for Alaska’s Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) program was recently approved by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, through ANTHC’s partnership with Ilisagvik College in Barrow. This newly accredited degree program offers DHAT students the opportunity to earn an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree.

In addition to the two-year AAS degree, which helps create broader career pathways for DHAT graduates, Ilisagvik will award a DHAT certificate upon completion of the first year of study. The program will still operate out of the existing sites in Anchorage and Bethel, but will now benefit from the institutional support available through Ilisagvik. During their course of study, DHAT students have access to the full range of student services at the Tribal college, including financial aid, scholarship resources, academic support and tutoring. For more information: http://anthc.org/dental-health-aide/.
Washington Tribes are going back to the state legislature in 2017 in order to pass a law that would remove barriers to tribes fully exercising their sovereign right and responsibility to care for the oral health of their members. This law would:

- Lifts restriction on Tribes to use IHS funds for DHAT programs
- Allow DHAT services to be reimbursed by Medicaid and be eligible for up to 100% federal funding
- Lay the foundation for educating and building a DHAT workforce here in Washington.

This is a voluntary law that allows tribes to choose the best methods to serve their own people and have the necessary funding to employ those methods.

Join NDTI in working to pass this important legislation! Add this issue to your Tribal or organizational legislative agenda, and keep up-to-date on action needed by following us on Facebook and Twitter.

Read the 2015/2016 Tribal DHAT bill here.