



February 23, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is the primary federal agency for improving health care to people who are geographically isolated and economically or medically vulnerable.

In February 2020, HRSA set out to establish the first-ever HRSA Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) to engage in regular and meaningful collaboration and consultation with tribal officials on policies that have tribal implications and substantial direct effects on Indian tribes. Following extensive outreach to solicit nominations of qualified tribal officials from each of the 12 Indian Health Service (IHS) geographic areas, HRSA only received 10 nominees. On January 26, 2021, a Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships was signed, reaffirming the commitment to tribal engagement and consultation. As such, HRSA will move forward and establish the TAC with the 10 nominations received to date while we continue recruitment to fill the remaining 2 vacant positions. It is HRSA's goal to hold its first TAC meeting in October 2021. HRSA will be reaching out to the nominees directly over the next several weeks regarding the next steps.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact HRSA's Office of Health Equity, Tribal Health Affairs Team at aianhealth@hrsa.gov. To learn about HRSA's Tribal Consultation Policy and other information that may impact tribal communities, visit the HRSA American Indian/Alaska Native webpage (<https://www.hrsa.gov/about/organization/bureaus/ohe/populations/aian.html>). HRSA looks forward to strengthening its relationship with tribes and tribal organizations on delivering health care to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Sincerely,

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Diana Espinosa
Acting Administrator