USET SPF Alert: Tribal Consultation on Use of SDPI Offset Funds July 14, 2020

Dear USET Health Directors and Health Committee,

On July 2, 2020, the Indian Health Service (IHS) issued a Dear Tribal Leader Letter (DTLL) [linked] regarding the use of approximately $30 million in offset and prior-year funds from the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI). According to IHS, due to recent changes in the current SDPI grant cycle, a new plan is needed for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 offset funds originally intended to be distributed for FY 2021. In addition, some carryover funds that are not impacted by the changes to current SDPI grant cycle are also available. In total, approximately $30 million could be used for other purposes.

IHS is seeking input on the use of this $30 million in SDPI funds. Options include, but are not limited to, a new grant funding opportunity for $10 million per year for 3 years for eligible entities that do not currently have a SDPI grant, or one grant open to all eligible entities to address diabetes-related risk factors. The deadline for written comments is Friday, August 28, 2020, with comments submitted to consultation@ihs.gov.

Additionally, the next meeting of the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC) is September 22, 2020. According to IHS, the TLDC will review comments submitted and provide recommendations to IHS Director Michael Weahkee. A subsequent DTLL will follow with the final agency decisions on the use of this $30 million of SDPI funds.

**Sisy Garcia** *(Cheyenne & Arapaho)*

**Policy Analyst**

**United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund**

400 North Capitol St., Ste. 585

Washington, D.C. 20001

Tel: 202-624-1467

Cell: 505-730-9923

www.usetinc.org

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