



October 10, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to initiate Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer to seek your comments and recommendations on the proposed reorganization of the Indian Health Service (IHS) Headquarters Office of the Director, which specifically impacts the structure of offices under the Deputy Director for Intergovernmental Affairs (DDIGA).

As a leading Federal Agency that proactively partners with Tribes and Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) in exploring health care opportunities, it is essential to continuously assess how the Agency provides and supports the best model of health care for IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian communities. The IHS is committed to delivering the highest quality of direct health care to the patients and communities we proudly serve, supporting Indian Tribes as they exercise their sovereignty to choose to receive or deliver health care services from the IHS and explore self-determination contracting and self-governance compacting opportunities available under the authorities of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), all while ensuring the Agency fulfills its mission with Direct Service Tribes and UIOs.

A key component of the proposed reorganization is the initiative of *One IHS*, which aims to improve effectiveness and efficiency across the Agency through greater coordination and collaboration. There are five primary objectives of the proposed reorganization, which adopts a *One IHS* model that: 1) strengthens our relationship with Indian Tribes and UIOs by streamlining operations and enhancing communications; 2) enhances the business relationships with Indian Tribes through self-determination and self-governance; 3) amplifies the work of the Agency with all partners by cultivating intergovernmental partnerships and furthering external relationships; 4) modernizes the way the Agency supports Tribes pursuing ISDEAA opportunities by supporting ISDEAA negotiation teams across the Agency working under a *One-ISDEAA* model; and 5) fosters education and training throughout the entire IHS system on how ISDEAA interfaces with our everyday work. I have included a draft *IHS Headquarters Office of the Director Organizational Chart* that details the proposed DDIGA reorganization as an enclosure to this letter.

Urban Confer with Urban Indian Organization Leaders on the proposed reorganization is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2024. Tribal Consultation with Tribal Leaders regarding the proposed reorganization is scheduled for Thursday, November 14, 2024. Session details follow:

<b>Virtual Urban Confer Session: Proposed Reorganization of DDIGA Offices</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, November 13, 2024
<b>Time:</b>	3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET
<b>Zoom:</b>	Please register in advance for this session at: <a href="https://ihs-gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItceCvrTgvH4MazPn5DuOO1-DgsP9e29I">https://ihs-gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItceCvrTgvH4MazPn5DuOO1-DgsP9e29I</a>

<b>Virtual Tribal Consultation Session: Proposed Reorganization of DDIGA Offices</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, November 14, 2024
<b>Time:</b>	2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET
<b>Zoom:</b>	Please register in advance for this session at: <a href="https://ihs-gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItdu6hqD8sEu7kfpLPGvZvia4PF_LVTAQ">https://ihs-gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItdu6hqD8sEu7kfpLPGvZvia4PF_LVTAQ</a>

The comment submission deadline for both the Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer is **Monday, December 16, 2024**.

Please email your written consultation comments to [consultation@ihs.gov](mailto:consultation@ihs.gov) and confer comments to [urbanconfer@ihs.gov](mailto:urbanconfer@ihs.gov) with the **SUBJECT LINE: Proposed Reorganization of DDIGA Offices**.

After the comment period closes, the IHS will enter an internal deliberation phase to review all feedback received before moving through an internal clearance process for finalization and implementation.

Thank you for your valuable input, partnership, and ongoing support. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Tina Conners, Senior Advisor, DDIGA, IHS, by email at [tina.conners@ihs.gov](mailto:tina.conners@ihs.gov). I look forward to your feedback on the proposed reorganization.

Sincerely,

/ Roselyn Tso /

Roselyn Tso  
Director

Enclosure: DRAFT *IHS Headquarters Office of the Director Organizational Chart*