



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

JAN 14 2016

Dear Tribal Leader:

I write to invite you to the 18th U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Annual Tribal Budget Consultation (ATBC), which will take place March 2-3, 2016, in the Great Hall of the Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, as well as to our 2016 Annual Regional Tribal Consultations held across the country.

The Department understands the importance of hearing from tribes on national cross-cutting issues, regional perspectives, as well as tribal-specific concerns and will continue to work with you to improve the consultation process. Below you will find a brief description of the ATBC and details for the Annual Regional Tribal Consultation sessions. HHS will begin hosting planning calls for the ATBC on Wednesday, January 27, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. EST.

Additional details are included in the enclosures.

18th HHS Annual Tribal Budget Consultation

The consultation session will provide a forum for tribes to collectively share their views and priorities with HHS officials on national health and human services funding priorities and recommendations for the Department's fiscal year 2018 budget request. We hope the consultation will provide a venue for a two-way conversation between tribal leaders and HHS officials on program issues and concerns that will lead to recommended actions. The schedule for this year's consultation is as follows:

One-on-one meetings with HHS Divisions: Wednesday, March 2, 2016

We will once again be providing tribes time for one-on-one meetings to share their specific health and human service issues with HHS officials. These meetings will occur from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2. Officials from various HHS agencies will be available to listen and contribute to the conversation. For this specific portion of the consultation, we ask that you pre-register so that all tribes have an opportunity to meet with HHS representatives. Please note that the amount of time you are allotted to meet with individual HHS officials will be determined by the volume of requests we receive. To register for one-on-one meeting times, please email your request to consultation@hhs.gov and include the agency/agencies you would like to meet with. All requests for one-on-one meetings must be received by Friday, February 19.

Annual Budget Consultation: Thursday, March 3, 2016

We will begin the consultation session at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 3. HHS will identify specific issues that we would like to consult with tribes about. We will discuss these issues on the planning calls so you can prepare your thoughts, ideas, and recommendations.

2016 Annual Regional Tribal Consultations

In addition to the ATBC, the Department will also again host the Annual Regional Tribal Consultations with sessions to address how the Department can continue to improve our outreach and coordination with tribes and to discuss programmatic issues and overall tribal concerns. Regional sessions will also include one-on-one time with the Regional Directors. More information on dates and locations of each of the regional sessions can be found in the enclosures.

Thank you for your continued support of the consultation process. We look forward to your participation and on-going partnership. Please contact Stacey Ecoffey, Principal Advisor for Tribal Affairs, at (202) 690-6060 or consultation@hhs.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,



Sylvia M. Burwell

Enclosures

**U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
2016 HHS Regional Tribal Consultation
INFORMATION**

Region 1:

Date: **TBD**
Location: **Boston, MA**
IHS Area: **Nashville Area**
Regional Contact Info:
Paul Jacobsen
Email: Paul.Jacobsen@hhs.gov

Region 2:

Date: **April 5, 2016**
Location: **Syracuse, NY**
IHS Area: **Nashville Area**
Regional Contact Info:
Sean Hightower
Email: Sean.Hightower@hhs.gov

Region 4:

Date: **May 18, 2016**
Location: **Atmore, AL**
IHS Area: **Nashville Area**
Regional Contact Info:
Deric Gilliard
Email: Deric.Gilliard@hhs.gov

Region 5:

Date: **April 7-8, 2016**
Location: **Green Bay, WI**
IHS Area: **Bemidji Area**
Regional Contact Info:
Sam Gabuzzi
Email: Sam.Gabuzzi@hhs.gov

Region 6 & 7:

Date: **April 26-27, 2016**
Location: **Albuquerque, NM**
IHS Area: **Albuquerque, Nashville, and
Oklahoma City Areas**

Regional Contact Info:
Julia Lothrop (Region 6)
Email: Julia.Lothrop@hhs.gov

Adele Sink (Region 7)
Email: Adele.Sink@hhs.gov

Region 7 & 8:

Date: **March 22-23, 2016**
Location: **Denver, CO**
IHS Areas: **Billings and Great Plains Areas**
Regional Contact Info:
Adele Sink (Region 7)
Email: Adele.Sink@hhs.gov

Kim Gillan (Region 8)
Email: Kim.Gillan@hhs.gov

Region 9:

Date: **April 14-15, 2016**
Location: **Phoenix, AZ**
IHS Areas: **California, Phoenix, and Tucson
Areas**

Regional Contact Info:
Kenneth Shapiro
Email: Kenneth.Shapiro@hhs.gov

Region 10:

Date: **May 12-13, 2016**
Location: **Suquamish, WA**
IHS Areas: **Alaska and Portland Areas**
Regional Contact Info:
Barbara Greene
Email: Barbara.Greene@hhs.gov

Navajo Regional Session:

Date: **TBD**
Location: **TBD**
IHS Area: **Navajo**
Regional Contact Info:
Julia Lothrop
Email: Julia.Lothrop@hhs.gov

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
18th HHS ANNUAL TRIBAL BUDGET CONSULTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will host the 18th Annual Tribal Budget Consultation (ATBC) for Fiscal Year 2018 in March. The two-day session will include **one-on-one sessions on Wednesday, March 2, 2016**, and the **Annual Tribal Budget Consultation session on Thursday, March 3, 2016**. Below is a summary of the 2015 ATBC session, as well as the planning call schedule.

Summary of the 17th HHS Annual Tribal Budget Consultation

On February 25-26, 2015, HHS hosted the 17th ATBC in Washington, D.C. The participants were tribal leaders and representatives, Indian organization leadership and staff, such as the National Congress of American Indians and the National Indian Health Board, as well as HHS leadership and staff.

On February 25, HHS held one-on-one sessions between tribal leaders and HHS agency leadership from ACF, ACL, CDC, CMS, HRSA, IHS, NIH, and SAMHSA. The one-on-one format allowed direct dialogue on issues specific to each participating tribe. In addition, HHS hosted a half-day Tribal Resource Day that included presentations on topics selected to assist tribes in understanding HHS, the federal government, and the resources available. The HHS presentations included budget, performance and congressional appropriations, Affordable Care Act 101, as well as an introduction to the HHS grants tool.

Tribal leaders and other attendees convened in the Great Hall of the Hubert H. Humphrey Building on February 26 to listen and respond to updates from HHS federal representatives regarding the HHS budget, human service priorities, the Affordable Care Act, and the IHS budget formulation. Secretary Burwell and members of the HHS Budget Council attended the afternoon session to provide updates and listen to comments from tribal leaders.

Impact of the 2015 Consultation

At last year's consultation, tribal leaders expressed the need for full funding of Contract Support Costs, increased behavioral health funding, and greater attention to issues of youth and children. HHS leadership reported that all three priorities received funding increases in the FY 2016 President's Budget, demonstrating the importance of the recommendations presented at the consultation.

18th ATBC Planning Conference Call Schedule

- January 27, 2016 @ 3:00 PM EST
- February 3, 2016 @ 3:00 PM EST
- February 10, 2016 @ 3:00 PM EST
- February 17, 2016 @ 3:00 PM EST
- February 24, 2016 @ 3:00 PM EST

Conference Call Number (for every call)

Call-In Number: 1-866-893-7107
Participant Code: 6693884

Deadline for ATBC Testimony Submission

Please submit your testimony to the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs no later than ***Friday, February 19, 2016***. Testimony can be emailed to consultation@hhs.gov. Please note that if you do not meet the submission deadline, we will accept the testimony, but you will need to bring 200 copies to the session for distribution. The consultation record will remain open for 30 days after the formal face-to-face consultation session wherein additional testimony will also be accepted.