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MEMORANDUM

April 7, 2016

To: Tribal Health Clients

From: HOBBS, STRAUS, DEAN & WALKER, LLP

Geoff Strommer (by TAE)

Re: ***IHS Consultation on Distribution of FY 2016 Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention Funding; Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) Focus***

The Indian Health Service, in the attached April 1, 2016 letter to tribal leaders, reported on the distribution of its FY 2015 Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention (SASP) funding, with particular focus on the Generation Indigenous Initiative (SASP Purpose Area #4). *The IHS asks for input on the FY 2016 SASP funding distribution which will be announced in June. Comments are requested by May 1.*

SASP was formerly termed the Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative. There is a \$10 million FY 2016 increase in the IHS budget to expand the Gen-I program. Gen-I programs focus on early intervention strategies aimed at reducing risk factors for suicidal behavior and substance abuse among young people.

Allocations. Of the 118 SASP projects funded in FY 2015, 49 were in the Gen-I purpose area. Ten additional Gen-I projects were approved but they were not funded due to insufficient funds. IHS will fund those ten projects using FY 2016 appropriations. After awarding those projects and reserving five percent for national management (explained in the letter), the IHS will have \$8.68 million remaining for additional Gen-I projects and technical assistance.

The IHS asks for feedback on how funds should be allocated among IHS Areas, urban programs and national management. The attached letter lists the FY 2015 allocation percentages for these three areas as well as the allocation recommendation of the National Tribal Advisory Committee (NTAC) on Behavioral Health.

Eligibility. IHS asks whether the FY 2016 SASP funding should be available to only current SASP projects or whether it should be open to tribes, urban organizations and IHS federal facilities who are not currently SASP recipients.

Behavioral Health Providers. A new objective of Gen-I projects will be to hire behavioral health staff, and the NTAC recommended that licensed professionals and

paraprofessionals be included in the funding opportunity announcement. IHS asks for feedback on who qualifies as “behavioral health staff” and whether it should include paraprofessionals.

Comments may be sent via email to: consultation@ihs.gov, subject line: SASP FY 2016 Funding Consultation. The attachment also contains an address where comments may be mailed.

Please contact Elliott Milhollin (at emilhollin@hobbsstrauss.com or 202-822-8282), Geoff Strommer (at gstrommer@hobbsstrauss.com or 503-242-1745) or Karen Funk (at kfunk@hobbsstrauss.com or 202-822-8282) if we may provide additional information or assistance.