



USET Resolution No. 2008:037

**RECOMMENDATION TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT DISTRIBUTION
FORMULA(S) FOR THE SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS FUNDING**

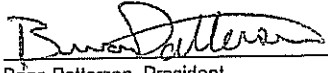
- WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS, the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) was established in the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997 in response to the diabetes epidemic affecting America Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people; and
- WHEREAS, since 1997, the Indian Health Service (IHS) has conducted Tribal Consultation each time the SDPI grant program legislation was approved and passed by Congress; and
- WHEREAS, the IHS has also convened a Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC) to discuss diabetes concerns and provide recommendations to the IHS Director for solution development; and
- WHEREAS, most recently, Congress approved Senate Bill 2499, which extended the SDPI at a level of \$150M for one year – FY2009; and
- WHEREAS, the distribution formula(s) for the SDPI have largely remained unchanged with the exception of specific set-asides that were implemented as the funding increased; and
- WHEREAS, the IHS Grants Management Office has recently informed the TLDC of "important new developments" regarding the SDPI grant program which would require existing SDPI Community Directed programs to apply for funding through a "limited competitive" process; and
- WHEREAS, USET understands that the President's Management Initiative is the driving force behind the "important new developments" that have the potential to totally disrupt the Tribally operated diabetes programs by requiring competition; and
- WHEREAS, competition, no matter how limited, for SDPI funding is wholly unfair given the fact that diabetes is impacting every Tribal community in the nation to a varying, but high degree; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribes served by the IHS Nashville Area have the second highest diabetes prevalence when comparing each of the twelve IHS Areas; and
- WHEREAS, precious time and resources would be wasted working with Tribal Governments to develop a new system defining "limited competition", developing and posting a Request for Proposal (RFP) and reviewing applications; and
- WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Tribal Governments to spend their precious time and resources in pursuit of SDPI funding for an extended time period because the SDPI funds were reauthorized for only one year; therefore, be it

"Because there is strength in Unity"

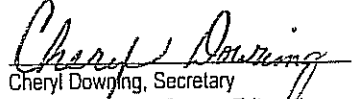
RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors strongly recommends the Indian Health Service maintain the current distribution formula(s) for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians funding.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 14, 2008.



Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Cheryl Downing, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.