MEMORANDUM

March 27, 2020

TO: TRIBAL HEALTH CLIENTS
FROM: HOBBS, STRAUS, DEAN & WALKER, LLP
RE: IHS Distribution of Second Emergency Relief Bill Funding and 2020 HHS Tribal Budget Consultation

The following reports on the Dear Tribal Leader Letter released today by the Indian Health Service (IHS) related to COVID-19 funds distribution and the upcoming Department of Health and Human Services virtual budget consultation for fiscal year (FY) 2020

IHS Distribution of Currently Available $134 million in COVID-19 Funding

Today the IHS issued the attached letter to tribal and urban Indian organization leaders announcing its decision with regard to distribution of $64 million designed to address COVID-19 issues. The funding was made available from the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, enacted March 18, 2020 (PL 116-127).

Urban Indian Organizations will receive $3 million to be distributed via existing Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) contracts. The letter also notes that there is an additional $8 million for this purpose from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) allocated through the National Council of Urban Indian Health.

Federal and tribal health programs will receive the remaining $61 million, using the existing distribution system. The letter states that contract support costs may be added to this funding, with negotiations to be made after the payments are made.

2020 HHS Tribal Budget Consultation

HHS will hold its annual Tribal Budget Consultation—a virtual consultation—on Wednesday April 8, 1:00-4:00 p.m. EDT. HHS will soon be providing dial-in information for the consultation. Information about the consultation can be found here: https://web.event.com/event/4fe32b2c-d33d-4d75-840f-8b34214c26ff/summary.

Conclusion

If you have any questions, please contact Elliott Milhollin (emilhollin@hobbsstraus.com or 202-822-8282); Geoff Strommer (gstrommer@hobbsstraus.com or 503-242-1745); or Karen J. Funk (kfunk@hobbsstraus.com or 202-822-8282).