

TLDC Virtual Meeting Highlights: March 9, 2021

TLDC Representatives Present (Area): Edie Baker (Nashville Area), Connie Barker (Oklahoma City Area, Tribal co-chair), Connie Brushbreaker (Great Plains Area/proxy), Ann Bullock (IHS/federal co-chair), Beverly Coho (Albuquerque), Phyllis Davis (Bemidji), Rosemary Nelson (California), Jonathan Nez (Navajo), Daniel Preston (Tucson), Darlene Rubio (Phoenix), Cassandra Sellards-Reck (Portland)

SDPI Update (Ann Bullock, IHS Division of Diabetes)

- As SDPI initially received only partial funding for FY 2021, IHS used \$30 million in offset and prior year funds from FY 2020 to help fund the FY 2021 Notices of Grant Award (NoAs).
 - Grants without offsets received NoAs for 55% of their annual grant amounts
 - Grants with offsets received NoAs for 50% to 100% of their annual grant amounts.
- Then the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 fully funded SDPI at \$150M for all of FY 2021 as well as FYs 2022 and 2023.
 - These funds were received by IHS at the end of February 2021.
 - As such, all grantees will receive the rest of their full FY 2021 annual grant amounts by May 14, 2021 (inclusive of any offsets).
- Total of \$52 million of offset funds from FY 2020 and FY 2021.
 - Grantees will be able to request one-time grant supplements in FY 2021 of up to 25% of their annual grant amounts (maximum \$250,000), which will be funded from the offset funds.
 - Once it is known how much of these funds will remain after the supplements have been funded, a plan will be developed for the remainder.
- Next 5-year grant cycle (FY 2022-FY 2026) begins January 1, 2022.
 - As Congress has continued to fund SDPI at \$150 million/year in FY 2022 and FY 2023, there is no way to add new grantees without decreasing grant amounts to existing ones.
 - As such, the FY 2022-FY 2026 grant cycle will utilize a competitive continuation process, open only to existing grantees.

Division of Grants Management Update (Paul Gettys, IHS Division of Grants Management)

- Grant supplement requests must have budget and budget narrative for activities within scope of work.
- It had been thought that unexpended grant funds would be returned to IHS at the end of the current grant cycle. However, as a competitive continuation process will be used for the next grant cycle, these funds will remain with the grantees.
- IHS will continue to use offsets to reduce large unobligated balances.

Legislative Update (Josh Jackson, NIHB)

- American Rescue Plan of 2021 provides about \$6 billion for AI/AN health, including \$5.5 billion for IHS. Has incentives for states to expand Medicaid under Affordable Care Act.
- NIHB advocating for mandatory and advance appropriations for IHS and permanent SDPI reauthorization.

Discussion with Elizabeth Fowler, Acting IHS Director

- IHS administered more than 670,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses and plans to administer at least 1 million by end of March 2021.
- Tribal consultation and urban confer to start soon on allocation of \$6 billion to IHS from American Rescue Plan.

Upcoming TLDC Quarterly Meetings

- June 15, 2021, 1-5pm ET (virtual)
- September 14, 2021, 1-5pm ET (virtual)