



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

January 10, 2014

Dear Tribal Leader:

I write to invite you to the 16<sup>th</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Annual Tribal Budget Consultation (ATBC), which will take place March 6 through March 7, 2014, in the Great Hall of the Hubert H. Humphrey Building at 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, and to our 2014 Annual Regional Tribal Consultations held across the country. As we did last year, we will once again offer one-on-one consultation for individual tribes at the ATBC, as well as at each of the regional sessions. This year we will also include a Grants Training at each regional session.

As in previous years, HHS will continue to work with you to improve the consultation process. The Department understands the importance of hearing from tribes on national crosscutting issues, regional perspectives, as well as tribal-specific concerns. Below you will find a brief description of the ATBC, as well as details for the Regional Tribal Consultation sessions. HHS will begin hosting planning calls for the ATBC on Wednesday, January 29, at 3:00 p.m. EST. Additional details are included in the enclosure.

**16<sup>th</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Annual Tribal Budget Consultation (ATBC)**

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 FY 2016 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:

***Tribal Resource Day: Thursday, March 6, 2014***

The Tribal Resource session is designed to give an overview of the programs, grants, and services that the Department provides to tribes. This session will be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon and is particularly helpful for newly-elected tribal leaders or others who want a comprehensive introduction to HHS. We will also include an overview and training focused specifically on the newly released HHS Grants Matrix tool.

***One-on-one meetings with HHS Divisions: Thursday, March 6, 2014***

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 noon to 5:00 p.m. 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 that you are allotted to meeting with individual HHS officials will be determined by the volume of requests. To register for one-on-one meeting time, please email your request and

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include the agency/agencies you would like to meet to [consultation@hhs.gov](mailto:consultation@hhs.gov). All requests for one-on-one meetings must be received by Wednesday, February 26, 2014.

***Annual Budget Consultation: Friday, March 7, 2014***

At 9:00 a.m. on Friday, March 7, 2014, we will begin the consultation session. HHS will identify specific issues on which we would like to consult with tribes and will send them to you in the next few weeks so that you can prepare your thoughts, ideas, and recommendations.

**2014 Annual Regional Tribal Consultations (RTC)**

In addition to the ATBC, the Department will again host Regional Tribal consultation sessions to address how the Department can continue to improve our outreach and coordination and to discuss programmatic issues and overall concerns with tribes. Regional sessions will include one-on-one time with the Regional Directors, as well as a tribal resource day similar to the session held during the ATBC. Additional details are included in the enclosure. Below are the dates for the consultations.

***Dates and Locations***

February 5, 2014, Arlington, VA (Region 1, 2, 4, and 6)

February 24 - 25, 2014, TBA (Region 10)

February 26 - 27, 2014, Green Bay, WI (Region 5)

April 7 - 8, 2014, Denver, CO (Region 7 & 8)

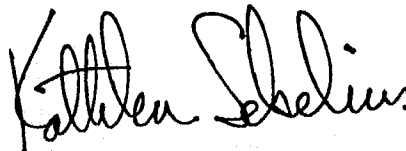
April 9 - 10, 2014, Las Vegas, NV (Region 9)

April 22, 2014, Window Rock, AZ (Navajo)

April 23 - 24, 2014, Albuquerque, NM (Region 6 & 7)

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

Sincerely,



Kathleen Sebelius

Enclosures

US Department Of Health And Human Services  
2014 Regional Tribal Consultation Sessions  
Dates, Locations & Contact Information

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**Combined Regional Session: Washington, DC**

*Regions:* **1, 2, 4 & 6**  
*Date:* **February 5<sup>th</sup>**  
*Location:* **Arlington, Virginia**  
*IHS Area:* **Nashville Area**  
*Regional Contact Info:*  
David Abdoo  
Email: [David.Abdoo@hhs.gov](mailto:David.Abdoo@hhs.gov)  
Phone: 617-565-1912

**Combined Regional Session: Navajo**

*Date:* **April 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
*Location:* **Window Rock**  
*IHS Area:* **Navajo**  
*Regional Contact Info:*  
Doyle Forrestal  
Email: [Doyle.Forrestal@hhs.gov](mailto:Doyle.Forrestal@hhs.gov)  
Phone: 303-844-7335

**Region 10: Tulalip, Washington**

*Date:* **February 24-25<sup>th</sup>**  
*Location:* **TBA**  
*IHS Areas:* **Alaska and Portland**  
*Regional Contact Info:*  
Elizabeth Arjun  
Email: [Elizabeth.Arjun@hhs.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Arjun@hhs.gov)  
Phone: 206-615-2640

**Combined Regional Session 6 & 7: Albuquerque**

*Date:* **April 23-24<sup>th</sup>**  
*Location:* **Albuquerque**  
*IHS Area:* **Albuquerque and Oklahoma**  
*Regional Contact Info:*  
Julia Lothrop (Region 6)  
Email: [Julia.Lothrop@hhs.gov](mailto:Julia.Lothrop@hhs.gov)  
Phone: 214-767-3190

Adele Sink (Region 7)  
Email: [Adele.Sink@hhs.gov](mailto:Adele.Sink@hhs.gov)  
Phone: 816-426-2824

**Region 5: Green Bay**

*Date:* **February 26-27<sup>th</sup>**  
*Location:* **Green Bay, Wisconsin**  
*IHS Area:* **Bemidji Area**  
*Regional Contact Info:*  
Suzanne Krohn  
Email: [Suzanne.Krohn@hhs.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Krohn@hhs.gov)  
Phone: 312-353-5132

**Combined Regional Session 7& 8: Denver**

*Date:* **April 7-8<sup>th</sup>**  
*Location:* **Denver**  
*IHS Areas:* **Billings and Aberdeen**  
*Regional Contact Info:*  
Doyle Forrestal  
Email: [Doyle.Forrestal@hhs.gov](mailto:Doyle.Forrestal@hhs.gov)  
Phone: 303-844-7335

**Region 9: Las Vegas**

*Date:* **April 9-10<sup>th</sup>**  
*Location:* **Las Vegas, Nevada**  
*IHS Areas:* **Phoenix and California**  
*Regional Contact Info:*  
Steven Wiener  
Email: [Steven.Wiener@hhs.gov](mailto:Steven.Wiener@hhs.gov)  
Phone: 415-437-8518

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
16<sup>th</sup> HHS ANNUAL TRIBAL BUDGET CONSULTATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

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The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will host the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Tribal Budget Consultation (ATBC) for Fiscal Year 2016 in March. The two-day session will include one- on-one sessions *and a Tribal Resource Day on Thursday, March 6, 2014*, and the *Annual Tribal Budget Consultation session on March 7, 2014*. Below is a summary of the 2013 ATBC session as well as the planning call schedule.

**Summary of 15<sup>th</sup> HHS Annual Tribal Budget Consultation**

On March 7-8, 2013, HHS hosted the 15<sup>th</sup> 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. The consultation, previously scheduled for March 6-8<sup>th</sup>, was shortened due to inclement weather.

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, 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, grants, and agency presentations from SAMHSA, NIH, CMS, and HRSA.

Tribal leaders and other attendees convened in the Great Hall of the Hubert H. Humphrey Building on March 8<sup>th</sup> to listen and respond to updates from HHS federal representatives regarding the HHS budget, human service priorities, the Affordable Care Act, as well as the IHS budget formulation. Secretary Sebelius and the HHS Budget Council attended the afternoon session to provide updates and listen to comments from tribal leaders.

**Impact of the 2013 Consultation:**

Tribal leaders articulated the unmet needs in Indian Country, sought the Secretary's continued support in advancing tribal-state relationships, underscored the importance of language grants to Indian communities, called for an HHS-wide grant model for tribal grants, and reemphasized their desire to have tribal programs exempted from sequestration because of the government's trust responsibility. Although a Continuing Resolution was in effect for fiscal year 2013 and included a 0.2% cut across the board for all discretionary budgets, including the IHS, the Department was able to continue working toward improving tribal-state relationships and increasing tribal access and eligibility to HHS grants.

**16<sup>th</sup> ATBC Planning Conference Call Schedule**

- January 29, 2014 @ 3:00 PM EST
- February 5, 2014 @ 3:00 PM EST
- February 12, 2014 @ 3:00 PM EST
- February 19, 2014 @ 3:00 PM EST
- February 26, 2014 @ 3:00 PM EST

**Conference Call Number (for every call)**

Call In Number: 888-552-9182

Participant Code: 4602035

**Deadline for ATBC Testimony Submission**

Please submit your testimony to the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs no later than **Wednesday, February 26, 2014**. Testimony can be emailed to [consultation@hhs.gov](mailto: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.