

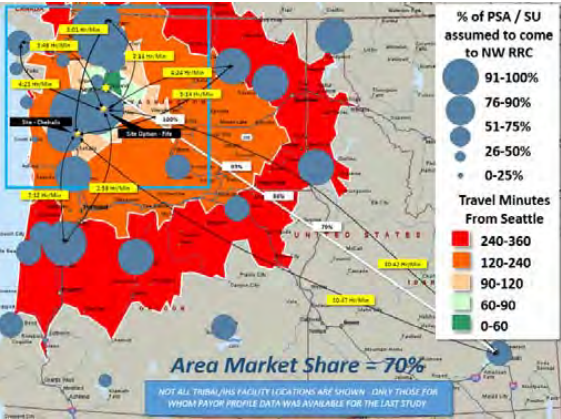
**Project Planning Documents**

The Portland Area IHS with input from tribal leaders and representatives on the Portland Area Facilities Advisory Committee (PAFAC) has drafted planning documents detailing the proposed demonstration project. These documents are undergoing internal Agency review and are not finalized:

- 1. Program Justification Document (PJD) - Justifies the need for the project and includes the population served, the services to be provided, the necessary staffing, and required space.
- 2. Program of Requirements (POR) - Details the space requirements, department by department and room by room.
- 3. Business Plan – Demonstrates the financial viability of the project by estimating revenues and expenses.
- 4. Site Selection Report (Phase I) - Evaluates and ranks available construction sites in the preferred location of Fife, WA.



# Regional Specialty Referral Center Demonstration Project



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A Proposal to Expand Access to  
Patient Care

# Regional Specialty Referral Center Demonstration Project

## The Issue

Essential specialty health care services are difficult to access for many American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) served by Portland Area Indian Health Service (IHS). People needing specialty care services rely on referrals outside of the Indian Health system. Barriers to specialty care access include:

- Specialty provider capacity limits on Medicaid/Medicare patients,
- Limits on purchased and referred care eligibility,
- High costs for accessing “out of network” specialty care services,
- Long appointment wait times,
- Lack of means for urban Indian programs to offer specialty referral services,
- Lack of cultural understanding important for healing,
- Difficulty assuring continuity of care with their Indian Health system primary care provider.

## The Solution

A network of three regional specialty referral centers operating within the Indian Health system. The centers would be located within the metro areas of Seattle, WA, Spokane, WA, and Portland/Salem, OR, as recommended by the Portland Area Indian Health Services Master Plan (2005). All federal, tribal, and urban Indian Health Programs would be able to refer patients to these facilities, transforming AI/AN access to specialty care. However, there is not a mechanism to consider this type of facility within the existing IHS Healthcare Facility Priority System.

## The Way Forward

The Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) encourages the establishment of projects that use alternative or innovative methods of delivering health care services. It also provides authority and criteria for **Indian health care demonstration projects** to accomplish this.

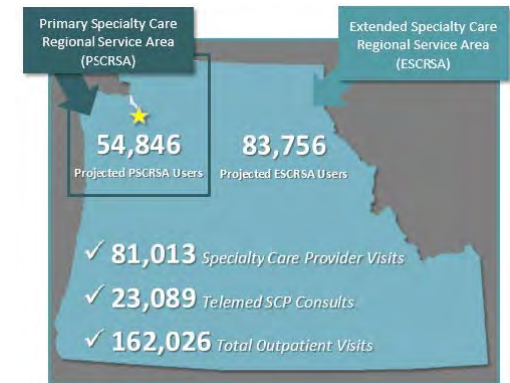
The Portland Area IHS, with support from Portland Area Tribes, proposes to construct the first regional specialty referral center as an Indian health care demonstration project.

## Proposed Demonstration Project Quick Facts

If the proposed Regional Specialty Referral Center Demonstration Project is approved...

- It would test and demonstrate the viability of regionalized specialty care within the Indian Health system and support planning for similar facilities throughout Indian country.
- It would be the first facility in a planned network of three Portland Area regional specialty referral centers in the Portland Area IHS.
- The first of the three facilities would be located in Fife, WA on land donated by the Puyallup Indian Tribe.
- It would employ 392 full time equivalents including medical specialists and support staff.

- It would expand access to specialty care services for over 83,000 AI/AN.



- It would provide a broad range of medical and dental specialty services, including:

General Surgery	Neurology	Prosthodontics
Ophthalmology	Psychiatry	Periodontics
Orthopedic	Audiology	Lab Services
Otolaryngology	Oral Surgery	Diagnostic Imaging
Urology	Pediatric Dentistry	
Cardiology	Endodontics	
Dermatology	Orthodontics	

- Would be 172,000 sf with an estimated project design, construction, and equipment cost of \$102,000,000. (2016 estimate).
- Would be financially self-sustaining with a standard IHS staffing package.