



OCT 05 2017

PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE
1414 NW NORTHROP, Suite 800
PORTLAND, OREGON 97209

Dear Tribal Leaders:

I am writing to seek your input on the Portland Area Office Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) Pool. Established in the late 1990's this pool was developed between multiple Portland Area Tribes. The original purpose pool was to offer Tribes access to this pool for substance use disorder inpatient treatment. Currently, there are 18 Tribes who are contributing to the ASAP Pool at the Portland Area Office for this purpose.

Tribes who have participated have not been accessing the pool at the same rate as in subsequent years due to the inception of the Affordable Care Act. Since the funds have not been fully expended for the last few years the Area has sent the participating Tribes their proportional shares left here via non-recurring contract modifications.

While I can appreciate the initial intent of a local ASAP Pool, the annually recurring ASAP funding has been underutilized due to ACA expansion. I believe this is why these funds remain at the Area Office unspent/untouched. Starting in Fiscal Year 2018, the ASAP funds are single year appropriations. Which means that any remaining funds will be sent to the Tribes as non-recurring at the end of the fiscal year. I feel it may be more efficient for the Tribes to manage on their own. I am considering to dissolve the pool in fiscal year 2018 and distribute to the Tribes as recurring in future years.

Please provide your comments regarding the continued establishment of this pool by November 3, 2017, at the below address. I plan on making a decision on this within 30 days after the comment closing period.

Portland Area ASAP Pool
Attn: Jonathan Merrell
Director, Office of Clinical Support
1414 NW Northrup St., Suite 800
Portland, OR 97209

Sincerely,

/Dean M. Seyler/

Dean M. Seyler
Director