



FEB 20 2002

Dear Tribal Leader:

American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal organizations have an opportunity to participate in President Bush's Initiative to Expand Health Centers. This Initiative received a funding increase of \$175 million for fiscal year (FY) 2002, to establish new or expand existing grantee organizations.

A New Start Community Health Center (CHC) grantee may receive funding of up to \$650,000 per year. An Expansion (existing) CHC grantee may receive up to \$550,000 per year. Approximately 20 percent of the funding increase will be made available to expand oral health and mental health/substance abuse services for existing grantees.

The Initiative's goal is to create new and expand existing health center access points to impact 1,200 communities by the end of FY 2006. This effort will strengthen the safety net for those most in need by extending the availability of primary care services to new and current patients. Eventually, the Initiative will allow Bureau of Primary Care (BPHC), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grantees to reach an additional 6 million people over the next 5 years, doubling the total number of health center users. New HRSA health center sites, established by either new or existing grantee organizations, will provide primary care access points for populations not currently being served. The expansion of service capacity at existing centers will also serve new populations and improve access to underserved and uninsured populations, including American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The grant application process is highly competitive. The BPHC, HRSA, will accept New Start and Expansion grant applications throughout the year. Applications postmarked by April 30 will be considered for funding this FY; those postmarked after April 30 will be reviewed in FY 2003.

For further information about the Initiative, I am enclosing a list of HRSA Field Office contacts and State Primary Care Associations and Primary Care Offices. For more information,

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please feel free to contact:

Indian Health Service

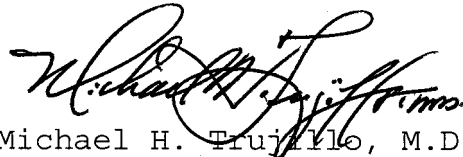
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Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael H. Trujillo, M.D.", written in a cursive style.

Michael H. Trujillo, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.
Assistant Surgeon General
Director

Enclosures