



OCT 23 2008

Indian Health Service
Rockville MD 20852

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Indian Health Service (IHS) is committed to providing vital information regarding information technology (IT) activities and initiatives that support the health needs of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities. The IHS Office of Information Technology (OIT) seeks to reshape the current IT support packages offered to contracting and compacting Tribes and Tribal organizations. In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) requirements, the IHS OIT has developed a proposal to standardize the currently available IT support packages to reflect the OIT Capital Planning and Investment Control (CPIC) plans to enhance IT performance and improve customer service.

The structured management approach utilized by the CPIC ensures that IT investments are more closely aligned with the IHS mission, strategic goals and objectives, and business needs, while minimizing risks and maximizing returns throughout the investment's life cycle. The CPIC relies on systematic selection, control, and continuous evaluation to ensure that the objectives of the investment are met effectively.

In keeping with the IHS Tribal Consultation policy, I am soliciting your input to ensure these proposed packages benefit all Tribal and Federal programs. To that end, on December 17, 2008, I have scheduled a national Tribal Consultation session at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona. The Tribal Consultation will be held from 10:00 a.m. through 1:00 p.m., in the Regency Ballroom. The IHS OIT staff will facilitate the Tribal Consultation session and will provide detailed information about the proposed IT support packages, describe their relationship to the CPIC, and respond to your questions, concerns, and recommendations.

I have enclosed our most recent proposal for IT support packages and associated Tribal shares for your review. Information about current and proposed IHS OIT support packages and resources for contract and compact negotiations can be found on the IHS Web site at the following address: www.ihs.gov/CIO/Self-Determin/index.cfm. As the IHS and the OIT value transparency, this Web site will provide the most current information and be updated periodically.

If you have any questions or are unable to attend this Tribal Consultation session and would like to submit comments or suggestions regarding the proposed changes, please contact Mr. Samuel Berry, IT Specialist, Division of Program Management and Budget, by telephone at (505) 248-4150, by fax at (505) 248-8014, or by e-mail at samuel.berry@ihs.gov. Comments and suggestions received in advance will be addressed during the Tribal Consultation session.

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I look forward to working with you to improve the information technologies that support management and operation of health care programs designed to meet the needs of the people we serve.

Sincerely yours,

Robert McSwain

Robert G. McSwain
Director

Enclosures

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT PACKAGES

In order to ensure that information technology (IT) investments align with the Indian Health Service (IHS) mission, strategic goals, and objectives, the IHS Office of Information Technology (OIT) seeks to implement solutions that support business needs while minimizing risks and maximizing returns through the investment's life cycle for Tribes and Federal programs. The IHS OIT describes these prudent investment standards and solutions in its Capital Planning and Investment Control (CPIC) plan.

For the past few years, the IHS OIT, in conjunction with the IHS Information Systems Advisory Committee (ISAC), IHS Agency Lead Negotiators, and others, has developed a proposal to change:

- Current IT support packages,
- Current allocation of Tribal shares among the support packages, and
- Current options available to Tribes in assuming or retaining IHS OIT functions through Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act contracts and compacts.

In the interest of achieving a more equitable approach to funding the IHS OIT services that benefit all Tribal and Federal programs, the IHS OIT seeks to revise the current four-tiered structure. The current approach has proven to be unmanageable. The resulting inequities must be corrected in the interest of program integrity.

This proposal seeks to create an IHS IT investment portfolio that will align and standardize services linked directly to the IHS budget for accountability purposes. Currently, all services fall under four separate tiers. The IHS OIT proposes to reconfigure services into three areas. *See Table 1 – 1 below.*

Current Support Packages	Proposed Support Packages
National Database Service	National Patient Information Reporting System (NPIRS)
Telecommunications Management Service	Infrastructure, Office Automation, and Telecommunications (IOAT)
Software Development and Maintenance Service	Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS)
Training and Support	

Table 1 – 1. The National Database Service is renamed National Patient Information Reporting System (NPIRS). Telecommunications Management Service becomes Infrastructure, Office Automation, and Telecommunications (IOAT). Software Development and Maintenance Service is formally identified as Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS). Training and Support continue to be provided as IHS OIT services, however they are aligned with the appropriate investments, primarily RPMS.

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These proposed changes will not alter total Tribal shares for information technology; they will alter Tribal share amounts associated with the IHS OIT support packages. Such changes are required to accurately reflect IT spending that is reported to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Management and Budget.

This proposal will eliminate the tiered structure currently in use with four distinct support packages and result in a single, all-inclusive support offering for each of the three proposed packages. The proposed approach will result in clear IHS OIT service obligations and customer expectations.

In addition, Tribal shares will be adjusted according to the proposed support package structure and consistent with actual IHS OIT expenditures, as follows. *See Table 1 – 2 below.*

Current Support Packages	Current %		New Support Packages	Proposed %
National Database Service	16%	→	NPIRS	8%
Telecommunications Management Service	32%		IOAT	20%
Software Development and Maintenance Service	37%		RPMS	72%
Training and Support	15%			

Table 1 – 2. These proposed changes clearly modify the funds assigned to specific IHS OIT support packages. They do not, however, affect the total IHS OIT shares available to Tribes.

Ultimately, these proposed changes will standardize the approach to IHS OIT Tribal shares negotiations by establishing a one-to-one relationship between IHS OIT services and the total shares associated with each package. For example, this proposal requires that all shares associated with a support package, such as RPMS, be retained with the IHS OIT for a Tribe to receive any IHS OIT services associated with the package.

The consequence of this improved investment will affect all Tribes by eliminating the option of contracting or compacting *for portions* of IHS OIT support packages effective with the FY 2010 negotiation cycle. At present, the IHS OIT proposes the following changes be effective in FY 2010, as follows:

- Tribes that have not contracted or compacted the IHS OIT functions prior to FY 2010 will be limited to fully assuming or retaining support packages.

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- Tribes that have fully retained the IHS OIT support packages prior to the FY 2010 contract and compact negotiation cycle will be moved to the new support package structure effective in FY 2010.
- Tribes that have assumed or retained portions of the IHS OIT support packages prior to the FY 2010 contract and compact negotiation cycle will be expected to fully assume or retain the proposed IHS OIT support packages effective in FY 2010.
- Tribes that have fully assumed IHS OIT support packages prior to the FY 2010 contract and compact negotiation cycle will be expected to fully assume or retain the new IHS OIT support packages effective FY 2010.

Investments in IT can dramatically enhance organizational performance. When carefully managed, IT becomes a critical enabler to improve business processes, upgrade health status monitoring and program evaluation, make information widely available, and reduce the cost of providing essential Government services. As healthcare technologies rapidly evolve, the challenge of realizing its potential benefits becomes greater. The IHS OIT relies on an ongoing partnership with Tribes and Tribal organizations to develop IT solutions to meet the health IT needs of all Tribal and Federal programs.

National Tribal Consultation Session Agenda

TOPIC: Proposed Revisions to the Indian Health Service (IHS)
Information Technology Support Packages

SESSION DATE: December 17, 2008

LOCATION: HYATT REGENCY HOTEL — REGENCY BALLROOM
122 North 2nd Street, Phoenix, Arizona

Facilitator: TBD

10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. **Purpose and Introductions**

Theresa Cullen, M.D., M.S., Chief Information Officer
Office of Information Technology (OIT), IHS

10:15 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. **Office of Information Technology Presentation**

Presentation of the proposed revisions to the information technology support packages

- National Patient Information Reporting System (NPIRS)
- Infrastructure, Office Automation, and Telecommunications (IOAT)
- Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS)

10:45 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. **Roundtable Discussion**

Open forum to present and discuss all submissions from Tribal members not in attendance and discussion of comments and feedback from the OIT Information Technology Presentation

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Break**

11:35 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Consultation Forum**

Moderated dialogue to promote mutual understanding, information exchange, and informed decision-making on the proposals to revise the IHS information technology support packages