



DEC 21 2001

Indian Health Service
Rockville MD 20857

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) Area staff will be conducting Tribal consultation on the increase in Indian diabetes funding for fiscal year (FY) 2003. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2001 (H.R. 4577) authorizes an additional \$70 million in FY 2001, \$70 million in FY 2002, and \$100 million in FY 2003.

These consultation sessions provide an opportunity for each Area to develop their recommendations on the following priority issues identified by the TLDC: 1) set asides, 2) allocation/distribution methodology, and 3) focus or purpose of monies. The recommendations from the Tribal Leaders to the Director, IHS, will be presented at a national "wrap-up" session in March 2002. It is important that you, or your designated representative, attend the March session for your Area.

The TLDC will meet January 4-5, 2002, in Denver, Colorado, to prepare guidance documents to be used at the Area Tribal consultation sessions. These guidelines will address possible formula factors and other pertinent issues related to the distribution of diabetes funds for FY 2003. The document will be available for distribution the week of January 7, 2002.

For additional information pertaining to the Area meetings, please contact your Area TLDC representative, Area Office, or TLDC Technical Workgroup member.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael H. Trujillo".

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