DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Indian Health Service
Rockville MD 20852

JUN 26 2006

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to request your assistance in finalizing the revision to the Health Facilities Construction Priority System (HFCPS). I am asking that you work with the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE) Director in your Area Office to develop additional information that will be used to evaluate the draft revision to the HFCPS and some proposed changes to it.

The Facilities Appropriation Advisory Board (FAAB) and my staff have completed a review of your comments on the draft revision to the HFCPS sent to you in June 2004. At a recent meeting in which the FAAB and Indian Health Service (IHS) staff presented options on revising the HFCPS, there were some issues that could not be resolved. I have asked the OEHE to develop some trial scenarios of the HFCPS to help illustrate the impact of the different options.

Two of the options proposed for modifying how the Facilities Deficiency Criterion is applied are of concern because the IHS does not have all the data that would permit us to understand the implications on the priority system if we implement one or both of these options. The Facilities Deficiency Criterion is developed by comparing a facility's "adjusted existing space" with the required space. The "adjusted existing space" is the existing space modified to reflect the facility's age and condition. Required space is the space needed to provide access to health services for the population served. The analysis is structured so that older facilities in poor condition score somewhat higher in the priority system. In the June 2004 draft revision to the HFCPS, the Facilities Deficiency Criterion can contribute up to 400 points toward the total HFCPS score of 1000. If there is no facility where a facility is needed, the Facility Deficiency Criterion contributes its full value of 400 points.

The two options proposed for modifying how the Facilities Deficiency Criterion is applied are as follows:

1. Space in a leased facility that does not receive Federal Maintenance and Improvement funds would be adjusted to 0, meaning that this facility would receive all 400 points for the Facilities Deficiency Criterion regardless of the actual space available or its condition.

2. Space in a tribally constructed facility would be adjusted slightly downward, based on the Tribe's mortgage on the facility, by counting a portion of the remaining mortgage as a facility condition deficiency. This means that this facility would receive additional points for the Facility Deficiency Criterion.

In addition to concerns related to these options, I am also concerned that the information we have received thus far about Tribal facilities is not sufficient to ensure the most accurate evaluation of

need. In situations where we do not have condition data for a facility, the facility will not score as high as it might otherwise. To ensure a reliable test of the HFCPS and an accurate scoring for your facilities, please work with the OEHE Director in your Area Office (see enclosed list) to provide the following information by August 15, if you have not already done so:

- All space in square meters, leased or owned, that is used at each facility to provide access to health services;
- if applicable, the value of the original mortgage on a facility providing access to health services and the year the mortgage was obtained; and
- the age of and estimated cost to repair your facility, **not** the cost to expand it.

Your submission should also include each facility's name and location (city/town and State) so that this information can be correlated with information previously submitted.

I am aware that you may have chosen not to provide some of this or similar facility data during the process of developing an Area Master plan, and I understand your concerns. However, I urge you to provide as much of the requested information as possible to ensure your facility generates a score commensurate with its need and to enable the IHS to define the full need for facilities construction in Indian Country. The requested information will not be used for any other purpose and will remain secure and confidential. We will provide a report to the FAAB on the results obtained from this information, but we will not provide the information itself because of its confidentiality.

Please send the information to:

CAPT Jose F. Cuzme, P.E.
Director
Division of Facilities Planning and Construction
Office of Environmental Health and Engineering
Indian Health Service
801 Thompson Avenue
Rockville, MD 20852

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact CAPT Cuzme at (301) 443-1851. Thank you for your assistance in this very important matter.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Grim, DDS

Charles W. Grim, D.D.S., M.H.S.A.
Assistant Surgeon General
Director

Enclosure

OEHE AREA ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Aberdeen Area Indian Health Service/OEHE
Jon Fogarty, Director
115 4th Avenue, SE
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401
605-226-7510
605-226-7689 FAX

Alaska Area Indian Health Service/OEHE
Thomas Coolidge, Director
4141 Ambassador Drive, Suite 300
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
907-729-3501
907-729-3691 FAX

Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service/OEHE
Russ Pederson, Director
5300 Homestead Road N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
505-248-4275
505-248-4678 FAX

Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service/OEHE
Wayne Wruble, Director
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
505-248-4264
505-248-4265 FAX

Bemidji Area Indian Health Service/OEHE
Louis Erdrich, Director
522 Minnesota Avenue N.W.
Bemidji, Minnesota 56601
218-444-0507
218-444-0510 FAX

Billings Area Indian Health Service/OEHE
George Allen, Director
2900 4th Avenue North Box 2143
Billings, Montana 59101
406-247-7082
406-247-7229 FAX

California Area Indian Health Service/OEHE
Edwin Fluette, Director
650 Capitol Mall – 3rd floor
Sacramento, California 95814
916-930-3945 EXT 334
916-930-3954 FAX

Nashville Area Indian Health Service/OEHE
Richie Grinnell, Director
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike
Nashville, Tennessee 37214-2634
615-467-1535
615-467-1583 FAX

Navajo Area Indian Health Service/OEHE
Kenneth Secord, Acting Director
P.O. Box 9020
Window Rock, Arizona 86515
928-871-5818
928-871-1462 FAX
FEDERAL EXPRESS ADDRESS:
Highway 264 – St Michaels
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Oklahoma Area Indian Health Service/OEHE
Randy Grinnell, Director
3625 N.W. 56th Street – Five Corporate Plaza
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112
405-951-6001
405-951-3932 FAX

Phoenix Area Indian Health Service/OEHE
Alan Croft, Director
40 North Central Avenue Suite 600
Phoenix, Arizona 85004
602-364-5075
602-364-5057 FAX

Portland Area Indian Health Service/OEHE
Richard Truitt, Director
1220 S.W. 3rd Avenue Room 476
Portland, Oregon 97204
503-326-2001
503-326-7280 FAX

Tucson Area Indian Health Service/OEHE
Rodney Gardner, Director
7900 South J. Stock Road
Tucson, Arizona 85746-9352
520-295-2580
520-295-5409 FAX