



The Indian Health Service is excited to recognize National Native American Heritage Month <<https://www.indianaffairs.gov/as-ia/opa/national-native-american-heritage-month>> in November. This year's theme is "Sovereignty is Sacred: Sharing our Rights and Cultures," which presents an opportunity to educate the public about the proud history of indigenous people in America and celebrate the rich and diverse tribal cultures that continue to thrive throughout Indian Country. This celebration is not only limited to November, as we certainly celebrate our Native people and Native health each day at the IHS. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the IHS continues to work together with tribes, tribal and urban organizations, doctors, nurses, and patients to prioritize the health and safety of the American Indian and Alaska Native people we serve. We are committed to upholding and honoring the federal government's obligation to protect the inherent sovereign rights of tribes and promote healthy American Indian and Alaska Native people, communities, and cultures year-round.

Thank you for your support of this important observance.

Buy Indian Act

The IHS initiated the first of a series of tribal consultations <https://www.ihs.gov/sites/newsroom/themes/responsive2017/display_objects/documents/2020_Letters/DTLL_11022020.pdf> in conjunction with updates to the IHS contracting policy and procedures associated with implementing the Buy Indian Act of 1910. The IHS will host two tribal consultation sessions on November 9 <<https://www.ihs.gov/ihscalendar/calendar/ihs-buy-indian-act-tribal-consultation/>> and November 16 <<https://www.ihs.gov/ihscalendar/calendar/ihs-buy-indian-act-tribal-consultation1/>>. More details and information on connecting by telephone or through Adobe Connect can be found on the IHS calendar <<https://www.ihs.gov/ihscalendar/calendar/ihs-buy-indian-act-tribal-consultation/>>. The IHS is seeking input on current challenges that Indian-owned and Indian-controlled businesses encounter when pursuing IHS commercial contract awards and strategic approaches to maximize contracting under this authority. The deadline for written comments is Friday, November 20, and comments can be submitted to consultation@ihs.gov <<mailto:consultation@ihs.gov>>. Please help us get the word out to tribal and urban Indian organizations.

Nurse Ambassador Program

The United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is seeking participants for the Nurse Ambassador Program <https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/Nurse/ambassador_home.aspx>. Ambassadors serve as liaisons to new officers and their families by providing awareness of community resources aimed at easing the transition to new duty stations. The goal of this program is to create an environment where professional working relationships are fostered, and officer morale is increased. Please contact Lt. Terrin Ramsey

at Terrin.Ramsey@tchealth.org<mailto:Terrin.Ramsey@tchealth.org> and Cmdr. Qiana Coffey at Qiana.L.Coffey@ice.dhs.gov<mailto:Qiana.L.Coffey@ice.dhs.gov> for more information about this program.

Small Ambulatory Program

The 2020 IHS Small Ambulatory

Program<https://www.ihs.gov/sites/newsroom/themes/responsive2017/display_objects/documents/2020_Letters/DTLL_10142020b.pdf> has \$25 million available for tribes or tribal organizations to fund the construction, expansion, or modernization of small ambulatory health care facilities. The application deadline is February 1, 2021. Please assist us in sharing this information with stakeholders.

