

# BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR URBAN AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES

The Seattle Indian Health Board bases their budget analysis and recommendations using a combination of methodologies used at our area and national IHS budget formulations, further incorporating an increase in the scope of the urban Indian health program line item.

## 1. APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

### **\$63.6 MILLION for FY2018**

The IHS has recently expanded the Urban Indian Health Program, with 8 new sites joining the existing 33 urban Indian health organizations. This rapid expansion of services for urban AI/ANs was not accompanied by a corresponding increase in funding for the line item, putting a significant strain on all 41 urban Indian health centers.

### **\$83.6 MILLION for FY2019**

The Seattle Indian Health Board requests \$83,641,242 in funding for IHS Urban Indian Health Programs in FY2019. This request is based on the IHS National Tribal Budget Formulation funding methodology. The tribes recognize the need for increased funding for the urban Indian health line item due to the addition of eight new UIHP sites.

## 2. SUPPORT THE URBAN INDIAN HEALTH PARITY ACT

### **Support H.R. 4443 and S. 2146**

SIHB requests support for the Urban Indian Health Parity Act (H.R. 4443 and S. 2146) which will align urban Indian Medicaid reimbursement with the rest of the IHS and Tribal health system and reaffirm the federal Trust Responsibility to all American Indians and Alaska Natives.

## 3. \$150 MILLION FOR OPIOIDS

SIHB supports the President's FY2019 request for \$150 million to combat the opioid epidemic and address serious mental illness. We support the Administration's request to provide IHS with the funding necessary to provide opioid abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery throughout Indian country. AI/AN people had the highest drug overdose death rates in 2015, and the largest percentage change increase in drug overdose deaths from 1999-2015 of any population at 519 percent.<sup>1</sup>

References.

1. President's FY2019 Budget Request



Seattle Indian Health Board  
*For the Love of Native People*

Seattle Indian Health Board is a UIHP and a 330 Federally Qualified Health Center. SIHB provides medical, dental, mental health, substance abuse, nutrition, pharmacy, and traditional health services to more than 4,000 AI/AN people annually, from more than 250 tribes.



Urban Indian Health Institute  
A Division of the Seattle Indian Health Board

Urban Indian Health Institute is a division of the Seattle Indian Health Board and supports the health and well-being of urban Indian communities through information, scientific inquiry, and technology.

## 4. IHS TASK FORCE

SIHB commends the House AI/AN Caucus for creating the House IHS Task Force. While we are awaiting the release of a white paper detailing the responsibilities and goals of the Task Force, we envision this body as an educational resource for House members and a legislative force for AI/AN health priorities. We hope to see a similar IHS Task Force created in the Senate that would play a complimentary role in educating Senators about Native health and advancing AI/AN legislative priorities such as fully funding the IHS and reducing health disparities among AI/AN people.