



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

JAN 08 2016

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) currently has vacancies. I would like to solicit your recommendation for nominations to serve on this committee as the delegate for open seats located in your Indian Health Service (IHS) area and/or for one of the National At-Large openings.

The STAC was established in 2010 by HHS in an effort to create a coordinated, Department-wide strategy to incorporate tribal guidance on HHS priorities, policies, and budget. In working closely with tribal leadership on this committee, the Department has elevated the attention given to the government-to-government relationship with Indian tribes and has developed mechanisms for continuous improvement in our collaborative partnership focus on issues affecting tribes across Indian Country.

Nineteen meetings of the STAC have been held to date. The STAC's tribal representation is comprised of seventeen positions: one delegate (and one alternate) from each of the twelve IHS areas and one delegate (and one alternate) for the five National At-Large Members positions. We recently concluded our fourth cycle of staggered terms for our membership and have several vacancies to fill. I am writing to request your support in nominating candidates for these vacancies. They include a primary delegate and an alternate from each of the following regions as well as three National At-Large delegate vacancies and one National At-Large Alternate vacancy. Those selected will serve a two-year term. The vacancies open for nomination are:

1. Albuquerque Area
2. Bemidji Area
3. California Area
4. Nashville Area
5. Oklahoma Area
6. Portland Area
7. National At-Large Primary Delegate (3)
8. National At-Large Alternate

All nominees must either be elected or appointed tribal officials acting in their official capacity as elected officials of their tribes, or be designated by an elected tribal official with the designee having authority to act on behalf of the tribal official. Nominations *must be* made by an elected or appointed official from a federally recognized tribe acting in his or her official capacity.

Area Representatives

Area Representatives should be an elected tribal official or be designated by an elected tribal official, with the designee having authority to act on behalf of the tribal official, who is qualified to represent the views of the nominating tribe and Indian tribes in the respective area for which they are being nominated.

National At-Large Members

In order to achieve the broadest coverage of HHS-related national perspectives and views, the STAC includes five positions for National At-Large Members. A National At-Large Member should be an elected or appointed tribal official or designated representative having authority to act on behalf of the tribal official that is qualified to represent the views of the nominating tribe and of tribes on a national, collective perspective, including, but not limited to, such views expressed by groups like the National Congress of American Indians, National Indian Health Board, Tribal Self Governance Advisory Committee, Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee, National Indian Child Welfare Association, National Indian Head Start Director's Association, and National Tribal Environmental Council.

Nominations will be considered for selection in the priority order listed below. In the event that there is more than one nomination in the priority list, individuals who have a letter of support from tribal officials acting in their official capacity shall have priority and letters of support from tribal organizations will be taken into consideration when selecting the primary and alternate delegates.

1. Tribal President/Chairperson/Governor
2. Tribal Vice-President/Vice-Chairperson/Lt. Governor
3. Elected or Appointed Tribal Official
4. Designated Tribal Official

HHS will support the travel of the primary representative to attend in-person meetings of the STAC or, if the primary delegate cannot attend, will pay for the alternate's travel. We encourage you to submit your nomination letter, no later than **February 5, 2016** to:

Emily Barson, Director
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 620-E
Washington, DC 20201
Fax: (202)205-2727
E-mail: STAC@hhs.gov

I will make the selections and notify the selected individuals by **February 8, 2016**. Detailed information about the STAC can be found at <http://www.hhs.gov/iea/tribal/aboutstac/index.html>.

Thank you for your continued hard work and support of our efforts to build healthier communities. If you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Stacey Ecoffey, Principal Advisor for Tribal Affairs, at Stacey.Ecoffey@hhs.gov or by phone at (202) 690-6060.

Sincerely,



Sylvia M. Burwell