



Indian Health Service
Portland Area
1414 NW Northup St, Suite 800
Portland, OR 97209

June 6, 2024

Dear Portland Area Tribal Leader:

I am writing to provide a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) for the Portland Area Regional Specialty Referral Center Network, Northwest Region Demonstration Project, Project PO4PO750C0.

This letter notifies all Portland Area Tribes that the Indian Health Service (IHS) has allocated \$164,000,000 to design and construct a regional specialty referral center in support of the Portland Area's access to specialty care services. The proposed facility is the first in a planned network of three regional specialty referral centers recommended in the Portland Area Services Master Plan. The project is located in Fife, WA, on a site previously determined by the Portland Area Facilities Advisory Committee (PAFAC) and owned by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. To construct this project, IHS is leveraging demonstration project authority provided through the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and funding from the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Nonrecurring Expenses Fund (NEF).

The recently enacted Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (H.R. 2882) limits the availability of these funds. The Act rescinds \$1,250,000,000 from the HHS NEF account by September 30th, 2024. Funds not obligated to a contract prior to this deadline will likely be lost to the rescission. This would cancel the project until a new funding source could be identified. Due to the required timelines for projects of this magnitude, it will not be possible to obligate the available funds under a federal contract by the deadline. However, it may still be possible to obligate funds to a Public Law 93-638 Construction Contract with a qualified Tribe or Tribal Organization (TO).

This project will benefit more than one Tribe. In order for one Tribe or TO to assume this project under a P.L. 93-638 Construction Contract, each benefiting Tribe will need to submit a current (unrevoked) authorizing resolution agreeing to the one Tribe/TO completing this project, reference 25 CFR 900.125(b)(9) and 25 CFR 900.5(d). If all benefitting Tribes are not able to provide authorizing resolutions agreeing to one Tribe/TO completing the project, the project will likely be deferred until a new funding source can be identified.

If any Portland Area Tribes or TOs are interested in pursuing a 638 contract, we are available to provide assistance in preparing a contract proposal. Please note that if the Tribes/TOs select the 638 contract option, the IHS Division of Engineering Services will be the lead negotiating office. To indicate interest, submit a Letter of Intent to Contract. Upon receipt of your letter, we will contact you to begin development of a contract proposal and a schedule for negotiations. Given the

limited time to develop a proposal and complete negotiation, we request interested Tribes/TOs to submit a Letter of Intent to Contract within 14 days of receipt of this letter.

Any contract that results from this NOFA is limited to design and construction and will not impact facility operation. The completed facility will be owned and operated by IHS until a Tribe/TO supported by Portland Area Tribes assumes operation under a separate 638 agreement.

Sincerely,

RDML Marcus Martinez, P.E.
Director, Portland Area Indian Health Service

Cc: Director, Division of Engineering Services
Director, OEHE, Portland Area Indian Health Service