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**President Obama Releases FY 2013 Budget  
Request**

Today, President Obama released his Budget Request to Congress for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. His FY 2013 funding request for the Indian Health Service (IHS) is \$4.422 billion, which is \$115.9 million over the FY 2012 enacted level or a 2.6% increase. This includes \$897.6 million for Contract Health Services, \$476.4 million for Contract Support Costs, and \$443.5 million for Facilities. Please stay tuned for the official NIHB summary and analysis.

To view the FY 2013 IHS Budget Request, click [here](#)

**HHS FY 2013 National Budget Consultation  
Update**

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Health and Human Services released a “Dear Tribal Leader

Letter” inviting Tribes to the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Tribal Budget Consultation (ATBC) which will take place from March 7<sup>th</sup> to March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in the Great Hall of the Hubert H. Humphrey Building at 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington.

Update: HHS has released the following presentation protocol for the consultation:

Presentation Protocol for the March 2012  
National Department of Health and Human  
Services (HHS) Tribal Budget and Policy  
Consultation

For the National HHS Tribal Budget and Policy Consultation, HHS will use the presentation protocol as set forth in the HHS Tribal Consultation Policy on page 13 of 22, which reads:

9. *Presentation protocol will ensure that the highest ranking official from each respective Tribe is given the opportunity to address the session first, followed by other elected officials, those designated by their elected official to represent their respective Indian Tribes and representatives of Indian/Tribal Organizations.*
- i. *Official letter from the Indian Tribe designating a representative must be presented to IGA before the session begins.*

**Order of Tribal Leadership Presentation:** In the open sessions, HHS will offer the highest-ranking official from each respective Tribe the first opportunity to address the session followed by other elected officials and those designated to speak for a Tribe or Tribal Organizations. For example, the order of presentation in which HHS will follow is:



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

#### Designation of Non-Elected Tribal

Official: Individuals who are not elected or appointed Tribal Officials but will be representing his/her respective Tribe will need to bring an official letter from the Tribe authorizing he/she to speak on behalf of the Tribe.

#### Reminders:

- Bring an official letter from your Tribe to the HHS Consultation if you are not an elected Tribal Leader and planning to represent your Tribe.
- Register for the consultation by completing the attached registration form.
- Submit Written Testimony by **Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

The final planning call will take place this Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 pm EST.  
Call in #: 866-421-8841  
Pass Code: 6999396

#### **IHS Announces 2012 Tribal Consultation Summit**

The Indian Health Service (IHS) recently released dates for its 2012 Tribal Consultation Summit. The Summit will be held March 13-14<sup>th</sup> in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area. Further details will be released as they become available. For more information, click [here](#).

#### **Health Reform to Require Insurers to Use Plain Language in Describing Health Plan Benefits, Coverage**

People in the market for health insurance will soon have clear, understandable and straightforward information on what health plans will cover, what limitations or conditions will apply, and what they will pay for services thanks

to the Affordable Care Act— according to final regulations published last week.

Under the rule, health insurers must provide consumers with clear, consistent and comparable summary information about their health plan benefits and coverage. The new explanations, which will be available beginning, or soon after, September 23, 2012 will be a critical resource for the roughly 150 million Americans with private health insurance.

Specifically, these rules will ensure consumers have access to two key documents that will help them understand and evaluate their health insurance choices:

- A short, easy-to-understand Summary of Benefits and Coverage ( or “SBC”); and
- A uniform glossary of terms commonly used in health insurance coverage, such as “deductible” and “co-payment.”

All health plans and insurers will provide an SBC to shoppers and enrollees at important points in the enrollment process, such as upon application and at renewal. A key feature of the SBC is a new, standardized plan comparison tool called “coverage examples,” similar to the Nutrition Facts label required for packaged foods. The coverage examples will illustrate sample medical situations and describe how much coverage the plan would provide in an event such as having a baby (normal delivery) or managing Type II diabetes (routine maintenance, well-controlled) These examples will help consumers understand and compare what they would have to pay under each plan they are considering.

To view the template for the Summary of Benefits and Coverage and the glossary, visit: <http://cciio.cms.gov/resources/other/index.html#sbcug>

To view the Final Rule, visit: <http://www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx>

For more information on the rules announced today, visit: <http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/2011/08/labels08172011a.html>



**Save the Date****Tribal Health Reform: National Training  
on the Affordable Care Act and the  
Indian Health Care Improvement Act**

*Hosted by NCAI and NIHB*  
through support of the National Indian Health  
Outreach and Education (NIHOE) partnership with  
the Indian Health Service

**Mystic Lake Casino  
Prior Lake, MN  
April 18-19, 2012**

**Save the Date**

**May 30 – June 1, 2012**  
**National Indian Health Board 2012 Public  
Health Summit**  
*Hard Rock Café and Casino  
Tulsa, OK*

*You are cordially invited to attend*  
**National Indian Health Board's  
29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONSUMER  
CONFERENCE**  
*Celebrating  
NIHB'S 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
**September 24- 28, 2012  
DENVER, COLORADO**

**Sign Up for Washington Report, at:**  
[http://www.nihb.org/legislative/washington\\_report.php](http://www.nihb.org/legislative/washington_report.php)

For More Information Contact:  
Jennifer Cooper, JD, Legislative Director  
[jcooper@nihb.org](mailto:jcooper@nihb.org) or

Liz Malerba, Legislative Assistant  
[lmalerba@nihb.org](mailto:lmalerba@nihb.org)

**UPCOMING EVENTS****HHS TRIBAL OUTREACH CALL:  
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT**

DATE: FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>  
TIME: 3:00 PM EST  
CONFERENCE CALL #: 888-552-9182  
PASS CODE: 1598939

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
HEARING ON, "THE PRESIDENT'S  
BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013"**

DATE: FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> AND 15<sup>TH</sup>  
TIME: 10:00 AM  
LOCATION: 215 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE  
BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND  
COMMERCE HEARING ON,  
"REAUTHORIZATION OF MEDICAL  
DEVICE USER-FEE ACT: WHAT IT  
MEANS FOR JOBS, INNOVATION AND  
PATIENTS"**

DATE: FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>  
TIME: 10:00 AM  
LOCATION: 2322 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE  
BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC

**HHS TRIBAL BUDGET CONSULTATION  
PLANNING CALL**

DATE: FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>  
CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER (FOR EVERY  
CALL)  
CALL IN #: 866-421-8841  
PASS CODE: 6999396  
TIME: 3:00 PM EST

