

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Championing Healthy Kids Act & Continuing Resolution

December 6, 2017

The IHS Direct, Tribal 638, and Urban Indian Health Program (I/T/U) system of care relies on federal programs like the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) and the Community Health Centers Fund (CHCF) to meet the healthcare needs of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities. While the Championing Healthy Kids Act would extend funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) through FY 2020, continue funding for SDPI, and restore the CHCF, it will also make damaging revisions to CHIP and Medicaid and severely cut the Prevention and Public Health Fund. [This bill](#) passed in the House on November 3, 2017, but the Senate has been working on their own bill to extend CHIP and related programs. Additionally, with existing funding set to run out on December 8, 2017, a Continuing Resolution must be passed to maintain funding for federal programs that support the I/T/U system of care.

Special Diabetes Program for Indians

- The SDPI program was created to reduce diabetes rates in AI/AN communities, serving 780,000 people a year, and funding 252 tribal and 29 urban Indian health programs.¹ On September 29, 2017, President Trump signed into law a three-month extension for the SDPI, which would have expired on September 30, 2017, but now is set to expire on December 31, 2017. It is vital that Congress act to continue funding the SDPI program so that AI/AN people can continue to access important medical services.

Community Health Center Fund

- Congress let the CHCF expire on October 1st. Without the CHCF, members of the I/T/U system of care that are also community health centers could face a 70% cut in CHC grant funds and unprecedented challenges in providing healthcare to the most vulnerable populations.

Continuing Resolution

- On December 2nd, a Continuing Resolution was introduced in the House of Representatives to continue funding the federal government until December 22, 2017. If this Continuing Resolution is not passed, the government will shutdown and IHS will stop funding Tribal 638 and Urban Indian Health Programs, forcing many programs to cut back services for AI/AN people or close their doors entirely until federal funding is restored.

It will be essential for the I/T/U system of care that the continuation of SDPI and restoration of the CHCF are included in whichever bill extends CHIP, and that a continuing resolution is passed to maintain funding care for AI/AN communities.

To express your concerns and the importance of these programs, you can find contact information for your Senate representative [here](#), and your House representative [here](#).

References

1) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service. July 2017.

https://www.ihs.gov/sdpi/includes/themes/newihs/theme/display_objects/documents/factsheets/SDPI_FactSheet_July2017.pdf



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