



# NIHSDA UPDATE

## SEPTEMBER

### INFORMATION AND UPDATES

- The Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health at the Colorado School of Public Health retained the cooperative agreement for the **Tribal Research Center for Early Childhood Development and Systems** (formerly the TRC).
- Mike Richardson and Joanna Whitaker from FHI360 will continue their work as the **National American Indian-Alaska Native Head Start Collaboration Office**.

#### Updates from call with OHS:

- Region XI is identifying **training priorities** based on data collected. Topics identified include (but are not limited to): Health/Disabilities/Mental Health, Staffing, Fiscal, School Readiness, and Governance.
- All programs in the DRS process are receiving a “second look” to see if they meet the new conditions.
- Some grantees supplement their program with grant funds from ANA. Dr. B. will get clarification on flexibilities re: required hours.
- The TTA training calendar expected Oct/Nov.
- Lee emphasized the need for fiscal training that involves grants management and the grantee. Specific areas: NFS, waivers, reporting, and turnover in directors/tribal accounting.
- Ann asked about the wages/benefits guidance that expires the end of September. Dr. B. responded that staff providing services remotely are still working, and should be paid as such.
- Lee asked about a process for grantees to give feedback about their Program or Grants Specialist. Todd stated that currently there is no formal process, but grantees are encouraged to contact him if they have any issues or concerns.
- While OHS does not have waiver authority in all cases, programs having difficulty meeting requirements are encouraged to contact their program specialist. Send NFS waiver requests on letterhead to David Kadan. (HS Act Sec 640 (b))

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- [2020 Tribal Consultation Registration](#) is open.  
Regions I–V: Sept. 23, 2020, 1–4 p.m. ET  
Regions VI–VIII: Oct. 14, 2020, 1–4 p.m. ET  
Alaska: Oct. 21, 2020, 2–5 p.m. ET  
Regions IX–X: Oct. 28, 2020, 2–5 p.m. ET

### REMINDERS

- The **NIHSDA ‘20-’21 Membership** invoices have been sent. Your support during these unprecedented times is needed now more than ever.

### ADVOCACY

- [Designation Renewal System Changes in 2020](#) —effective on Oct. 27, 2020. *(The HS Act of 2007 set up a separate process for DRS for tribal Head Start programs. This is not changed by the final rule. Tribal grantees who meet a DRS condition will still go through consultation.)*
- NIHSDA is requesting increased accountability from OHS for any relinquished/reduced/unused AI/AN Head Start funds. These funds are required by law to be redistributed to Indian Head Start programs by the end of the following fiscal year. NIHSDA is also concerned by the short amount of time given to AIAN grantees to apply for expansion funds, especially with the impact the pandemic has had on tribal government operations.

**STANDING STRONG AND PRESERVING THE IDENTITY OF AIAN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

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