

Natives (AI/AN) tribal governments to all available programs in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and coordinate the tribal consultation activities associated with formulation of the IHS annual budget request. The application is for a five year project which will commence with an initial award on March 15, 2004. The initial budget period will be awarded at \$227,000.00 and the entire project is expected to be awarded at \$1,135,000.00.

The award is issued under the authority of the Public Health Service Act, section 301(a) and is included under the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number 93.933. The specific objectives of the project are to:

1. Provide ongoing technical advice and consultation as the national Indian organization that is representative of all tribal governments in the area of health care policy analysis and program development.

2. Assure that health care advocacy is based on tribal input through a broad-based consumer network involving the Area Indian Health Boards or Health Board Representatives from each of the 12 IHS Areas.

3. Establish relationships with other national Indian organizations, with professional groups and with Federal, State and local entities to serve as advocates for AI/AN health programs. As a recipient of a grant/cooperative agreement, the NIHB is prohibited from conducting lobbying activities using Federal funding.

4. Improve and expand access for AI/AN tribal governments to all available programs in the HHS.

5. Publish, at least three times a year, a newsletter featuring articles on health promotion/disease prevention activities and models of best or improving practices, health policy and funding information relevant to AI/AN, *etc.*

6. Disseminate timely health care information to tribal governments, AI/AN Health Boards, other national Indian organizations, professional groups, Federal, State, and local entities.

7. Coordinate the tribal consultation activities associated with formulation of the IHS annual budget request.

*Justification for Single Source:* This project has been awarded on a non-competitive single source basis. NIHB is the only national AI/AN organization with health expertise that represents the interest of all federally recognized tribes.

*Use of Cooperative Agreement:* A non-competitive single source Cooperative Agreement Award will involve:

1. IHS staff will review articles concerning the Agency for accuracy and

may, as requested by the NIHB, provide articles.

2. IHS staff will have approval over the hiring of key personnel as defined by regulation or provision in the cooperative agreement.

3. IHS will provide technical assistance to the NIHB as requested and attend and participate in all NIHB Board meetings.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Douglas Black, Director, Office of Tribal Programs, Office of the Director, Indian Health Service, 801 Thompson Avenue, Reyes Building, Suite 220, Rockville, Maryland 20852, telephone (301) 443-1104. For grants information, contact Sylvia Tyan, Grants Management Specialist, Division of Acquisition and Grants Management Branch, 1200 Twinbrook Parkway, Room 450A, Rockville, Maryland 20852, telephone (301) 443-5204.

Dated: March 1, 2004.

**Charles W. Grim,**

*Assistant Surgeon General, Director, Indian Health Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**National Institutes of Health**

**Office of the Director; Notice of Meeting**

The Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health (NIH), announces a meeting of the NIH Blue Ribbon Panel on Conflict of Interest Policies, a working group of the Advisory Committee to the director, NIH. The meeting is scheduled for March 12-13, 2004. The meeting will be held at the NIH, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland, Building 31C, Conference Room 6. Attendance will be limited to space available. In the interest of security, NIH has instituted stringent procedures for entrance into the building by non-government employees. Persons without a government I.D. will need to show a photo I.D. and sign in at the security desk upon entering the building.

On March 12, the Panel will meet in closed, Executive Session, from 8:30-10 a.m., and in public session, from 10 a.m.-6:15 p.m. On March 13, the Panel will meet in closed, Executive Session, from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. The agenda will be posted on the NIH Web site (<http://www.nih.gov>) prior to the meeting.

During the public session, time will be set aside for oral presentations by the public. Any person wishing to take a

presentation should notify Charlene French, Office of Science Policy, National Institutes of Health, Building 1, Room 103, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, telephone (301) 496-2122 by March 11, 2004 or by e-mail: [blueribbonpanel@mail.nih.gov](mailto:blueribbonpanel@mail.nih.gov).

Oral comments will be limited to 5 minutes. Due to time constraints, only one representative from each organization will be allotted time for oral testimony. The number of speakers and the time allotment may also be limited by the number of presentations. The opportunity to speak will be based on a first come first served basis. All requests to present oral comments should include the name, addresses, telephone number, and business or professional affiliation of the interested party, and should indicate the areas of interest or issue to be addressed. Please provide, if possible, an electronic copy of your comments.

Any person attending the meeting who has not registered to speak in advance of the meeting will be allowed to make a brief oral statement during the time set aside for public comment, if time permits and at the discretion of the co-chairs.

Individuals who plan to attend the meeting and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify Charlene French at the address listed earlier in this notice in advance of the meeting.

Dated: March 5, 2004.

**LaVerne Stringfield,**

*Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Public Health Service**

**National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS); National Toxicology Program (NTP); Notice of the Availability of Agency Responses to ICCVAM Test Recommendations for the Revised Up-and-Down Procedure for Determining Acute Oral Toxicity and In Vitro Methods for Assessing Acute Systemic Toxicity**

**Summary**

The National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM) announces the availability of Federal agency responses to Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods