



ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR IHS IS NEEDED TO SAVE NATIVE LIVES



The Indian healthcare system, including the Indian Health Service (IHS), Tribal facilities, and urban Indian organizations (UIOs), is the only major federal healthcare provider funded through annual appropriations. Advance appropriations will stabilize IHS funding and allow for long-term planning by insulating Indian healthcare providers from government shutdowns and continuing resolutions.

The Declaration of National Indian Health Policy in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act States:

"Congress declares that it is the policy of this Nation, in fulfillment of its special trust responsibilities and legal obligations to Indians to ensure the highest possible health status for Indians and urban Indians and to provide all resources necessary to effect that policy."

During the last shutdown from 2018-2019 most UIOs had to cut services or close their doors entirely, forcing them to leave their patients without adequate care:



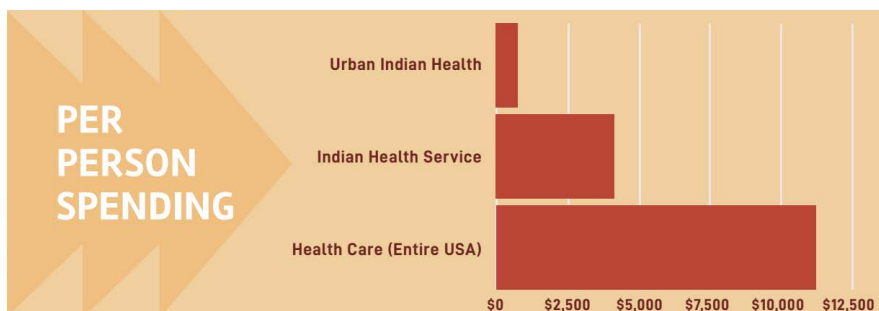
During a government shutdown and continuing resolution, Urban Indian Organizations and Direct Service Tribes are especially impacted.

"Direct Service tribes, and American Indians and Alaska Natives served by Urban Indian Organizations are disproportionately affected by disruptions in federal appropriations."

- Liz Fowler, Former Acting Director of the Indian Health Service³

"The importance of advance appropriations really became obvious to us during the federal government shutdown. Because of the federal government shutdown, there was no one at the [IHS] area office to process our vouchers and to pay us, so we were several months without being paid and that meant that there were services that we had to deny."

- Kerry Hawk-Lessard, Executive Director of the Native American Lifelines of Baltimore and National Council of Urban Indian Health Board Member⁴



**CALL TO
ACTION:**

NATIVE LIVES CAN'T WAIT ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS NOW

Visit [NCUIH.org/Advance](https://ncuih.org/Advance) to contact Congress to honor its promises and enact advance appropriations.

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¹ NCUIH 2018-2019 Government Shutdown Survey of 19 respondents: https://mcusercontent.com/97bf83f5514a3035e7978c5b2/files/84bbe352-b0ab-4bae-89da-9209d48d6cba/NCUIH_Shutdown_Report.pdf

² Id.

³ July 28, 2022 [https://naturalresources.house.gov/imo/media/doc/SCIP%20Leg%20Hrg%2007.28.22%20-%20Testimony%20-%20Ms.%20Fowler%20\(IHS\).pdf](https://naturalresources.house.gov/imo/media/doc/SCIP%20Leg%20Hrg%2007.28.22%20-%20Testimony%20-%20Ms.%20Fowler%20(IHS).pdf)

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTbP1Ywv3tM&t=1s>