



ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

What is Advance Appropriations?

[Advance appropriations](#) is funding that becomes available one year or more after the year for which the appropriations act is passed. Advance appropriations will stabilize Indian Health Service (IHS) funding and allow for long-term planning by insulating Indian health care providers from government shutdowns and continuing resolutions.

Why is it needed?



Lapses in federal funding puts lives at risk. During the 2019 government shutdown, several Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) had to reduce services or close their doors entirely, forcing them to leave their patients without adequate care. One UIO suffered 7 opioid overdoses, 5 of which were fatal. Advance appropriations is critical to provide certainty to the IHS system and ensure unrelated budget disagreements do not risk lives.

Advocacy



- ▶ In 2013, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. passed a [resolution](#) in support of advance appropriations for IHS.
- ▶ In 2014, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes passed [Resolution No. 14-05](#) requesting advance appropriations for IHS.
- ▶ In 2014, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) passed [Resolution 14-03](#) to support advance appropriations for IHS.
- ▶ In 2014, the American Medical Association passed a [resolution](#) to support advance appropriations for IHS.
- ▶ In 2019, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) passed [Resolution 19-001](#) to support advance appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and IHS.
- ▶ In 2019, the American Bar Association passed a [resolution](#) urging Congress to enact advance appropriations legislation for IHS.
- ▶ On January 17, 2019, NCUIH sent a [letter](#) to the Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Tom Udall, in support of IHS advance appropriations legislation
- ▶ On March 9, 2022, NCUIH joined NIHB and over 70 Tribal nations and national Indian organizations in sending a [series of joint letters](#) to Congress requesting advance appropriations for IHS in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 omnibus.
- ▶ On June 16, 2022, NIHB and NCAI requested that the Committee support and include IHS advance appropriations in the current FY 2023 appropriations bill in an [action alert](#).
- ▶ On June 24 and July 1, 2022, NCUIH sent letters to [Speaker Pelosi](#) and [House Minority Leader McCarthy](#) to support advance appropriations for IHS.
- ▶ On June 29, 2022, NCUIH sent letters to the [Senate Interior Appropriations Committee](#) and the [Senate Committee on Indian Affairs](#) to support advance appropriations for IHS.
- ▶ On June 30 and July 1, 2022, NCUIH sent letters to [Senate Majority Leader Schumer](#) and [Senate Minority Leader](#)





[McConnell](#) to support advance appropriations for IHS.

- ▶ On August 22, 2022 NCUIH passed a [resolution](#) in support of advance appropriations for IHS.
- ▶ On November 30, 2022, NCUIH hosted a [Day of Action social media campaign](#) in support of advance appropriations for IHS.
- ▶ On December 12, 2022, NCUIH joined NIHB and over 130 Tribal nations and organizations in sending letters to [President Biden](#) and [Congressional leadership](#) requesting advance appropriations for IHS in the FY 2023 omnibus.

Congressional & Federal Support

- ▶ In 2014, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a [hearing](#) on advance appropriation bill *Indian Health Service Advance Appropriations Act of 2013* ([S. 1570](#)).
- ▶ In 2018, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released its [report](#), Broken Promises: Continuing Federal Funding Shortfall for Native Americans, which included "Increased, non-discretionary, and advance appropriations for IHS to bring it to parity with other federal health programs, such as the Veterans Health Administration, including for facilities and urban Indian health" as a key recommendation.
- ▶ On September 25, 2019, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States (SCIP) held a [hearing](#) on advance appropriations bills, *Indian Programs Advanced Appropriations Act* ([H.R. 1128](#)) and *Indian Health Service Advance Appropriations Act of 2019* ([H.R. 1135](#)).
 - o Former IHS Principal Deputy Director, Rear Admiral Michael Weahkee, [reaffirmed](#) Indian Country's repeated request for advance appropriations, "Through the IHS's robust annual Tribal Budget Consultation process, Tribal and Urban Indian Organization leaders have repeatedly and strongly recommended advance appropriations for the IHS as an essential means for ensuring continued access to critical health care services. The Department continues to hear directly from tribes advocating support for legislative language that would provide the authority of advance appropriations for the IHS. The issues that tribes have identified present real challenges in Indian Country and we are eager to work with Congress on a variety of solutions."
- ▶ On April 9, 2021, for the first time ever, President Biden included an additional \$9 billion in advance appropriations to IHS for FY 2023 in his [budget request](#).
- ▶ On October 11, 2021, for the first time ever, the Senate Appropriations Committee included an additional \$6.58 billion in advance appropriations to IHS for FY 2023 in its [FY 2022 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill](#).
- ▶ On January 12, 2022, the Native American Caucus sent a [letter](#) to House Appropriations Committee Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger requesting that advance appropriations for IHS for FY 2023 be included in the final FY 2022 appropriations bill.
- ▶ On April 25, 2022, a bipartisan group of 28 Representatives [requested](#) up to \$949.9 million for urban Indian health in FY 2023 and advance appropriations for IHS until such time that authorizers move IHS to mandatory spending.
- ▶ On May 27, 2022, 12 Senators [requested](#) up to \$949.9 million for urban Indian health in FY 2023 and advanced appropriations for IHS until such time that authorizers move IHS to mandatory spending.



- ▶ On June 3, 2022, the Native American Caucus sent a [letter](#) to House Appropriations Committee Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger requesting that while the process of shifting IHS to mandatory appropriations is underway, advanced appropriations for IHS be included in the final FY 2023 Appropriations bill.
- ▶ On July 28, 2022, SCIP held a [hearing](#) on the *Indian Health Service Advance Appropriations Act (H.R. 5549)*.
 - o IHS Acting Deputy Director Elizabeth Fowler reaffirmed IHS's support for advance appropriations in the hearing stating that "We remain firmly committed to improving quality, safety, and access to health care for American Indians and Alaskan Natives. Mandatory funding and advanced appropriations are necessary and critical steps toward that goal... [I] urge the House to act on advanced appropriations through the appropriations process with or without the authorizing legislation that is the subject of this hearing."
- ▶ On September 30, 2022, SCIA sent a [letter](#) to House and Senate leadership requesting that advance appropriations for IHS for FY 2024 be included in the final FY 2023 appropriations bill.
- ▶ On December 6, 2022, the Native American Caucus sent a [letter](#) to House Appropriations Committee Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger requesting that while the process of shifting IHS to mandatory appropriations is underway, advanced appropriations for IHS be included in the final FY 2023 Appropriations bill.

Legislation



Legislation on this effort has been introduced in 11 bills over the years starting in 2013:

- ▶ 10/2013 - *Indian Health Service Advance Appropriations Act of 2013 (H.R. 3229/S. 1570)*
 - o Sponsor: Rep. Don Young/Sen. Lisa Murkowski
- ▶ 1/2015 - *Indian Health Service Advance Appropriations Act of 2015 (H.R. 395)*
 - o Sponsor: Rep. Don Young
- ▶ 1/2017 - *Indian Health Service Advance Appropriations Act of 2017 (H.R. 235)*
 - o Sponsor: Rep. Don Young
- ▶ 2/2019 - *Indian Programs Advanced Appropriations Act (H.R. 1128/S. 229)*
 - o Sponsor: Rep. Betty McCollum/Sen. Tom Udall
- ▶ 2/2019 - *Indian Health Service Advance Appropriations Act of 2019 (H.R. 1135/S. 2541)*
 - o Sponsor: Rep. Don Young/Sen. Lisa Murkowski
- ▶ 10/2021 - *Indian Health Service Advance Appropriations Act (H.R. 5549)*
 - o Sponsor: Rep. Don Young
- ▶ 10/2021 - *Indian Programs Advance Appropriations Act of 2021 (H.R. 5567/S. 2985)*
 - o Sponsor: Rep. Betty McCollum/Sen. Ben Ray Lujan





TIMELINE: ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

2013

- *Indian Health Service Advance Appropriations Act of 2013* (H.R. 3229/S. 1570) introduced by Rep. Don Young and Sen. Lisa Murkowski for the first time.
- The United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. passed a resolution in support of advance appropriations for IHS.

2014

- The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes passed Resolution No. 14-05 requesting advance appropriations for IHS.
- The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) passed Resolution 14-03 to support advance appropriations for IHS.
- The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a hearing on advance appropriation bill *Indian Health Service Advance Appropriations Act of 2013* (S. 1570).
- In 2014, the American Medical Association passed a resolution to support advance appropriations for IHS.

2015

- *Indian Health Service Advance Appropriations Act of 2015* (H.R. 395) introduced by Rep. Don Young.

2017

- *Indian Health Service Advance Appropriations Act of 2017* (H.R. 235) introduced by Rep. Don Young.

2018

- The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released its report, *Broken Promises: Continuing Federal Funding Shortfall for Native Americans* which included advanced appropriations for IHS as a key recommendation.

2019

- *Indian Programs Advanced Appropriations Act* (H.R. 1128/S. 229) introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum and Sen. Tom Udall.
- *Indian Health Service Advance Appropriations Act of 2019* (H.R. 1135/S. 2541) introduced by Rep. Don Young and Sen. Lisa Murkowski.
- House Natural Resources Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States (SCIP) held a legislative hearing on advance appropriations bills H.R. 1128 and H.R. 1135.
- The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) passed Resolution 19-001 to support advance appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and IHS.
- The American Bar Association passed a resolution urging Congress to enact advance appropriations legislation for IHS.
- On January 17, 2019, NCUIH sent a letter to the Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Tom Udall, in support of IHS advance appropriations legislation

2021

- For the first time ever, President Biden included an additional \$9 billion in advance appropriations to IHS for FY 2023 in his budget request.
- For the first time ever, the Senate Appropriations Committee included an additional \$6.58 billion in advance appropriations to IHS for FY 2023 in its FY 2022 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill.
- *Indian Health Service Advance Appropriations Act* (H.R. 5549) introduced by Rep. Don Young.
- *Indian Programs Advance Appropriations Act of 2021* (H.R. 5567/S. 2985) introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum and Sen. Ben Ray Lujan.

2022

- NCUIH joined NIHB and over 70 Tribal nations and national Indian organizations in sending a series of joint letters to Congress requesting advance appropriations for IHS in the FY 2022 omnibus.
- NIHB and NCAI requested that the Committee support and include IHS advance appropriations in the current FY 2023 appropriations bill in an action alert.
- 28 Representatives and 12 Senators sent letters to the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Committee requested advance appropriations for IHS in FY 2023 until such time that authorizers move IHS to mandatory spending.
- The Native American Caucus sent a letter requesting that advance appropriations for IHS for FY 2023 be included in the final FY 2022 appropriations bill and a letter requesting that advanced appropriations for IHS be included in the final FY 2023 Appropriations bill to the House Appropriations Committee.
- On June 24 and July 1, 2022, NCUIH sent letters to Speaker Pelosi and House Minority Leader McCarthy to support advance appropriations for IHS.
- On June 29, NCUIH sent letters to the Senate Interior Appropriations Committee and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to support advance appropriations for IHS.
- On June 30 and July 1, NCUIH sent letters to Senate Majority Leader Schumer and Senate Minority Leader McConnell to support advance appropriations for IHS.
- On July 28, SCIP held a hearing on the *Indian Health Service Advance Appropriations Act* (H.R. 5549).
- On August 22, 2022 NCUIH passed a resolution in support of advance appropriations for IHS.
- On September 30, 2022 SCIA sent a letter to House and Senate leadership requesting that advance appropriations for IHS for FY 2024 be included in the final FY 2023 appropriations bill.
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