



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
Washington, DC 20415

The Director

May 2 2011

Dear Urban Indian Organization Leader,

We are writing with an update on the implementation of IHCIA § 409, "Access to Federal Insurance" which was enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act. This provision authorizes Tribes and Tribal organizations operating programs under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) and urban Indian organizations operating programs under title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) to purchase coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program and Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) for their employees.

Consistent with this provision, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will implement the FEHB and FEGLI Programs to enable Tribes and Tribal organizations carrying out programs under the ISDEAA, and urban Indian organizations carrying out programs under IHCIA title V, to purchase coverage for all of their employees. We have been working diligently to establish a schedule and timeline for regional sessions so that we may begin to confer with urban Indian organization representatives about issues related to the process through which employees will be able to access this coverage. In the coming weeks, we will be circulating a schedule, along with documents that will summarize and outline many of the questions we will work through. At the conclusion of this process, we plan to convene a Tribal-Federal work group to discuss remaining technical requirements, and we will be providing additional information on that as well. We will conduct this process over the summer, and make access to this coverage available as quickly as possible thereafter. We are also establishing an OPM webpage that will allow us to provide real time updates and information regarding the implementation process. The website should be active shortly and will be accessible at www.opm.gov/TribalPrograms. In the meantime, Tribal representatives may contact us at TribalPrograms@opm.gov with questions or comments.

We are committed to building a strong partnership with urban Indian organizations through this implementation process and beyond. We appreciate your patience and look forward to further communications as we move forward.

Sincerely,

John Berry
Director