



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Healthcare and
Insurance

July 29, 2011

Dear Urban Indian Organization Leader:

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is continuing consultation on implementation of IHCIA § 409, "Access to Federal Insurance," as part of the Affordable Care Act. This provision allows 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 (IHICA) to purchase coverage for employees under the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program and Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI).

We are also establishing a Tribal/Federal Technical Work Group to assist with technical and operational details related to the implementation. The work group will help us ensure that the FEHB and FEGLI enrollment and premium collection system will be set up in a way that is useful for all tribes and tribal organizations choosing to elect this coverage. The input of knowledgeable individuals who are familiar with tribal systems is critical as we move forward with the development of this system.

OPM is seeking nominations for work group representatives from each of the twelve regions as designated by the Indian Health Service. Work group representatives should have sufficient knowledge about existing tribal health care enrollment and payroll systems to provide input as to the technical capabilities of their tribe, and others in their region. Representatives need not be elected or appointed tribal officials, but should be designated or nominated by an elected tribal official. OPM expects to hold at least two work group meetings in Washington, DC, and representatives will be able to join in person or via teleconference. We encourage you to submit a nomination letter, including a statement of interest outlining the relevant experience and qualifications held by the nominee, by August 19, 2011, via email to tribalprograms@opm.gov.

We will provide information on dates and times for work group members in mid-August and expect to convene our first meeting in September. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at the email address listed above. Thank you for your continued support as we move through this implementation process.

Sincerely,

John O'Brien
Director
Healthcare and Insurance