



March 11, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary federal agency for improving health care to people who are geographically isolated and economically or medically vulnerable, including American Indians and Alaska Natives.

I am writing with new information on the HRSA Shortage Designation Modernization Project (SDMP) related to Tribes and Urban Indian Organizations. We are beginning our annual update of HPSA scores as required by regulation, which will include geographic, population, and automatically designated Health Professional Shortage Areas, tentatively planned for September 2021. The National Shortage Designation Update is part of the SDMP which aims to promote accountability, transparency, and parity in the shortage designation process. To learn more, visit the [SDMP webpage](#).

HRSA recently hosted two training sessions on how to review update previews within the Auto-Health Professional Shortage Areas portal, and you can access the recording of the training [here](#). To engage further, HRSA also plans to participate in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Regional Tribal Consultation meetings this summer to expand our outreach and gather more feedback on this project.

HRSA is committed to assisting Tribal Nations and Urban Indian Organizations in addressing your health workforce needs. HRSA looks forward to strengthening its relationship with tribes and tribal organizations on delivering health care to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the [SDMP](#).

Sincerely,

/ s /

Diana Espinosa  
Acting Administrator