



Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

5600 Fishers Lane • Rockville, MD 20857

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October 13, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

This letter serves as an invitation to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) virtual Tribal Consultation on the Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) grant program. Before any action is taken that will significantly affect Indian Tribes, it is the policy of SAMHSA to consult with Indian Tribes to the extent practicable and permitted by law. The Tribal Consultation session provides an opportunity for government-to-government dialogue.

Since the program's inception in fiscal year (FY) 2018, SAMHSA has utilized user population estimates from the Indian Health Service (IHS) as the basis for determining grant award amounts for the TOR grant program. SAMHSA is specifically seeking feedback and recommendations on the funding methodology of the TOR grant program for FY 2024.

- Should SAMHSA continue to utilize IHS user population estimates as the basis for determining TOR grant award amounts? If so, what tiers of funding should be established?
- Should SAMHSA award each TOR grant recipient the same amount, similar to other SAMHSA discretionary Tribal grant programs?
- What other methodologies should be considered instead of or in addition to the above?

The virtual Tribal Consultation will be held on November 9, 2023, at 2:00 PM ET. You can register for the Tribal Consultation at:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItdu6qpzsoH6xCvLzSWzOWOK3ENOV2iWQ>

SAMHSA will accept written comments from Tribes until 5:00 PM ET on November 23, 2023. Comments can be emailed to otap@samhsa.hhs.gov.

SAMHSA looks forward to your participation and ongoing partnership. Please contact CAPT Karen Hearod, Director, Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy, at 202-868-9931 or otap@samhsa.hhs.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,
/Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D./
Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary for Mental Health
and Substance Use