



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT  
Washington, DC 20415

The Director

May 2 2011

Dear Tribal 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 (IHICA) 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 IHICA title V, to purchase coverage for all of their employees. We have been working diligently to establish a schedule and timeline for regional consultation sessions so that we may begin to consult with Tribal representatives about issues related to the process through which Tribal employees will be able to access this coverage. In the coming weeks, we will be circulating a consultation schedule, along with documents that will summarize and outline many of the questions we will work through during consultation. At the conclusion of the consultative 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 the consultative process over the summer, and make access to this coverage available as quickly as possible thereafter. To supplement the consultative process, 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](http://www.opm.gov/TribalPrograms). In the meantime, Tribal representatives may contact us at [TribalPrograms@opm.gov](mailto:TribalPrograms@opm.gov) with questions or comments.

We are committed to building a strong partnership with Tribes and Tribal 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