



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services
Administration

Rockville, MD 20857

June 18, 2020

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to seek your assistance in gathering feedback on two requests for information (RFIs) regarding issues that may affect health care services to Indian Country. I ask that you share both RFIs which are linked below with the health care facilities and organizations in your communities.

Request #1: Health Professional Shortage Area Scoring Criteria RFI

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) seeks public input and feedback to inform policy considerations related to changes to scoring criteria for [Health Professional Shortage Areas \(HPSA\)](#) and to solicit additional ideas and suggestions. The current scoring is found in a notice published in the Federal Register, 68 Fed. Reg. 32531 (May 30, 2003). We also seek stakeholder input on possible additions or alternative approaches to HPSA scoring, such as new factors, components, or point weighting. We will not accept proposals to expand National Health Service Corps eligibility to new provider types or proposals that otherwise go beyond the purview of HPSA scoring.

Request #2: Maternity Care Health Professional Target Area Criteria RFI

HRSA seeks public input and feedback to inform policy considerations related to the establishment of criteria for Maternity Care Health Professional Target Areas and to solicit additional ideas and suggestions from the public on this topic. The requirements of the Public Health Service Act, Section 332(k)(5); (42 USC §254e(k)(5)) define the term “full scope maternity care” as health services provided during labor care, birthing, prenatal care, and postpartum care.

While HRSA welcomes input from all stakeholders and parties with an interest in our mission, we specifically seek input from those with knowledge of public health strategies to improve maternal health and maternity care delivery. This includes, but is not limited to: relevant Indian health provider organizations; medical societies; organizations representing medical facilities in tribal communities; or other organizations with expertise in maternity care.

We are accepting feedback on both RFIs through **September 18, 2020**. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact your [Bureau of Health Workforce regional points-of-contact](#) or email RFIComments@hrsa.gov.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Engels".

Thomas J. Engels
Administrator