



January 7th, 2019

Dear Congress,

On behalf of the National Council of Urban Indian Health, I am writing to respectfully urge you to work with Congressional leaders to end the partial government shutdown, which is having dire consequences for urban Indian health.

The Indian Health Service (IHS) has now been unfunded for 16 days. This has already profoundly impacted Urban Indian Health Programs (UIHPs) and the American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) that depend on them for health care. The situation is critical. We respectfully request your urgent action to restore funding to IHS and save AI/AN lives.

UIHPs are an integral part of the AI/AN health care delivery system. Despite the fact that approximately 78% of AI/AN people live in urban areas, the urban Indian line item constitutes less than 1% of the IHS budget, making every dollar of funding absolutely critical to the fulfillment of the national obligation for the provision of health care to AI/ANs. The partial government shutdown is having profound impacts on UIHPs, which will lead to devastating impacts on AI/ANs if funding is not promptly restored.

As the premier national representative of UIHPs, we respectfully request your cooperation in restoring funding to IHS. For your reference, some of the negative repercussions of an IHS shutdown are below, based on a NCUIH survey of 13 UIHPs. Should you have any questions or require technical assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at fcrevier@ncuih.org or NCUIH's Director of Federal Relations, Julia Dreyer, at jdreyer@ncuih.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francys Crevier".

Francys Crevier
Executive Director



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Of 13 UIHPs will have to close its doors by January 12

The facility's patients will not be able to utilize any of its services. The week the shutdown began, this facility had three opioid overdoses, 2 of which were fatal. Without the facility in operation, they will not be able to provide services to the people who need it most.

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Of 13 UIHPs can only sustain operations for 1 month or less

If the shutdown does not end or funding is not otherwise restored to IHS by day 30, three additional clinics are at risk of closing their doors. One additional clinic can only continue normal operations for two weeks. This would impact thousands of patients

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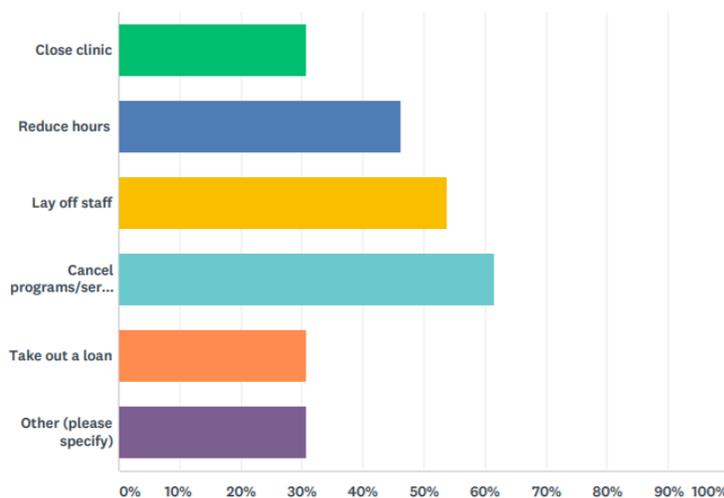
Of UIHPs have started to plan for facility closure if the shutdown continues

If the shutdown continues...

62% will have to cancel programs/cease offering services

54% will be forced to lay off essential staff

46% will need to reduce operating hours



Some additional responses...

“ [I]t would have an enormous impact if it continues. We would not have enough funds to remain open. Our patients should not have to suffer for this particular shut down. ”

“ [I]t is unthinkable that we will not be available to assist in a time of such great need. ”

“ Without our [IHS] contract[,] we cannot survive. ”

