

## ***Tribal Provider Funding***

### **Background**

Members of Federally recognized Indian tribes and their descendants are eligible for services provided by the Indian Health Service (IHS). The IHS is an agency of the US Public Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services. The IHS operates a comprehensive health delivery system for approximately 1.5 million of the nation's two million American Indians and Alaska Natives. Its annual appropriation is approximately \$2.3 billion. There are more than 550 Federally recognized tribes in the United States. Their members live mainly on reservations and in rural communities in 34 states, mostly in the western U.S. and Alaska.

The IHS funding is an appropriation separate from the Medicare program and does not appear to be drawing any funds from there. The total expenditures for tribal health care in Wisconsin amount to 3.4% of the deficit in Medicare reimbursements to providers. For FY 2000 the total funds paid to Wisconsin Tribes amounted to \$34,577,767 according to the Bemidji (MN) Area of the IHS. The Bemidji Area services the states of Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. This amount includes administration and contract support costs as well as health care