



Indian Health Service

The Federal Health Program for American Indians and Alaska Natives

- [A to Z Index](#)
- [Employee Resources](#)
- [Feedback](#)

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/ Indian Health Service Announces Allocation Decisions for \$702.6 Million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding

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INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

PRESS RELEASE

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09/07/2023

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Indian Health Service Announces Allocation Decisions for \$702.6 Million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding

In a significant stride towards ensuring essential sanitation facilities throughout Indian Country, the Indian Health Service is announcing [the fiscal year 2023 allocation decisions for \\$702.6 million](#) in funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Building upon the momentum set by the BIL, which [allocates \\$3.5 billion to the IHS between FY 2022 and 2026](#) [↗](#), this funding empowers efforts to develop critical infrastructure, including robust drinking water sources, reliable sewage systems, and effective solid waste disposal facilities.

“The projects funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law are critical towards making substantial improvements in clean water and sanitation systems in our tribal communities,” said IHS Director Roselyn Tso. “The IHS will continue to leverage the use of multiple strategies and available authorities to ensure timely and efficient distribution of this historic funding.”

Approximately \$613 million in FY 2023 BIL funding will be [allocated for Tier 1 project](#) construction costs, which are considered ready to fund because planning is complete. However, design and construction contract document creation activities are not yet complete for current Tier 1 projects. These steps must be finalized

before a construction contract can be initiated through federal or tribal procurement methods. When combined with FY 2023 annual appropriations, the IHS will fully fund construction costs for 197 Tier 1 projects.

The IHS will use FY 2023 enacted appropriations to support additional planning, design, and construction document creation activities for Tier 2 projects. The [Sanitation Deficiency System](#), which tracks projects to address sanitation needs in American Indian and Alaska Native communities, currently includes 589 Tier 2 projects, totaling approximately \$2.5 billion. Tier 2 projects are projects that have a level of engineering assessment completed, such that the deficiency is understood and a recommended solution has been analyzed and scoped.

The IHS also allocates approximately \$66 million from the FY 2023 BIL funding to address potential project shortfalls and to bolster planning, design, and construction document creation. This allocation serves to support previously funded Sanitation Facilities Construction projects that exceeded the original project budget due to inflation-driven construction costs and supply chain constraints. Additionally, \$21 million is allocated for salaries, expenses, and administration, while about \$4 million is designated in statute for funding oversight by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General.

These allocations align with recommendations from tribal leaders, prioritizing projects that have progressed through planning phases and can seamlessly transition into the design and construction stages. The commitment to securing adequate funding for planning and design activities remains paramount.

The outcome of this funding is substantial – more than 36,000 American Indian and Alaska Native households will benefit by gaining access to essential services. Notably, improved sanitation facilities can reduce inpatient and outpatient visits related to respiratory, skin and soft tissue, and gastroenteric disease. The IHS estimates each dollar invested in water and sewer infrastructure could yield savings of \$1.18 in avoided direct health care costs for these diseases.

The IHS [launched an interactive website](#) in April to furnish insights into projects funded through the BIL. This dynamic platform will consistently offer updated information, encompassing project funding amounts, tribes served, homes impacted, and project statuses. Projects funded through FY 2023 BIL and the FY 2023 enacted appropriation will also be included after the funds are transferred to the IHS Areas.

The nationwide [Sanitation Facilities Construction Program](#) is responsible for the delivery of environmental engineering services and sanitation facilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives, providing homes and communities with essential water supply, sewage disposal, and solid waste disposal facilities. The program provides technical and financial assistance to American Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages for cooperative development and construction of safe water, wastewater, and solid waste systems and related support facilities.

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- [2021 Press Releases](#)
- [2020 Press Releases](#)
- [2019 Press Releases](#)
- [2018 Press Releases](#)
- [2017 Press Releases](#)
- [2016 Press Releases](#)
- [2015 Press Releases](#)
- [2014 Press Releases](#)
- [2013 Press Releases](#)
- [2012 Press Releases](#)
- [2011 Press Releases](#)
- [2010 Press Releases](#)

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