



## PARITY FOR URBAN INDIAN HEALTH

### Remove Facilities Restrictions on UIOs

#### Overview

- ➔ UIOs do not have access to facilities funding under the IHS budget – meaning there is no UIO funding for facilities, maintenance & improvement, sanitation, equipment, among others.
- ➔ Section 509 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA) (25 U.S.C. § 1659) (Section 1659) currently permits the IHS to make funds available to Urban Indian Organizations (UIO) for minor renovations to facilities or for construction/expansion of facilities, including leased facilities. However, this is only to assist UIOs in meeting or maintaining accreditation standards of The Joint Commission (TJC). Because of the specificity of the language in Section 1659, the IHS cannot award funds to an UIO to make minor renovations, construct or expand facilities, unless the UIO is doing so to meet or maintain accreditation specifically from TJC.
- ➔ Expanding the current authority rather than limiting it under Section 1659 to TJC, would allow UIOs to make renovations or advance construction/expansion of facilities necessary to improve the safety and quality of care provided to Urban Indian patients.
- ➔ **Current trends have only 1 out of the 41 UIOs maintaining TJC accreditation.** UIOs seek or maintain accreditation from health care accreditation organizations other than TJC, including Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Healthcare (AAAHC) and Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Some UIOs have also achieved recognition as Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMH), with additional UIOs currently working towards PCMH recognition, as well as AAAHC accreditation. In addition, some UIOs must meet standards from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and/or their respective state departments of health.

#### Legislative Text

##### Section 509 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1659):

The Secretary may make funds available to contractors or grant recipients under this subchapter for minor renovations to facilities or construction or expansion of facilities, including leased facilities, ~~to assist such contractors or grant recipients in meeting or maintaining the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO) standards.~~

**Support efforts to remove facilities restrictions for UIOs**

For more information contact: **Meredith Raimondi**, Director of Congressional Relations ([mraimondi@ncuih.org](mailto:mraimondi@ncuih.org))

