

White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges & Universities

**The Health Care Financing Administration's (HCFA)
Comprehensive 5-year Plan**

To Implement Executive Order 13021

on Tribal Colleges and Universities,

including Years 3 - 5

(Fiscal Years 2001, 2002, & 2003)

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1. Executive Summary of HCFA's 5-year TCU Plan

The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), created in 1977, administers two of the largest Federal health care programs--Medicare and Medicaid. However, during the two decades since the agency was established, its mission has grown far beyond the administration of these programs. Besides Medicare and Medicaid, HCFA's responsibility now includes: Federal oversight of clinical laboratories under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments; oversight of Medigap insurance; under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, individual and small group market health insurance regulation; and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP).

HCFA's mission is to assure health care security for program beneficiaries, currently more than 72 million individuals. To accomplish its mission, the agency put into place a strategic plan, designed to meet six goals. These goals are to:

- protect and improve beneficiary health and satisfaction;
- promote the fiscal integrity of HCFA programs;
- purchase the best value health care for beneficiaries;
- promote beneficiary and public understanding of HCFA and its programs;
- foster excellence in the design and administration of HCFA's programs; and
- provide leadership in the broader public interest to improve public health.

HCFA does not carry out its work in isolation. The agency partners with many entities, including State, Tribal, and territorial governments, organizations and individuals. It readily views Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) as another resource to address ways to more expeditiously accomplish its mission.

On October 19, 1996, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13021, establishing a mechanism to facilitate TCUs access to Federal resources. The Executive Order laid the groundwork for a White House Initiative to raise awareness of Tribal institutes of higher education throughout the Federal government and to promote their participation in Federal programs. Having participated in the Tribal-State regional health forums conducted by the Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in 1995-96, HCFA learned first-hand of many Tribal health concerns. The agency's first annual work plan signaled a commitment to departmental efforts with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) to improve the quality of life for American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/ANs).

Since HCFA's initial meeting with TCU presidents in 1998, a number of activities have taken place. In 1999, HCFA co-sponsored a conference in Phoenix, Arizona, to hold further discussions to identify the interests of TCU presidents, and to explore how our assistance should be offered. In FY 1999 and FY 2000, HCFA staff visited several colleges to participate in conferences, dialogue with department heads and students, hired four students as interns in the Summer Minority Internship Program, offered computers to the schools, funded two successful outreach campaigns in support of increased enrollment in the S-CHIP and Medicare program, and shared agency publications with each TCU.

There are activities in which HCFA and TCUs may partner to accomplish; there are others in which HCFA is unable to participate, namely, dollars for core funding to subsidize building construction. There is little relief that HCFA can provide in this regard. Also, while it is true that HCFA has large expenditures, most of the money funds medical services provided to beneficiaries. HCFA has a very small budget for grant purposes. Fiscal Year 2001 marks the first year the agency has submitted a budget request aimed at allocating monies that would address grants for educational institutions.

Currently for FY 2001 - 2003, there are plans to have TCUs participate more fully in our research and development efforts by conducting research on health issues facing AI/ANs, such as diabetes and end-stage renal disease. Also during this period, HCFA plans to hold distance-based seminars focusing on specific areas of the S-CHIP, Medicaid, and Medicare programs. We plan to continue to increase TCU student participation in the internship program, as well as to expand recruitment efforts for the workforce. In collaboration with AIHEC, HCFA and TCU faculty will discuss ways that TCUs can serve as change agents to identify ways to reduce health disparities disproportionately confronting AI/ANs. From these discussions, HCFA expects to learn more on ways that we may partner with TCUs in their academic pursuits.

The Executive Order speaks to ensuring that TCUs have opportunities afforded other institutions. For the most part TCUs are young, developing entities, but HCFA hopes to support their goals by sharing information on our programs and their implications for improving health status of AI/AN beneficiaries. Such information should align with National Education Goals. We have identified areas that encompass the technology, sciences and math, health issues, and community linkage concerns identified as White House TCU Priorities and agency objectives.

HCFA views its plan as a dynamic process in which new activities will be undertaken as the collaborative process unfolds with TCUs. The agency's overall interest is to help TCUs strengthen their institutional potential to improve the social and economic well being of AI/AN communities. Thus, HCFA supports the collaborative approach as an effective strategy for realizing common objectives, and is eager to enter into partnership with TCU's, as appropriate, for improving the quality of life for AI/AN Medicaid and Medicare program beneficiaries. As the agency refines its Tribal consultation and communication plan, it is hoped that TCUs will play a significant role in our efforts.

2. PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES REVIEW for FY 1999 and FY 2000

FY 1999

- X In early 1999, HCFA proposed to provide funds directly to TCUs to assist in the development of outreach and educational campaign strategies for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) and low-income Medicare beneficiaries program. These strategies would be aimed at increasing participation rates for individuals eligible for these programs.

With technical assistance from HCFA, Salish-Kootenai College, Pablo, Montana, designed two culturally appropriate advertisements featuring Tribal members. These advertisements appeared in the Fall 1999 and Winter 2000 editions of the Tribal College Journal. This well-respected publication is a quarterly periodical published by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium. The Journal addresses subjects important to AI/AN communities and organizations, and is distributed to the entire student body of all TCUs, as well as other non-AI/AN institutions.

- X HCFA has partnered with academic institutions for a number of years to acquaint both faculty and students with the agency's mission and programs. As a result of this linkage, among other initiatives with colleges and universities, HCFA has established a Summer Minority Internship Program for students. Since meeting with TCU presidents, HCFA proposed to include TCU students among participants in its annual Summer Minority Internship Program.

Two TCU students participated in HCFA's Summer Minority Internship Program. However, in recognition of the geographic remoteness faced by many AI/AN communities, HCFA offered the program as a pilot to TCU students, thus enabling the agency to pay for transportation and lodging costs.

FY 2000

- X Based on the success of FY 1999's campaign, HCFA proposed that funding be continued for TCUs to perform outreach activities. Under this effort, Salish-Kootenai College designed two different advertisements, one featuring a child as a potential S-CHIP beneficiary, the other, a group of elders who could be Medicare beneficiaries. HCFA believes that the wide circulation of the Tribal College Journal has been effective in stimulating the interest of Indian elders for Medicare and families with children who may benefit from S-CHIP enrollment.

- X For FY 2000, HCFA sought to increase the number of TCU student participants in its Summer Minority Internship Program. HCFA increased fund levels to support three TCU interns. However, because of family health issues, one of the three students was unable to travel to the job site. Thus, participation level remained the same as that of FY 1999.

3. PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Research and Development

To extend opportunities to TCUs to participate in HCFA-sponsored research activities. The research projects will provide additional funds to the TCUs as they develop curricula that promote high quality education. This will increase the opportunities for students to utilize and refine research tools. At the same time, HCFA will increase its capacity to more effectively perform health promotion and community outreach efforts to identify and enroll individuals who may be eligible for agency programs.

Contracts will be awarded to one or more TCUs to provide outreach and enrollment activities including advertisements in Tribal journals and newspapers, and assisting beneficiaries with applications for the State Children's Health Insurance program and for the Medicare Savings Program. Since Tribal Colleges are located on the reservations, they are integrated into the communities and will be able to provide a valuable service to HCFA by overcoming some of the cultural barriers by assisting beneficiaries with the application process.

Objective 2: Training-Technical Assistance

To encourage and support technology-related activities. HCFA will utilize TCUs to provide distance-based training on Medicare and Medicaid specific topics. The training will be beneficial in providing Federal health insurance information to the students and faculty, including an opportunity to discuss specific legislative and programmatic initiatives. The training will also assist HCFA in the identification of barriers to health care as viewed by participants.

Objective 3: Communication links

To increase communication between HCFA and the TCUs. If communication links are established, additional opportunities for collaboration may be identified. HCFA staff will attend TCU conferences to disseminate HCFA information regarding programs and internship opportunities.

HCFA staff will make onsite visits to TCUs to disseminate HCFA information regarding programs and internship opportunities.

Objective 4: Fellowships, Internships, Recruitment, and IPAs

To provide internships to TCU students to acquaint them with HCFA, its mission, programs, and goals. The internships will enhance the students' understanding of the operation of Federal and State funded health programs serving the elderly, disabled, under-served, and uninsured populations. During the term of the internship, students will have an opportunity to participate in agency activities, including seminars and conferences. This will provide students with the opportunity to earn a salary while learning about HCFA, the health care industry and workings of the Federal government. It will also help HCFA build relationships with academia and provide a recruitment base from which to strengthen and increase the agency's workforce.

4. PROJECTED FUNDING (FY2001 THROUGH FY 2003):

Note: The completion of activities outlined in the FY 2001 through FY 2003 annual plans will depend upon the availability of funds.

Table 1: Projected Funding

Entity	Actual FY 1999	Projected FY 2000	Projected FY 2001	Projected FY 2002	Projected FY 2003
All TCUs	\$28,060	\$42,500	\$149,500	\$159,500	\$174,500
National Organizations	0	0	0	0	0
WHITCU Office	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL AWARDS	\$28,060	\$42,500	\$149,500	\$159,500	\$174,500

TABLE 2: ESTIMATED PROJECTED AGENCY SUPPORT OF TCUs, BY CATEGORY: FISCAL YEARS 2001 THROUGH 2003

TABLE 2-A: Projected Agency Awards Listing of Planned Programs Activities, Fiscal Year 2001

CATEGORY	ESTIMATED AWARD	PROGRAM ACTIVITY	GOALS IMPACTED (EO, Agency, TCU, Partnership)											PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & OBJECTIVES		
			EO 13021 Goal No.:					WHITCU Priority Area No.:					Agency Goal		Public-Private Pship	
			1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				
1. Research & Development	\$87,500		X									X		X		
2. Technology-related Activities (including Tech R&D)	\$ 6,000				X						X			X		
3. Direct Institutional Subsidies																
4. Program Evaluation																
5. Training-Technical Assistance	\$11,000		X									X		X		
6. Facilities & Equipment																
7. Fellowships, Internships, Recruitment, IPAs	\$45,000				X							X		X		

8. Student Tuition Aid, Scholarships, & Other Aid to TCUs for Students															
9. Economic Development Activities															
10. Administrative Infrastructure															
11. Other Activities															

AGENCY NAME: Health Care Financing Administration

TABLE 2-B: Projected Agency Awards Listing of Planned Programs Activities, Fiscal Year 2002

CATEGORY	ESTIMATED AWARD	PROGRAM ACTIVITY	GOALS IMPACTED (EO, Agency, TCU, Partnership)										PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & OBJECTIVES		
			EO 13021 Goal No.:					WHITCU Priority Area No.:						Agency Goal	Public-Private Pship
			1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5			
1. Research & Development	\$87,500		X									X	X		
2. Technology-related Activities (including Tech R&D)	\$ 6,000				X						X		X		
3. Direct Institutional Subsidies															
4. Program Evaluation															
5. Training-Technical Assistance	\$ 6,000		X								X	X			
6. Facilities & Equipment															
7. Fellowships, Internships, Recruitment, IPAs	\$60,000				X						X	X			
8. Student Tuition Aid, Scholarships, & Other Aid to TCUs for Students															

9. Economic Development Activities															
10. Administrative Infrastructure															
11. Other Activities															

AGENCY NAME: Health Care Financing Administration

TABLE 2-C: Projected Agency Awards Listing of Planned Programs Activities, Fiscal Year 2003

CATEGORY	ESTIMATED AWARD	PROGRAM ACTIVITY	GOALS IMPACTED (EO, Agency, TCU, Partnership)										PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & OBJECTIVES			
			EO 13021 Goal No.:					WHITCU Priority Area No.:						Agency Goal	Public-Private Pship	
			1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				
1. Research & Development	\$87,500		X									X		X		
2. Technology-related Activities (including Tech R&D)	\$ 6,000				X						X				X	
3. Direct Institutional Subsidies																
4. Program Evaluation																
5. Training-Technical Assistance	\$ 6,000		X									X		X		
6. Facilities & Equipment																
7. Fellowships, Internships, Recruitment, IPAs	\$75,000				X							X		X		
8. Student Tuition Aid, Scholarships, & Other Aid to TCUs for Students																

9. Economic Development Activities														
10. Administrative Infrastructure														
11. Other Activities														

AGENCY NAME: Health Care Financing Administration

TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF TOTAL AGENCY AWARDS, BY CATEGORY, FISCAL YEARS 2001 THROUGH FY2003 (All program funding that has or will result from all initiatives to support TCUs during Fiscal Years 2001, 2002, and 2003, respectively) Note: The funds outlined in the FY 2001 Planned Categories listed below are estimates and will depend upon the availability of funds.

Table 3-A: SUMMARY OF TOTAL AGENCY AWARDS BY CATEGORY: FY 2001

1. AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration

2. NAME, TITLE, AND SIGNATURE OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE:

Kevin Nash

Program Executive for Minority Health Initiatives

3. TOTAL FUNDING FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION (IHEs) IN FY 2001: \$5,773,000

CATEGORY	TOTAL AWARDS TO IHEs+	TOTAL AWARDS TO TCUs*	% OF AWARDS TO TCUs
1. Research & Development	\$5,019,000	\$87,500	2%
2. Technology-related Activities	--	\$6,000	NA
3. Direct Institutional Subsidies			
4. Program Evaluation	\$140,000	\$ 0	0%
5. Training & T. A.	--	\$11,000	NA
6. Facilities & Equipment			
7. Fellowships, Internships, Recruitment, and IPAs	\$614,000	\$45,000	7%
8. Student Tuition Assistance, Scholarships, and Other Aid			
9. Economic Development			
10. Administrative Infrastructure			
11. Other Activities			
TOTAL	\$5,773,000	\$149,000	3%

Michael M. Hash, Acting Administrator, HCFA
Agency Head (Typed)

Agency Head (Signature)

Date

+IHEs = Institutions of Higher Education
*TCUs = Tribal Colleges and Universities
NA = Not Available

Table 3-A: SUMMARY OF TOTAL AGENCY AWARDS BY CATEGORY: FY 2002

1. AGENCY Health Care Financing Administration

2. NAME, TITLE, AND SIGNATURE OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE:

Kevin Nash

Program Executive for Minority Health Initiatives

3. TOTAL FUNDING FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION (IHEs) IN FY 2002: \$5,610,000

Note: The funds outlined in the FY 2002 Planned Categories listed below are estimates and will depend upon the availability of funds.

CATEGORY	TOTAL AWARDS TO IHEs+	TOTAL AWARDS TO TCUs*	% OF AWARDS TO TCUs
1. Research & Development	\$ 4,877,000	\$87,500	2%
2. Technology-related Activities	--	6,000	NA
3. Direct Institutional Subsidies			
4. Program Evaluation	\$ 136,000	--	0%
5. Training & T. A.	--	\$6,000	NA
6. Facilities & Equipment			
7. Fellowships, Internships, Recruitment, and IPAs	\$ 597,000	\$60,000	10%
8. Student Tuition Assistance, Scholarships, and Other Aid			
9. Economic Development			
10. Administrative Infrastructure			
11. Other Activities			
TOTAL	\$5,610,000	\$159,500	3%

Michael M. Hash, Acting Administrator, HCFA
Agency Head (Typed)

Agency Head (Signature)

Date

+IHEs = Institutions of Higher Education
*TCUs = Tribal Colleges and Universities
NA = Not Available

Table 3-A: SUMMARY OF TOTAL AGENCY AWARDS BY CATEGORY: FY 2003

1. AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration

2. NAME, TITLE, AND SIGNATURE OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE:

Kevin Nash

Program Executive for Minority Health Initiatives

3. TOTAL FUNDING FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION (IHEs) IN FY 2003: \$5,722,200

Note: The funds outlined in the FY 2003 Planned Categories listed below are estimates and will depend upon the availability of funds.

CATEGORY	TOTAL AWARDS TO IHEs+	TOTAL AWARDS TO TCUs*	% OF AWARDS TO TCUs
1. Research & Development	\$ 4,974,500	\$87,500	2%
2. Technology-related Activities	--	\$6,000	NA
3. Direct Institutional Subsidies			
4. Program Evaluation	\$ 138,700	--	0%
5. Training & T. A.	--	\$6,000	NA
6. Facilities & Equipment			
7. Fellowships, Internships, Recruitment, and IPAs	\$ 609,000	\$75,000	12%
8. Student Tuition Assistance, Scholarships, and Other Aid			
9. Economic Development			
10. Administrative Infrastructure			
11. Other Activities			
TOTAL	\$ 5,722,200	\$174,500	3%

Michael M. Hash, Acting Administrator, HCFA
Agency Head (Typed)

Agency Head (Signature)

Date

+IHEs = Institutions of Higher Education
*TCUs = Tribal Colleges and Universities
NA = Not Available