

HHS official on background about reassignments to Indian Health Service

- **Source:** emailed statement
- **Attribution:** on background to a Department of Health and Human Services official
- **Date:** received April 1, 2025

The Indian Health Service (IHS) has long faced challenges related to staffing shortages. Secretary Kennedy remains committed to prioritizing tribal health and the IHS, as reflected in his statements at the recent STAC meeting. Importantly, IHS was not impacted by the recent workforce reductions, and there are no plans to consolidate any of its offices.

To address staffing needs and support the IHS in fulfilling its mission, HHS has invited certain individuals to consider positions within the IHS. These invitations are voluntary, and individuals have the option to accept or decline. Secretary Kennedy and the Department remain steadfast in their commitment to ensuring that American Indian and Alaska Native communities receive timely, quality healthcare.