

Public Law 93-638, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, Titles I and III, have made it possible for Tribes to take specific program shares (dollars) under Title I, Annual Funding Agreement, or to become totally self-governing under Title III, Compacting/Self-Governance. CHR programs that still fall under IHS are supervised and controlled in some degree by Indian Health Service. IHS provides for the basic training of those CHRs and provides for documentation support and training.

Tribes that have opted for contracted shares (Title I AFA) for their CHR program have more control over the amount of actual dollars spent on community health activities and the specific roles and job descriptions of the CHRs.

Title III Self-Governance Tribes have total control over all of their health-related programs and are basically in the same market place for health care services as the non-Indian populations. They will be subject to managed care principles and guidelines. The CHR programs of those tribes are under close scrutiny and stand to be modified as a result of the compacting tribe's decision to govern itself.

The provision of these services to members of federally recognized tribes is based on a special relationship between Indian tribes and the U.S. Government first set forth in the 1830's by the U.S. Supreme Court. This relationship has been reconfirmed by numerous treaties, laws, constitutional provisions, court decisions and Executive Orders. The IHS also acts as the principal federal health advocate for Indian people. Its goal is to ensure comprehensive health services for American Indians and Alaska Natives and to raise their health status to the highest possible level. The IHS currently provides health services to approximately 1.4 million American Indians and Alaska Natives who are members of more than 545 federally recognized tribes in 34 states.

P.L. 93-638, Approved January 4, 1975 (88 Stat. 2203)

Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act

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Title I—INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION ACT