



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #TUL-05-008

### TITLE: Request for a \$5.5 Million Increase for the Village Built Clinic (VBC) Lease Program

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**NCAI HEADQUARTERS**  
1301 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036  
202.466.7767  
202.466.7797 fax  
[www.ncai.org](http://www.ncai.org)

**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, the IHS was directed to lease space wherever there was Community Health Aides (CHA) in operation and the leases were signed with the local City or IRA Council to not only serve as CHA/P clinics, but also host itinerant doctors, dentists and other specialists providing health services to both native and non-native rural residents; and

**WHEREAS**, in the fiscal year 1972 there were 156 health aides and enough funding to lease 41 clinics to practice from and the program gradually grew through the years until a total of 142 clinics were authorized and funded under the program; and

**WHEREAS**, without sufficient funding to fully meet the lease needs, it has been the policy of the IHS to fund as many Village leases as possible within the appropriated amount using a formula developed in 1989 by tribal representatives and the lease budget is not enough to provide for all eligible clinics and there exists a waiting list for clinic leases; and

**WHEREAS**, DHHS and the IHS revealed that 33% of the 170 village built clinics were categorized as needing improvement or replacement; and

**WHEREAS**, 40% of Village Clinics are still using a honey bucket and/or a pit privy system for sewage disposal; and

**WHEREAS**, the lease amounts allowed by IHS do not reflect true local rates and the appropriation driven formula used by IHS to calculate lease amounts are severely below the national average even though the costs from fuel to electricity are triple the national averages; and

**WHEREAS**, Village Built Clinic Lease funds (VBC) support nearly 170 rural tribal health clinics for the Community Health Aide Program.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby support a \$5.5 million increase for the Village Built Clinic (VBC) Lease Program over a three-year period; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2005 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma on November 4, 2005 with a quorum present.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

### ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2005 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians held from October 30, 2005 to November 4, 2005 at the Convention Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma.