

1. Recommendation/Solution: Tribal unity must be maintained so Congress can respond to one voice which deplors the level of funding provided to the American Indian and Alaska Native populations. Tribal funding can no longer be accepted at the 40 to 45 percent level when the survival of tribal populations are at stake.

2. Problem: Due to the rural, isolated geographical locations of many tribes within the lower 48 and Alaska, patient travel is most often extremely expensive.

2. Recommendation/Solution: In order to meet unusual health care expenses a 100 percent hardship provision should be included in all contract support program costs.

### **ALBUQUERQUE:**

No comments.

### **BEMIDJI:**

1. Problem: Ancestral knowledge of caring for the environment is being lost. For example, methods/manners of ancestral maintenance of fishing and forestry are no longer being used.

1. Recommendation/Solution: The NIHB should serve as a clearinghouse for gathering all of the traditional Indian and Native Alaskan ways of caring for the environment, and perhaps assembling that knowledge into a booklet so that future generations will know how things were done. In addition, NIHB needs to continue its advocacy role in the protection of natural resources and in the legal right of tribal lands being protected in the traditional manner of tribal ancestors.

2. Problem: Development of pit mines within proximity to tribal lands which are a threat to the water quality of that area.

2. Recommendation/Solution: Upon request, NIHB should visit the location and gather information on the health status of the tribal population and then assist them in writing a position paper for dissemination.

3. Problem: Nuclear waste exposure from storage containers located near tribal lands.

3. Recommendation/Solution: Same as 2 above.

4. Problem: Staffing and funding of tribal environmental health programs. Tribes are concerned because they don't have either the funds nor qualified people locally who can address tribal specific environmental concerns.

4. Recommendation/Solution: EPA is funding some reservations for multi-media programs, more money needs to be earmarked for this program funding category.