

WORK GROUP CHARGE

UNCLASSIFIED

CENTRALLY PAID COSTS/ASSESSMENTS

1. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Little is known or understood about the centrally paid costs, including Departmental assessments, incurred and paid by the Indian Health Service (IHS). These costs are increasing at a time when the increased transfer of programs and resources to tribes would result in commensurate and corresponding declines. There is a critical need for a wider understanding of the rationale for these costs, how they are allocated, and how they can be contained and reduced.

2. SPECIFIC CHARGE TO WORK GROUP

PROCESS:

- A. Review and understand all costs included in the IHS Headquarters account referred to as assessments, which include all centrally paid costs incurred by the Indian health program in the annual amount of approximately \$40 million.
- B. Analyze allocation methodologies on all cost items and compare to overall allocations to all Departmental components.
- C. Analyze how funds to cover these expenses should be passed on to tribes (what can be made available for tribal shares) who choose to contract or compact.
- D. Determine the effect of contract support costs on these costs allocated to tribal compacts and contracts.
- E. Determine what alternatives there are for the services which are currently being provided by the Department.

3. OUTCOMES:

- A. Document and describe the scope of the workgroup's findings, analyses, and process at arriving at the final recommendations to the Director, IHS.