



For Immediate Release

May 31, 2022

Press Release

Federal Court Orders Indian Health Services to Immediately Restore Illegally Cut Contract Support Cost Funding

FORT DEFIANCE, AZ – On February 11, 2022, Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board, Inc. (FDIHB) filed suit in the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico against the Indian Health Service (IHS) because the federal agency cut 90% of FDIHB's Contract Support Cost funding. The amount cut by the IHS is over \$16 million. FDIHB argues in its suit that the action by the IHS clearly violated established provisions of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

On May 26, 2022, the United States District Court for New Mexico, in a 126-page opinion, issued an injunction against IHS ordering it to immediately restore the illegally cut funding. Oscencio Tom, the president of the FDIHB Board of Directors, reacted to this order by saying, "This decision is a huge momentum shift in favor of FDIHB and most importantly the patients that FDIHB serves. The leadership of FDIHB stands in unison to remind the federal government of their financial obligation to support facilities throughout the Navajo Nation and Indian Country. We look forward to continued favorable decisions from the federal court until IHS is aware that FDIHB leadership will aggressively advocate for every dollar that is earmarked for the communities it serves."

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Dallas Ellsworth
Director of Marketing
928.729.8859 | Dallas.ellsworth@fdihb.org