



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

FEB 16 2018

Dear Tribal Leader:

On December 18, 2017, the President signed Public Law (Pub. L.) 115-93, the “Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2017”. Pub. L. 115-93 amends and expands the existing Pub. L. 102-477, the “Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act”. Pub. L. 115-93 has identified eight (8) additional federal agencies (the Departments of Justice, Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Homeland Security, Housing & Urban Development, Transportation and Veterans Affairs) as now being subject to the amended law. These eight agencies join the existing four (4) federal agencies (the Departments of Interior, Health & Human Services, Labor and Education) in the 477 program.

The new law requires the Secretary of the Interior to secure a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with these twelve (12) federal departments before December 18, 2018. The Office of Indian Services within the Bureau of Indian Affairs has been designated as the lead agency to secure this MOA, and work has already begun on drafting the document. Until this MOA is signed by the Secretaries of each Department, the 477 program will not undergo any changes and will continue to operate as it has with the existing four agencies. As soon as an MOA with all 12 agencies has been completed and is in effect, we will immediately notify you of that development.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Terrence Parks, Chief, Division of Workforce Development, at (202) 513-7625 or via email: [terrence.parks@bia.gov](mailto:terrence.parks@bia.gov).

Sincerely,

John Tahsuda  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs  
Exercising the Authority of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs