

redesignate areas within the United States for inclusion in or exclusion from a PRCDA. 42 CFR 136.22(b). The regulations require that certain criteria must be considered before any redesignation is made. The criteria are as follows:

(1) The number of Indians residing in the area proposed to be so included or excluded;

(2) Whether the Tribal governing body has determined that Indians residing in the area near the reservation are socially and economically affiliated with the Tribe;

(3) The geographic proximity to the reservation of the area whose inclusion or exclusion is being considered; and

(4) The level of funding which would be available for the provision of PRC. Additionally, the regulations require that any redesignation of a PRCDA must be made in accordance with the procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553). 42 CFR 136.22(c). In compliance with this requirement, the IHS is publishing this Notice and requesting public comments.

The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation's (MPTN, or Tribe) reservation is located in New London County, Connecticut. The PRC Program is operated as a Tribal Health Program by the MPTN in Mashantucket, CT. The MPTN estimates that approximately 32 Tribal members and MPTN employees who are members of other federally recognized Tribes reside in the proposed expansion counties, and would become PRC eligible through this proposal. The MPTN states that the Tribal members and American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) employees who reside in the expanded counties are socially and economically affiliated with the Tribe, including through employment and the utilization of direct health care services. The MPTN would like to recognize these persons as eligible for PRC. Through communication with MPTN's representatives, the IHS also understands that MPTN's members live in all of the counties requested. Accordingly, the IHS proposes to expand the PRCDA of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation to include the Connecticut counties of Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, Tolland, and Windham.

If the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation's PRCDA expansion is finalized as proposed, the Tribe's PRCDA would overlap completely with the PRCDA of the Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut. The Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut has previously expressed support of any future request made by a federally recognized Tribe to establish the entire

state of Connecticut as a PRCDA, and has not expressed any objection to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation's proposed PRCDA expansion.

Under 42 CFR 136.23, those otherwise eligible Indians who do not reside on a reservation, but reside within a PRCDA, must be either members of the Tribe or other IHS beneficiaries who maintain close economic and social ties with the Tribe. In this case, applying the aforementioned PRCDA redesignation criteria required by operative regulations codified at 42 CFR part 136, subpart C, the following findings are made:

1. By expanding the PRCDA to include Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, Tolland, and Windham Counties, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation's eligible population will be increased by an estimated 32 Tribal members and AI/AN employees.

2. The IHS finds that the Tribal members and AI/AN employees within the expanded PRCDA are socially and economically affiliated with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation based on a tribal resolution in which the MPTN Tribal Council identified its intent to expand the PRCDA to include all of Connecticut, and stated that the Native Americans residing in such areas are socially and economically affiliated with MPTN.

3. The expanded PRCDA counties form a contiguous area with the existing PRCDA, and within one of the smallest states. In addition to their AI/AN employees, MPTN's members reside in each of the counties proposed for inclusion. For these reasons, the IHS has determined the additional counties proposed for inclusion herein to be geographically proximate, meaning "on or near," to the existing PRCDA.

4. The MPTN has indicated that its PRC program can continue providing the same level of care to the PRC eligible population if the PRCDA is expanded as proposed, without requiring additional funding or reduction of the current medical priority level.

This Notice does not contain reporting or recordkeeping requirements subject to prior approval by the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980.

**Roselyn Tso,**

*Director, Indian Health Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Institute on Aging; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* National Institute on Aging Special Emphasis Panel; Impact of Toxicants on Aging and AD-related Dementias.

*Date:* February 14, 2024.

*Time:* 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* National Institute on Aging, Gateway Building, 7201 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Virtual Meeting).

*Contact Person:* Nijaguna Prasad, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Scientific Review Branch, National Institute on Aging, 7201 Wisconsin Avenue, Gateway Bldg., Suite 2W200, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 496-9667, [prasadnb@nia.nih.gov](mailto:prasadnb@nia.nih.gov).

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.866, Aging Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: January 12, 2024.

**Miguelina Perez,**

*Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### Center for Scientific Review; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meetings.

The meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose