



# National Tribal Budget Formulation FY 2028

November 18th & 19th, 2025

**Indian Health Service**  
Bemidji Area





# Tribal Budget Consultation Process

# Overview

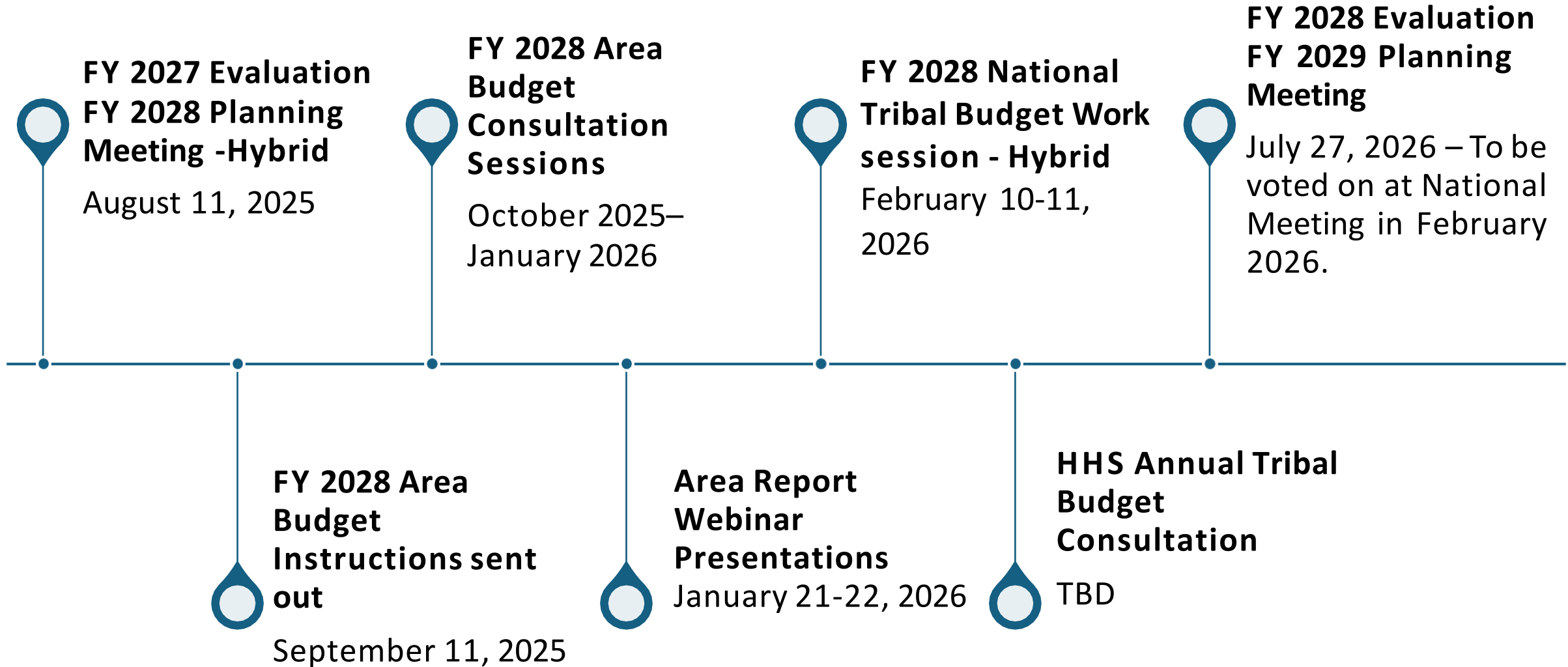


The annual budget request of the Indian Health Service is the result of the budget formulation and consultation process that involves **IHS, Tribal and Urban Indian Health programs**.

- IHS Areas should actively solicit the participation of Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Urban Indian Organizations in seeking input into the Area Budget Formulation activities.
- Tribal Priorities identified in the consultation process are instrumental in creating the annual IHS budget justifications.

IHS Tribal Consultation Policy: <https://www.ihs.gov/IHM/circulars/2006/tribal-consultation-policy/#12>

# FY 2028 Timeline of Tribal Budget Consultation Activities



# National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup



The National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup provides input and guidance to IHS in matters related to the budget formulation cycle and identifies national priorities, policies and budget recommendations.

- The Workgroup is comprised of two Tribal Representatives from each of the 12 Areas. **Tribal representatives must be an elected/appointed tribal official.**
- Workgroup members are chosen annually at the individual Area budget Consultation sessions that occur October - December.
- **The workgroup meets twice a year at the:**
  - Evaluation/Planning Meeting (April-July)
  - National Tribal Budget Formulation Work Session-Hybrid (February)

# Tribal Budget Consultation Process: Step 1

## Evaluation/Planning Meeting (August 11, 2025)

This meeting is where workgroup members evaluate the previous budget process for FY 2027 and begin planning for the following budget cycle (FY 2028) that begins in August.

- **The planning portion of the meeting consists of:**
  - Drafting & Editing Area budget instructions and
  - Setting planning levels for the National Tribal budget recommendation
- This meeting is typically attended by at least 1 tribal representative from the workgroup and technical team members.
- The hybrid FY 2027 Evaluation and FY 2028 Planning Meeting was held on August 11, 2025.

# Tribal Budget Consultation Process: Step 2

## Area Budget Instructions sent (September 11, 2025)



Area Budget Instructions that were edited by the workgroup at the Evaluation/Planning meeting are sent to IHS Area budget teams and workgroup members.

Instructions are sent solely for information and preparation purposes, **all work on the worksheets and templates will be completed at the Area budget consultation sessions.**

- Area budget instructions and guidance typically consist of these deliverables:
  - National Budget worksheet
  - Budget justification template
  - Hot Issues template
  - Area report presentation template
  - Area tribal representatives template
- *Specific Information on each deliverable will be discussed in later slides.*

# Tribal Budget Consultation Process: Step 3

## Area Budget Consultation Sessions (October-January)



Each IHS Area schedules a budget consultation session that involves working with IHS, Tribal and Urban stakeholders to develop a budget recommendation based on their local & national needs.

### **Area budget consultation activities typically include:**

- Identifying priorities and completing the National Budget recommendation worksheet and associated templates for their Area.
- Choosing two tribal representatives and technical team members to represent their Area as a part of the National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup.
- Providing information on the IHS budget consultation process



# Tribal Budget Consultation Process: Step 3 – Cont.

## Area Budget Consultation Sessions- Tribal Representatives



Two Tribal representatives along with technical members are chosen at the Area Budget Consultation Sessions.

**Tribal Representatives must be elected or appointed Tribal officials or a representative of a tribal official with a letter stating their appointment by the tribe.**

### ■ Tribal Representative Roles and Responsibilities:

- Must be in communication with the IHS Area office prior to the National Tribal budget work session to review the National budget roll up and discuss how their area recommendations fit within the consolidated document.
- Attend the National Tribal budget work session prepared to discuss/justify funding recommendations and be knowledgeable about health challenges in their area
- Have the authority to negotiate specific budget lines on behalf of the tribes in their area so the workgroup can achieve an inclusive recommendation in a timely manner.
- One representative must attend the Evaluation/Planning Meeting.
- **Technical support team** must prepare Area representatives for the National budget work session by explaining materials, checking materials for accuracy and providing information about the budget formulation process.

# Tribal Budget Consultation Process: Step 4

## Area Report Webinar Presentations (January 21-22, 2026)



- This is an opportunity for the National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup Members to present their Area's budget priorities and hot issues over Zoom.
- Each Area is provided with 15 minutes for their presentation.

# Tribal Budget Consultation Process: Step 5

## National Tribal Budget Formulation Work Session (February 10-11, 2026)

This is typically a 2-day annual meeting where the two tribal representatives from each area come together to review and consolidate all the Area's budget recommendations into a comprehensive set of national health priorities and budget recommendations.

- **Work session activities include:**

- Tribal Caucus occurs where the tribal workgroup co- chairs are selected
- Tribal representatives from each area give a brief Area report presentation to the group
- Discussion on determining priorities and budget recommendation
  - Decisions are made by consensus from workgroup members. Only the two tribal representatives that are a part of the workgroup are allowed to partake in voting.
- The workgroup will meet with IHS Director and other IHS leadership to discuss health priorities and budget recommendations
- At least one tribal representative from each Area along with technical team members will coordinate to complete follow-up work on the budget recommendation and testimony that will be presented.

# Tribal Budget Consultation Process: Step 6

## HHS Tribal Budget and Policy Consultation (March/April)

This is an annual consultation session with tribes in regard to the HHS budget and has been conducted to give Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations the opportunity to present their Health and Human services budget priorities and recommendations to the Department.

- **Co-chairs will present the National Tribal Budget Recommendation that was decided upon at the National Tribal budget work session.**
- **Prior year National Tribal Budget Recommendation are available on the NIHB website:**
  - [https://www.nihb.org/government-relations/budget\\_formulation.php](https://www.nihb.org/government-relations/budget_formulation.php)

# What Happens after the National Tribal Budget Recommendation is submitted?

- **May- June:** IHS uses the Tribal recommendation and OMB/HHS guidelines to submit a budget request, referred to as the HHS Justification.
- **July-September:** After response from HHS, IHS along with HHS will submit a budget request to OMB (OMB Justification). OMB will then provide a response and IHS can accept or appeal.
- **December-February:** The decided upon budget submission is then used to develop the Congressional Justification (President's Budget) and is submitted to Congress on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of February.
- **March-September:** House and Senate subcommittees hear testimony from IHS, Tribal and Urban stakeholders. House and Senate Appropriation committees work out a final appropriation bill to send to the President to sign by September 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - If the bill is not signed by Sep 30<sup>th</sup> a Continuing Resolution (CR) may be enacted.

# Current & Prior Year Budget Information



- **Congressional Justifications (President's Budget):**  
<https://www.ihs.gov/ofa/division-of-budget-formulation/congressional-justifications/>
- **HHS website has IHS and other agency budget and budget documents:** <https://www.hhs.gov/about/budget/index.html>



# FY 2028 Area Budget Instructions

# Overview



The FY 2028 Area Budget Instructions are sent to IHS Area Budget Teams to distribute at the Area Budget consultation sessions taking place October 2025 - January 2026.

- **The instructions are completed by IHS/Tribal/Urban organizations together at the Area budget consultation sessions.**
- **IHS Area budget teams are responsible for sending in completed instructions to IHS Headquarters by the designated due dates.**



Timeline for FY 2028	Workgroup Activity and Deliverables
As soon as available	<b>Due: IHS Federal staff send in Area Consultation meeting dates/location.</b> Submit to IHS Headquarters – OFA: <a href="mailto:IHSQBudgetformulation@ihs.gov">IHSQBudgetformulation@ihs.gov</a>
October – December 2025	<b>Area Budget Formulation Consultation Sessions</b>
September 25, 2025	<b>Webinar:</b> Tribal Budget Consultation Process and FY 2028 Area Instructions: September 25, 2025
January 6, 2026	<b>Due: Deliverable #1- National Budget Worksheet</b> <i>Use the excel worksheet provided and submit to IHS HQ – OFA:</i> <a href="mailto:IHSQBudgetformulation@ihs.gov">IHSQBudgetformulation@ihs.gov</a> , <i>in Excel and PDF</i>
January 13, 2026	<b>Due:</b> <b>Deliverable #2 - Budget Narratives</b> <b>Deliverable #3 - Hot Issues</b> <b>Deliverable #4 – Area Representatives</b> <b>Deliverable #5 - Area Report Presentation</b> <i>Use the templates provided and submit to IHS HQ – OFA:</i> <a href="mailto:IHSQBudgetformulation@ihs.gov">IHSQBudgetformulation@ihs.gov</a> , <i>in Excel and PDF</i>
January 13, 2026	<b>National Tribal Budget Recommendation:</b> HQ OFA sends <u>final rollup</u> of National Tribal budget recommendations to Area Tribal Representatives, Technical team members and Area IHS budget teams.
January 21-22, 2026	<b>Area Report Webinar Presentations (15 Minutes each):</b> Webinar #1: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (EST) Webinar #2: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (EST)
February 10-11, 2026	<b>IHS FY 2028 (Hybrid) National Budget Formulation Work Session</b>
March <i>TBD</i> , 2026	<b>HHS Budget Consultation meeting:</b> Location TBD
July 27, 2026	<b>IHS FY 2028/FY 2029 Evaluation &amp; Planning Meeting:</b> Location, TBD; to be voted on at National Meeting in February 2026.

# Area Budget Instruction Deliverables

## Deliverable #1: National Budget Worksheet



This is an excel worksheet to enter your Area’s program increases by budget line item.

- Per the decision of Tribal Caucus the overall funding target and policy for FY 2028 is outlined below:
- \$29.8 billion as the funding amount to meet is allocated as follows:

**FY 2028 NTBFW Tribal Budget Funding Level**

Indian Health Service	Amount
FY 2025 Enacted (Base)	\$7,146,883
Total Current Services & Binding Obligations	\$9,979,928
Amount to Spread	\$12,747,889
<b>TOTAL, Program Level</b>	<b>\$29,874,700</b>

- The new base level funding amount was determined by utilizing the FY 2023 National Health Expenditure per Capita (\$14,570) subtracting the FY 2024 IHS Expenditure per Capita (\$4,933) then multiplying the difference by the FY 2024 Indian Registration Population (3,100,000).
  - $(\$14,570 - \$4,933) \times 3,100,000 = \$29,874,700.00$
- The FY 2028 budget proposal will be a mix of mandatory and discretionary funding. 1) All services and facilities program lines will remain discretionary, 2) Contract Support Costs and Section 105(l) Leases will be reclassified as mandatory, 3) Special Diabetes Program for Indians will be maintained as mandatory and, 4) The Budget includes an FY 2029 Advance Appropriation.

# Area Budget Instruction Deliverables

## Deliverable #2: Budget Justification Narrative

This is a justification document that describes and supports the budget priorities that are reflected in the National budget Worksheet ( Deliverable #1).

### **Suggested key points to include are:**

- How the recommended budget increases should be allocated,
- Include any effects of previous year's increases and/or include data that highlights those effects,
- Any linkage to the IHClA provisions, where applicable: [IHClA Provisions](#)
- Any linkage to GPRA performance targets and outcomes: [GPRA Performance Targets and Outcomes](#)

# Area Budget Instruction Deliverables

## Deliverable #3: Hot Issues

This is where each Area has the opportunity to highlight any hot issues (regardless if related to funding) that are unique to their area.

This year, per the recommendation of the National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup, the Hot Issues Template now includes a one page summary, as well as a lengthier section to discuss each Hot Topic in greater depth. The one-page summary will be included in the FY 2028 Budget Recommendations document, and the lengthier discussion of each Hot Topic will be included in the appendix.

- **Format:**

- **Issue:** Provide a brief description of issue
- **Background:** Include historical information or data that explains the issue in more detail
- **Recommendation:** Link to a recommended budget recommendation or provide action that needs to be taken to address the issue

# Area Budget Instruction Deliverables

## Deliverable #4: Area Tribal Representatives

The contact information of two Tribal representatives along with technical members that are chosen at the Area Budget Consultation Sessions are sent.

**Tribal Representatives must be elected or appointed Tribal officials or a representative of a tribal official with a letter stating their appointment by the tribe.**

- **Tribal Representative Roles and Responsibilities:**

- Must be in communication with the IHS Area office prior to the National Tribal budget work session to review the National budget roll up and discuss how their area recommendations fit within the consolidated document.
- Attend the National Tribal budget work session prepared to discuss/justify funding recommendations and be knowledgeable about health challenges in their Area
- Have the authority to negotiate specific budget lines on behalf of the tribes in their area so the workgroup can achieve an inclusive recommendation in a timely manner.
- One representative must attend the Evaluation/Planning Meeting.

- **Technical support team** must prepare Area representatives for the National budget work session by explaining materials, checking materials for accuracy and providing information about the budget formulation process.

**\*We are also requesting that Mandatory Sub-Workgroup volunteers be selected including a Tribal Representative and Technical Support Member**

# Area Budget Instruction Deliverables

## Deliverable #5: Area Report Presentations



This is a presentation that summarizes your Area's budget priorities and hot issues.

- **The workgroup decided that there will be no limit on the number of slides.**
- There will be webinars held for each Area to present their report to a larger audience before the National Tribal Budget Work session; **Time limit will be 15 min.**
  - Representatives will also have the opportunity to present during the National Tribal Budget Work session; **Time Limit 5 min.**
- **Optional template:**
  - **Summary of Service area and demographic information**
  - **Summary of Funding/Health priorities**
  - **Summary of Area Hot topics**
  - **Success stories**

# All Resource Links



## IHS Tribal Budget Consultation

- The IHS Tribal Budget Formulation webpage: [IHS Division of Budget Formulation](#)
- National Tribal Budget Recommendations (prior years and current): [National Tribal Budget Recommendations](#)
- IHS Event Calendar: [IHS Calendar | Indian Health Service \(IHS\)](#)
- Congressional Justifications (President's Budget) posted: [IHS Congressional Justifications](#)



# FY 2029 Deliverable Submission Process



# FY 2029 NTBFW Deliverables Process

## *IHS NTBFW TEAMS Instructions*

The IHS Budget Formulation Team will be utilizing a dedicated TEAMS account and Zoom Survey for the submission of all FY 2029 NTBFW Deliverables. Deliverables will not be submitted via email.

As the first step, each IHS Area Office will need to determine the point of contact who will be responsible for submission of the deliverables. This will be accomplished through the use of a quick survey that will be launched Summer 2026 along with dates for a special training webinar.

# FY 2029 NTBFW Deliverables Process



## *IHS NTBFW TEAMS Instructions*

After the IHS Area Office Contact Form Survey Closes, the IHS Budget Formulation Team will add POC information to the IHS NTBFW Teams Account. TEAMS will automatically send each Main POC and Alternate POC an invitation to join the IHS NTBFW Teams Account.

This invitation will be sent automatically via email once POC information is added to TEAMS. **Please accept the invitation in your email inbox** to receive access to the IHS NTBFW Teams Accounts.

# FY 2029 NTBFW Deliverables Process

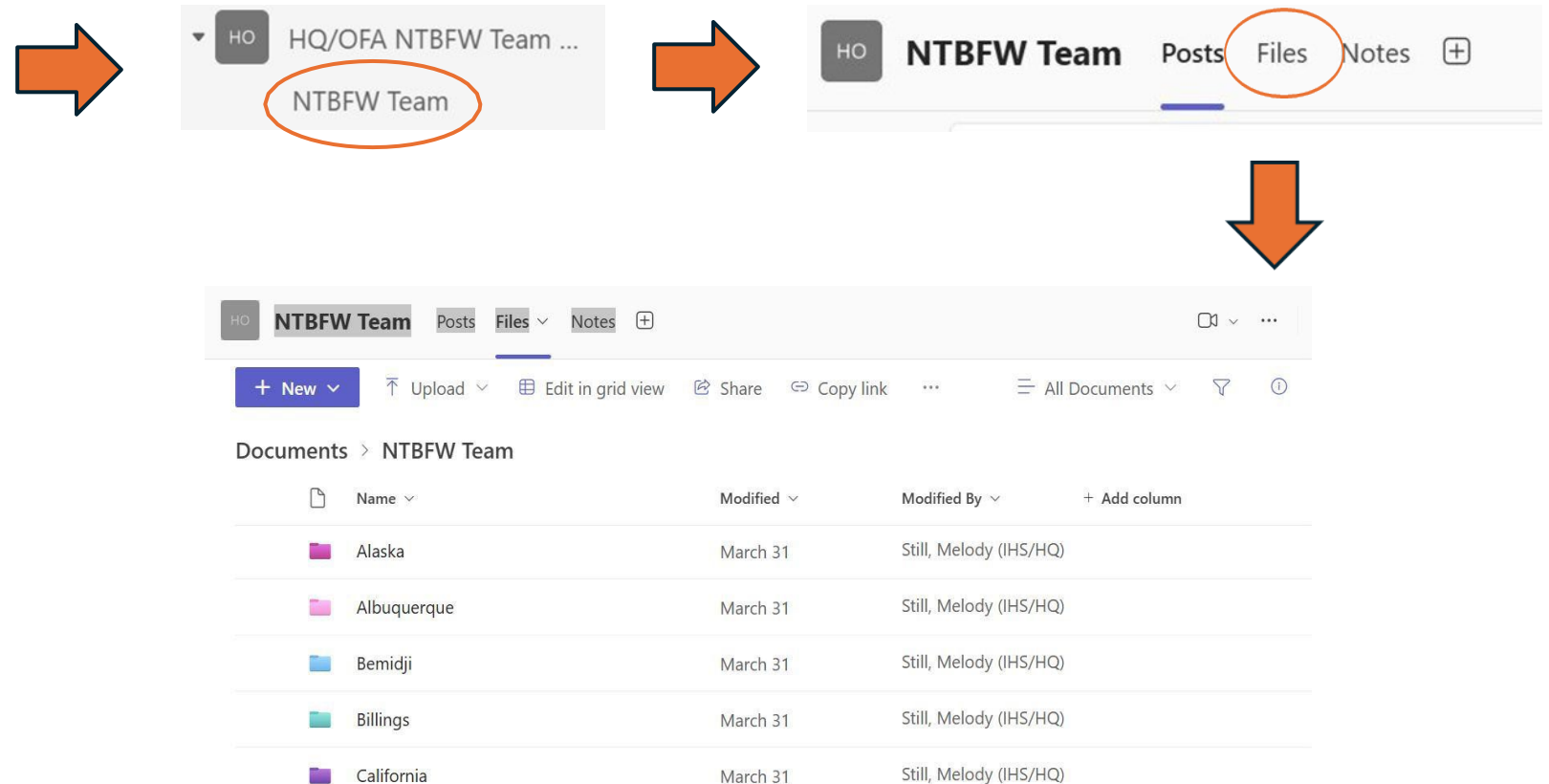


*IHS NTBFW TEAMS Instructions – Access Specific Area Folders*

## Step One:

After you accept the invitation to join the NTBFW Teams Account (see email).

Open Teams, Click on “NTBFW Team”, then “Files”, then open your specific Area Folder.



# FY 2029 NTBFW Deliverables Process



*IHS NTBFW TEAMS Instructions – Access Area Deliverable Folders and Upload Deliverables*

## Step Two:

Open each deliverable folder and then upload your Area's documents into each deliverable folder for deliverables #1- #5



HO	NTBFW Team	Posts	Files	Notes	+		
+ New		Upload	Edit in grid view			All Documents	Details
Documents > NTBFW Team > Albuquerque							
	Name	Modified	Modified By	+ Add column			
	Deliverable #1 - Roll-Up Worksheet	April 16	Still, Melody (IHS/HQ)				
	Deliverable #2 - Area Budget Narrative	April 16	Still, Melody (IHS/HQ)				
	Deliverable #3 Area Hot Topics Detailed Su...	April 16	Still, Melody (IHS/HQ)				
	Deliverable #4 - Area Representative Infor...	3 hours ago	Still, Melody (IHS/HQ)				
	Deliverable #5 - Area Presentation	April 16	Still, Melody (IHS/HQ)				

# Questions?



IHS Headquarters  
Division of Budget Formulation

Email: [IHSHQBudgetFormulation@ihs.gov](mailto:IHSHQBudgetFormulation@ihs.gov)

